

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jane Bowser, Secretary, At Large  
Paul Benvie, At Large

**STAFF**

Tom Marquardt, LC DOT  
Jillian Scholler, LC DOT  
Rob Price, LC DOT  
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT  
Keith Riddle, LC DOT  
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT  
Olivia Cassidy, LeeTran  
Brandon Kaczmarek, Lee County Parks & Recreation

**GUESTS**

Dennis Petracca, Lee County Sheriff's Office  
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO  
Don Sholley, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Gunnel Sholley, Penzance Blvd - Windsong  
Alex Alesandro, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Rick Beach, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
David Beach, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Peggy, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Wilson Boyd, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Helen Tauscher Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
James Dovin, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Bruce, Penzance Blvd – Windsong  
Rick LaPorte, Penzance Blvd – Windsong

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

Mr. Eric Spivey, Vice 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. Spivey asked for a motion to approve the agenda.**

**Mr. Pat Connor made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

**Agenda Item #2: \*Approval of the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes.**

Mr. Spivey called for a review of the February 19, 2025 minutes.

Mr. Pat Connor did request clarification of a staff comment made in Agenda Item Number 8. He read Mr. Tom Marquardt's comment *the Board has prioritized the impact fee funds go to large projects such as the Alico Road Connector.*

Mr. Rob Price explained that the funds are by road impact fee district. All the money allocated for the road impact fee district that covers the Alico Rd Connector is being used for that project.

Ms. Jillian Scholler added that the funds for the Alico Rd Connector project are coming from the central and southeast impact fee districts.

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

**Agenda Item #3: Bell Blvd Sidewalk Presentation**

Mr. Keith Riddle introduced himself as a project manager with Lee County DOT working on the Bell Blvd sidewalk project. He then showed drone footage of the work taking place from State Rd 82 to Sunrise Blvd. He shared that the project consists of a 6-foot-wide concrete continuous sidewalk. The project involves quite a bit of drainage upgrades due to the sidewalk configuration, signing and marking, and some reconstruction at some side streets due to getting the ADA compliance through the crosswalks. The design fee was approximately \$621,000 and the contractor amount is \$3.2 million. Lee County's representative for the project for engineering is KSI. There is a lot of progress that has taken place with the project, with only about a mile and a half left remaining. They have contract time on the project until August, however the contractor is confident that they may be able to complete the project by May. The total length of the project is 4.2 miles. Lee County DOT has been informed by the Lee County School District that there are about 600 students that use this section of roadway. They are still maintaining design criteria. The next phase of the project is currently under design and will go from Sunrise Blvd all the way to Joel Blvd, which will complete the entire stretch of the corridor. That part of the project involves a new steel pedestrian bridge over Jim Canal, which is a LAMSID canal towards the north end of Bell Blvd. Mr. Riddle let the video run so that BPAC members, staff, and members of the community could see the progress. There was discussion among the BPAC members and



Lee County DOT staff regarding this project.

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

No comments.

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

- (a) **Sidewalk on the north side of Penzance Blvd from Solano Dr to Wine Palm Rd with a crosswalk at Solano Dr** – Mr. Don Sholley introduced himself as a member of the Windsong Community off Penzance Blvd. He stated he had a letter from the HOA of his community along with signatures from 58 members of Windsong requesting a sidewalk. Mr. Sholley said he is an active bike rider and that the members of Windsong present at today's meeting are all active pedestrians within the community. They showed their support for a sidewalk on Penzance Blvd from Solano Dr to Wine Palm Rd with a crosswalk at Solano Dr. Mr. Sholley also introduced Ms. Peggy, who was hit by a car while riding her bike on Penzance Blvd on October 1<sup>st</sup>. She shared her experience.

Mr. Bruce Littleton used the map to display the area they are requesting a sidewalk/ crosswalk. Mr. Price explained that putting in a crosswalk across Penzance Blvd is likely to increase the conflict for bikers and pedestrians rather than decrease it. Mr. Price stated that the request should be a sidewalk on the south side of Penzance Blvd all the way to Six-Mile Cypress Pkwy. He stated the BPAC Committee should be asking DOT to further investigate the feasibility of putting a sidewalk on Penzance Blvd.

- (b) **\*David Ave from Trailhead Park to E 3<sup>rd</sup> St – Sidewalk Request** – There was talk among the BPAC members regarding this project. Mr. Steve Jansen pointed out that David Ave functions as a collector street. There is a park on this road as well as pedestrian factors in use.

**Mr. Steve Jansen made a motion to add David Ave from Trailhead Park to E 3<sup>rd</sup> St to the BPAC List, seconded by Mr. Derek Felder. The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

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

- (a) **MPO Updates** – Mr. Ron Gogoi reviewed the preliminary MPO multimodal box fund priorities for 2025, sharing information for each Roadway/ Project. Mr. Gogoi shared an image of the City of Sanibel Roundabout. He also shared a slide for the Pine Island shared use path, explaining that the MPO Board will decide the fate of the project at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Gogoi gave some Safe Streets for All updates. He shared the meeting dates and locations as well as the implementation, finalized outline, and when the plan will go to the MPO Board for adoption (May 16<sup>th</sup>). He explained that they conducted a survey and shared a sample of the public comments. The last slide he shared went over the bicycle/ pedestrian recommended improvements.

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

- (a) Mr. Pat Connor wanted to know the status of Fort Myers Middle School. He said it has been on the list since 2017 and is currently number 83 on the BPAC list. Mr. Rob Price reminded Mr. Connor that the BPAC committee approved the rankings of the list. Mr. Price also suggested that he call the City of Fort Myers as they have a plan in place.
- (b) Mr. Eric Spivey stated that he appreciates Mr. Rob Price being here today as he effectively explains to the public the process of getting these projects on the list and the realistic time frame of starting and completing a project.

**Agenda Item #8: Staff Comments**

No comments.

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

No comments.

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

Shared Use Path request: Griffin Drive from Gateway Blvd to Gateway Elementary

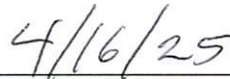
Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Spivey adjourned the meeting at 4:39 p.m.



BPAC Chairman



Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair



Date