

**LEE COUNTY  
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES  
February 19, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dave Wheaton, Chair, At Large  
Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large  
Theodore (Pat) Connor, District 2  
Derek Felder, District 1  
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community Representative, At Large  
Damon Shelor, District 5  
Paul Benvie, At Large

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Spivey, Vice Chair, Bike Industry Representative, At Large  
Paul Cohen, Affordable Housing Representative, At Large

**STAFF**

Tom Marquardt, LC DOT  
Jillian Scholler, LC DOT  
David Wagley, LC DOT  
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT  
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT  
Olivia Cassidy, Lee Tran  
Erik Brillhart, Lee County Facilities

**GUESTS**

Dennis Petracca, Lee County Sheriff's Office  
Greg Lambracht, Eagle Ridge  
Don Sholley, Penzance Blvd

**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 Administration East Building, 2201 Second Street, Fort Myers, First Floor Green Conference Room. Introductions were made.

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

**Mr. Derek Felder made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Damon Shelor.  
The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the January 15, 2025 minutes.

**Mr. Wheaton asked for a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Damon Shelor made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Steve Jansen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #3: \*Election of BPAC Officers**

Mr. Wheaton shared that we will be electing new officers. Mr. David Wagley explained that the committee will elect a Chair and Vice Chair, and the new Chair will elect a Secretary.

Mr. Paul Benvie nominated Mr. Dave Wheaton for Chair, seconded by Mr. Derek Felder. Mr. Wheaton accepted the nomination.

Ms. Jane Bowser nominated Mr. Eric Spivey for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Derek Felder. Mr. Spivey was not present to accept the nomination, however he will have the opportunity to accept at the next meeting. Mr. Wagley explained that if Mr. Spivey declines, they can work it out at the next meeting.

**Mr. David Wheaton called for a vote for the nominations of BPAC officers.**

**There was a unanimous vote for Mr. Dave Wheaton to be Chair. There was a unanimous vote for Mr. Eric Spivey to be Vice Chair.**

**Mr. Wheaton nominated Ms. Jane Bowser for Secretary. Ms. Bowser accepted the nomination.**

**Agenda Item #4: Public Comments:**

- (a) **Eagle Ridge Dr to Aeries Way Dr, and American Colony Blvd to Eagle Ridge Dr** – Mr. Greg Lambracht stated that he had the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Pendergrass and Rob Price regarding their project request. Mr. Lambracht stated he will be working to meet with the other commissioners over the next few months to discuss this project. He stated that he appreciates everything BPAC has done to assist.
- (b) **Six-Mile Cypress Pkwy and Penzance Blvd** – Mr. Don Sholley stated that he lives in Windsong development. He said the sidewalks along Six-Mile Cypress Pkwy are excellent, however there are no sidewalks on Penzance Blvd, except near the first two developments. He would like someone from the County to look at and evaluate the safety of that area that he feels is in need of a sidewalk. He stated that he would also like some feedback after the area has been evaluated by the County.

## **Agenda Item #5: Bike/Ped Facility Requests/Presentations:**

- (a) **\*Leeland Heights Blvd from Richmond Ave to North Ave** – Mr. David Wagley stated that this project would score over 97 points. It would be about 3700 linear feet long. It does qualify for Tier 2. There was discussion among the BPAC members regarding this project.

**Mr. Damon Shelor made a motion to add Leeland Heights Blvd from Richmond Ave to North Ave to the BPAC list, seconded by Mr. Paul Benvie. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

- (b) **\*Sunrise Blvd from Bell Blvd to Lehigh Acres Middle School Entrance** – There was discussion among the BPAC members regarding this project. Mr. David Wagley stated that this project would score approximately 57 points. It would be about 2800 linear feet long. It does qualify for Tier 2. The cost estimate for the pedestrian bridge would be about 1.5 million dollars, while the cost for the vehicular bridge would be a little over 2 million dollars plus close to 700,000 dollars for CEI, bringing it close to 3 million dollars. There was continued discussion among the BPAC members and LCDOT staff regarding this project.

**Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to add this sidewalk project to the list, making the connection with a pedestrian bridge. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Jansen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

Ms. Jillian Scholler did want to make a general note that at a previous Board meeting, Commissioner Pendergrass made a motion and asked DOT to look into speed zone enforcement in school zones. As part of that effort, there is a certain amount of money that gets allocated to the county. Based on Mr. Pendergrass's motion, he wants to see this portion of money get allocated toward sidewalk improvements.

- (c) **David Ave from Trailhead Park to E 3<sup>rd</sup> St – Sidewalk Request** – Mr. Derek Felder is requesting a sidewalk be installed on the west side of David Ave, from Trailhead Park to E 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The length of this proposed sidewalk is about 1650 linear feet. The new sidewalk would connect with the current sidewalk at each end.
- (d) **Milwaukee Blvd from 698 Milwaukee Blvd to Empire Ave S Pedestrian Bridge** – Mr. Derek Felder is requesting a pedestrian bridge be installed on the north side of Milwaukee Blvd, from 698 Milwaukee Blvd to Empire Ave S.

Mr. David Wagley shared that the current bridge is maintained by LAMSID.

Ms. Jillian Scholler added that there is no space to add a pedestrian bridge.

Mr. Tom Marquardt also added that if there was an ADA complaint, it would first go to LAMSID being that it is their bridge.

## **Agenda Item #6: Other Business**

- (a) **MPO Updates** – There were no MPO updates.
- (b) **\*Vote to hide the final score field for Tier 1 of the BPAC list** – Mr. David Wagley stated he did mention taking a vote on this matter at the last BPAC meeting, however he did hide the final score field for this meeting. Mr. Wagley shared that once a project makes it to Tier 1, projects are arranged by time. Projects to be completed first, are at the top of the BPAC list. All projects in Tier 1 have some level of design or construction funding allocated to them. It was decided that Mr. Wagley could create columns for the projects in Tier 1 showing the design fiscal year and construction fiscal year, rather than showing the points.

**Mr. Derek Felder made a motion for the final score in Tier 1 to show the fiscal year funding for design and construction, seconded by Mr. Steve Jansen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item #7: Member Comments:**

- (a) Mr. Derek Felder shared that he read on the MPO's 2045 plan that Leeland Heights Blvd from Bell to Homestead is slated to be a 6-lane divided highway in the future.

Mr. Felder also asked whether LeeTran had any updates on the grand opening plan for the Park & Ride.

Ms. Olivia Cassidy stated that she does not have a date and time yet.

- (b) Mr. Steve Jansen wanted to know if there could be a presentation for Penzance Blvd west of 6-Mile Cypress Pkwy at the next meeting, pertaining to the public comment from Mr. Don Sholley.

Mr. David Wagley explained he will reach out to Mr. Don Sholley, as his request for Penzance Blvd is two-fold. Mr. Sholley asked for a traffic study, so Mr. Wagley will refer him to RFA and Mr. Bruce Littleton's office will handle it accordingly. The other part of Mr. Sholley's request dealt with a sidewalk, so Mr. Wagley will explain the BPAC process to Mr. Sholley.

## **Agenda Item #8: Staff Comments**

- (a) Mr. David Wagley shared information regarding the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) grant submission. Mr. Wagley thanked everyone who helped with the grant submission. He said they started with Harns Marsh Elementary and Middle School, looking at 25<sup>th</sup> St connecting to Sunshine Blvd and then one block connecting Sunniland Blvd to Eunice Ave at the west end of the school. Mr. Wagley explained that the funding is limited with this program, so staff had to cut the project back to only the section of 25<sup>th</sup> St connecting to Sunshine Blvd. Mr. Dave Wheaton did submit another letter of support from BPAC for Harns Marsh for 25<sup>th</sup> St connecting to Sunshine Blvd.

Mr. Tom Marquardt also explained that staff had to shorten the project since FDOT said it was too large.

Mr. Wagley said staff did see an opportunity for an SRTS grant for Three Oaks Elementary. Mr. Wagley explained this was the last project they had made a submittal for just prior to the State suspending the SRTS program. BPAC did submit a letter of support for the Three Oaks Elementary project as well, going from Estero Pkwy to Three Oaks Elementary on the west side.

Mr. Wagley said we are hoping that both projects, Harns Marsh and Three Oaks, get approved for the SRTS grant money.

Mr. Wagley said he also wanted to discuss the projects with an asterisk in Tier 1, which came from the Board's budget meeting in the fall of 2024. Tier 1 is only for projects that have funding allocated to them. The senior LCDOT staff has not been able to find the funds for these projects with an asterisk due to upcoming major road projects. The 8 projects with an asterisk will need to go back to the top of Tier 2. When funds become available, they will resurface to Tier 1.

Mr. Tom Marquardt added that the board has prioritized the impact fee funds go to large projects such as the Alico Road Connector.

There was discussion among the committee members about impact fee districts and how the money is allocated.

Mr. Damon Shelor asked about developing an MSTBU specifically for Lehigh. He wanted to know if this money would only be used to fund projects in Lehigh.

Ms. Jillian Scholler explained that if an MSTBU was developed for Lehigh sidewalks, then that money would only be able to be used to build sidewalks within the limits of that STBU. However, the issue with an MSTBU is that there needs to be a certain percentage of votes from the property owners within that limit. Mr. Wagley clarified that the percentage of votes from the property owners needs to be 51%. Mr. Wagley also provided Josh Malo's name, as he is the person to contact if there are questions regarding an MSTBU.

- (b) LeeTran – Olivia Cassidy stated that the Lehigh Park & Ride will be opening soon, but she does not have an exact date. There will be service changes that are posted soon, such as timing adjustments.

#### **Agenda Item #9: Other Government Entity Comments**

No comments.

#### **Agenda Item #10: Upcoming Meeting Items**

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

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

G. David Wheat

BPAC Chairman

3/19/25

Date

[Signature]

BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

3/19/25

Date