

**LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Benvie, At Large

STAFF

Tom Marquardt, LC DOT
Jillian Scholler, LC DOT
Rob Price, LC DOT
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT
David Wagley, LC DOT
Brandon Kaczmarek, Lee County Parks & Recreation

GUESTS

Dominic Konieczki, Lee County Sheriff's Office
Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO
Greg Lambrecht, Vice President of Eagle Ridge Property Association

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

Mr. Dave Wheaton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 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. Paul Cohen made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey.
The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #2: *Approval of the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes.

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the April 16, 2025 minutes.

Mr. Paul Cohen made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comments:

- (a) Mr. Greg Lambrecht stated that he is here in support of Eagle Ridge. He wants his neighborhood and the surrounding communities to get the path they need. When asked if the roads are county or privately maintained, Mr. Lambrecht stated that the roads within Eagle Ridge are county-maintained.

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

- (a) **Sidewalk along the east side of Beacon Blvd from Crystal Dr to Trailwinds Dr and along the north side of Crystal Dr, filling the sidewalk gaps from Beacon Blvd to Metro Pkwy** – Ms. Nicole Strahan was not present.
- (b) ***Shared Use Path on the south side of Griffin Dr from Timbermarsh Ct to Gateway Elementary School** – The presenter had originally asked for a mid-block crosswalk from their community entrance to the path on the other side of the street. Mr. David Wagley stated that the path would measure about 1450 linear feet. It scored about 54 points. This project does meet the criteria for Tier 2 as it meets the school proximity, connectivity, and the functional class requirements. There was discussion among the BPAC members regarding this project.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to add the shared use path on the south side of Griffin Dr from Timbermarsh Ct to Gateway Elementary School to the BPAC List because it is located on a major collector road and the end goal is to have sidewalks on both sides of major collector and arterial roads. This was seconded by Mr. Paul Cohen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Other Business

MPO Updates – Mr. Ron Gogoi shared information on the FP&L Utility Corridor. He shared a map of the Sun Trail Network, displaying the location of the FP&L Corridor. Mr. Gogoi shared that the FPL Corridor is scenic. There is flooding in the area in the summer, so if the trail is built, the flooding would need to be alleviated. There would also need to be coordination with the State and FP&L. He also shared that a trail may be cost prohibitive, it's estimated to be 2.45 miles long. There is a maintenance cost to building a trail as it would have to be maintained by a local government entity. There is a possibility that

the State could be persuaded to maintain it as a park since it is surrounded by State lands.

Mr. Gogoi wanted feedback from the BPAC Committee regarding trail alignment on the Sun Trail Network. He asked if we should go with an alternate alignment including future pedestrian facilities on Pine Ridge Rd, or if we should go with an alternate alignment using existing facilities on San Carlos Blvd and Summerlin Rd with some possible minor improvements.

Agenda Item #6: Member Comments:

- (a) Mr. Damon Shelor wanted clarification on the *fee in lieu of* process. Where does the fee go that is paid?

Mr. Rob Price explained that the money paid by a developer in the fee in lieu of process goes into the impact fee district that the fee is paid in. Wherever the fee in lieu of is requested it goes into the pot and generally that is what is used to pay for road widening and sidewalks.

- (b) Mr. Steve Jansen asked if the larger projects on the BPAC List can be broken into smaller projects, scoring each of the smaller sections individually.

Mr. Rob Price explained that the scores would potentially be a lot different compared to what they are now. Ms. Jillian Scholler also stated that the smaller projects would not necessarily be together on the list.

- (c) Mr. Derek Felder asked if there is a possible end to developers having to build sidewalks, does this remove the stipulation of the fee in lieu process?

Mr. Rob Price stated that they're not sure what would happen with the fee in lieu process. It could be that every development must pay a set fee for their frontage, however nothing has been determined yet.

Mr. Felder also wanted to know if the committee could modify the project approved today for the BPAC list. There is now an area without sidewalk from Gateway Blvd to Timbermarsh Ct. He would like staff to potentially bring back numbers for that section and then it could possibly be added to the list. The project approved today could also be modified to include and be extended to make it longer and include all of Gateway Blvd.

Mr. David Wagley stated that he listened to the recoding from the April BPAC meeting and those were the parameters that had been set. The committee could always make a motion to fill the gap.

Mr. Rob Price said he would be curious to see what the score would be if it continued to Gateway Blvd. If the score goes up dramatically it would be something for the committee to consider.

Mr. Felder also wants to know if the list could be narrowed down. He stated the committee does have the ability to change the order of the list as well as remove certain projects. He stated that if a project is within two miles of a school, it should possibly be bumped to the top of the BPAC list. It would also help to see collector/ arterial road or school proximity on the list to better help the committee understand where projects are located and why they should be removed or moved to a

higher position. He also wanted to know if it's possible to get the BPAC list as the excel document rather than a PDF.

Mr. Wagley said he can accommodate.

- (d) Mr. Paul Cohen stated that as a committee we need to be keeping the public aware of actual wait times for a sidewalk. Members of the public come to the BPAC meetings thinking that once they're on the list, they'll be getting their sidewalk in a few years, when realistically it could be ten years out or longer. This could possibly be shared on an FAQ page. This could provide a more realistic expectation of what a wait time should be.
- (e) Mr. Pat Connor stated that on the BPAC website FAQs, it hints that there's a wait time for sidewalks due to lack of funding. Mr. Connor stated that maybe the language should indicate that the wait time is longer. Mr. Connor stated that the answers on the FAQ sheet are helpful, but the one about wait time for sidewalks should be tweaked.

Mr. Connor also asked if there should be a limit to the cost of the sidewalks that the committee considers. Once sidewalk costs become so large they could go into another class, such as DOT development. That would leave projects that the BPAC committee could handle and possibly get to. This could possibly cut the list down and let the committee look at more manageable projects.

Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments

- (a) Mr. David Wagley stated that the review of the point scoring system will take place during the June 18th BPAC meeting. Most questions being asked regarding BPAC can be found on the County website, but he is always available to assist. If something requested is lengthy, it would be treated as a public records request.
- (b) Mr. Tom Marquardt explained the MSTBU instruction forms attached to the BPAC agenda packet. Since MSTBU has been mentioned at several of the BPAC meetings, he wants to make sure everyone is clear on what MSTBU is. There is a section on our website that has the MSTBU instructions for the public to view, as well as the form needing to be completed. It describes what kind of projects the community can petition to collect taxes for (local tax collection). There is a \$5,000 non-refundable administrative fee to start the MSTBU process. This is an option to mention to people that are coming to the BPAC meetings to request a sidewalk for their community.
- (c) Mr. Brandon Kaczmarek stated that the Able Canal is going to the Board for award of contract on June 3rd, 2025.
- (d) Mr. Rob Proce stated that the Richmond Ave pedestrian bridge, which was destroyed during Hurricane Irma and needs to be replaced, is also going to the Board for award of contract on June 3rd, 2025.

Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments

No comments

Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meeting Items

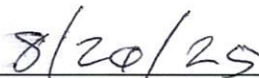
Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

Adjournment


Mr. Dave Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.



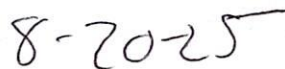
BPAC Chairman



Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair



Date