

**LEE COUNTY  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES  
January 15, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Wheaton, Chair, At Large  
Eric Spivey, Vice Chair, Bike Industry Representative, At Large  
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large  
Theodore (Pat) Connor, District 2  
Paul Cohen, Affordable Housing Representative, At Large  
Derek Felder, District 1  
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community Representative, At Large  
Damon Shelor, District 5  
Paul Benvie, At Large

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**STAFF**

Tom Marquardt, LC DOT  
David Wagley, LC DOT  
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT  
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT  
Olivia Cassidy, Lee Tran  
Brandon Kaczmarek, Lee County Parks & Recreation  
Joe Sarracino, Lee County DCD

**GUESTS**

Dennis Petracca, Lee County Sheriff's Office  
Vana Deckter, Mandel Rd and Loma Linda Dr  
Sue McMillin, Pine Ridge Rd  
Paul Kosiek, Eagle Ridge Dr  
Sandy Kosiek, Eagle Ridge Dr  
Kelly Lambracht, Eagle Ridge Dr  
Greg Lambracht, Eagle Ridge Dr  
Robert Johnson, Old Olga Rd  
Kathy Johnson, Old Olga Rd  
Maria Rodrigues, Old Olga Rd

**Agenda Item #1: \*Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda and Motion to Approve Agenda:**

Mr. David Wheaton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Development/Public Works building, 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, First Floor Conference Room 1B. Introductions were made.

**Mr. Wheaton asked for a motion to approve the agenda.**

**Mr. Eric Spivey made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen.**

**The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

Mr. David Wagley stated that he had something for the good of the order that he wanted to announce.

“For the good of the order, we wanted to start off the meeting with a few reminders:

Committee members are Board appointed by county commissioners.

Committee members represent the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee when they are here collectively during our meetings.

If you do an interview with media, please state for the reporter that you are representing yourself and your views as an individual and that you do not speak on behalf of the entire committee.

If you are asked questions by media about BPAC or documents related to BPAC, staff is here to help. You can refer media to me, and I can help connect reporters with our Public Information Officer. Or you can provide media with this address: [LeeCountyPIO@leegov.com](mailto:LeeCountyPIO@leegov.com) for their inquiries.”

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the November 20, 2024 minutes.

**Mr. Wheaton asked for a motion to approve the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Paul Cohen made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #3: Public Comments:**

- (a) **Eagle Ridge Dr to Aeries Way Dr, and American Colony Blvd to Eagles Ridge Dr** – Mr. Greg Lambracht stated that he was looking for BPAC documents regarding the Eagle Ridge Dr project and showed his support for it.

Mr. David Wagley told Mr. Lambracht that he can answer any specific questions after today’s meeting. He will also help him find any information or specific documents on our website that Mr. Lambracht may need.

- (b) **Loma Linda Dr/ Mandel Rd from McGregor Blvd to Sunrise Dr** – Ms. Vana Deckter showed her

support for this project.

- (c) **Eagle Ridge Dr** – Mr. Paul Kosiek introduced himself and stated that he is on the Board of Directors for the Eagle Ridge community. He is here today to represent the community and show support for a sidewalk.
- (d) **Pine Ridge Rd** - Sue McMillin stated that it is her hope to have a complete sidewalk along one side of the road.
- (e) **Old Olga Rd** – Robert Johnson stated that in July of 2023, they put in a request for a sidewalk on Old Olga, in the area of Palm Beach Blvd and Buckingham. Mr. Johnson is hoping that they move up the BPAC list.
- (f) **Old Olga Rd** – Kathy Johnson stated that she has walked her community, The Shores, for over 10 years and showed her support for the project.
- (g) **Old Olga Rd** – Maria Rodriguez stated that she also lives in the community. She shared her experience of getting hit by a car last February 28<sup>th</sup> while walking on Old Olga after leaving work. She is asking the committee to move Old Olga up on the BPAC list.

#### **Agenda Item #4: Bike/Ped Facility Requests/Presentations:**

- (a) **\*Grant Blvd from SR 82 to Rainer Ave** – Mr. David Wheaton shared that this request had been presented at the last meeting.

Mr. David Wagley stated that he meant to show this in the agenda as two separate sections/ projects as requested by the BPAC committee. The first section/ project would be from SR 82 to Milwaukee Blvd. The second section/ project would be from Milwaukee Blvd to Rainer Ave.

This qualifies for Tier 2.

**Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to approve the two projects, seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

- (b) **\*Loma Linda Dr/ Mandel Rd from McGregor Blvd to Sunrise Dr** – There was discussion among the BPAC committee regarding this project. This project qualifies for Tier 2.

**Mr. Wheaton asked for a motion to add this project to the list. Mr. Paul Cohen made a motion to add this project to the list, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

- (c) **Leeland Heights Blvd from Richmond Ave to North Ave – Sidewalk Request** – Mr. Derek Felder is requesting a sidewalk be installed on the north side of Leeland Heights Blvd E, from Richmond

Ave to North Ave. The length of this proposed sidewalk is about 3650 linear feet. The new sidewalk would connect with the current sidewalk at each end.

- (d) **Sunrise Blvd from Bell Blvd to Lehigh Acres Middle School Entrance – Sidewalk Request** – Mr. Derek Felder is requesting a sidewalk be installed on the north side of Sunrise Blvd, from Bell Blvd to the Lehigh Acres Middle School entrance. The length of this proposed sidewalk is about 2950 linear feet. The new sidewalk would connect with the current sidewalk at each end.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Other Business**

- (a) **March is Bike Month in Lee County 2025 Proposal** – Mr. David Wagley stated that the BPAC Committee opted to declare March as Bike Month for Lee County for 2025, following the State of Florida's lead. He explained that Florida does this in March rather than May because the weather is nicer. National Bike Month is in May. He shared that Mr. Dave Wheaton has advised staff that he would like to work with someone from Parks & Recreation to plan some activities for May 2025 for bicycling in Lee County. Mr. Brandon Kaczmarek said he will set Mr. Wheaton up with the correct people to assist him with planning activities.
- (b) **MPO Updates** – There were no MPO updates.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Member Comments:**

- (a) Mr. Derek Felder stated that on the BPAC list there are asterisks designating the projects that were newly added in September. Mr. Felder asked if it would be possible to do 2 asterisks and 3 asterisks possibly to show which projects are under construction and which are in design.
- (b) Mr. Steve Jansen wanted to know if there is a way to find all the multi-lane arterial streets in the County that do not have sidewalks on both sides.

Mr. Bruce Littleton suggested that Mr. David Wagley work with Jed Mason from DOT to see what can be done as a query in the GIS system as opposed to going through the terabytes of data.

- (c) Mr. Paul Cohen stated that to alleviate confusion in Tier 1, maybe it would be better to eliminate the final scores.

Mr. David Wagley did explain that the projects in Tier 1 are arranged by time. He explained that the projects at the top of Tier 1 will be done sooner than the projects at the bottom of Tier 1. He said the BPAC members could vote to hide the final score field for Tier 1 at the February BPAC meeting.

### **Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments**

- (a) LeeTran – Olivia Cassidy stated that there are a few Trams running on the beach as we are in-season. Lehigh Park & Ride is currently under construction, so the next service change will be in April. LeeTran is brainstorming ideas for what to do with the MOD zone and how to improve bus service. There are also some new bus stop signs that have been added, as well as bus stop improvements.

Mr. Damon Shelor did ask about the bus stop on Homestead Rd near the Alabama and Leeland Heights intersection. He stated that the bus stop shelter is blown over and has tape around it. Ms. Cassidy said she will share this information with the LeeTran maintenance team.

Regarding a question asked about Park & Ride and Express Routes, Ms. Cassidy said they have a meeting coming up but adding buses does cost money. She has not heard anything about Collier running buses from Immokalee to Lehigh.

### **Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments**

No comments.

### **Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meeting Items**


BPAC Members to vote on whether to add Mr. Derek Felder's sidewalk requests to the BPAC List - Leeland Heights Blvd from Richmond Ave to North Ave and Sunrise Blvd from Bell Blvd to Lehigh Acres Middle School Entrance.

BPAC Members to vote on whether to hide the final score field for Tier 1 projects on the BPAC list.

Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, February 19, 2025.**

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

  
BPAC Chairman

  
Date

  
BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

  
Date