

**LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 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
Derek Felder, District 1
Damon Shelor, District 5
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community Representative, At Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Benvie, At Large
Paul Cohen, Affordable Housing Representative, At Large

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Ron Gogoi, Lee County MPO

**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 3:01 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. Derek Felder.
The motion was called and passed unanimously.**

Agenda Item #2: *Approval of the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes.

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the May 21, 2025 minutes.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comments:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

- (a) **Griffin Dr from Gateway Blvd to Timbermarsh Ct** – Mr. David Wagley stated that the committee had asked him to look at the project and provide information. He shared that the sidewalk would be about 2700 linear feet. It would score about 56 points. The cost estimate would be about \$409,000.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to add sidewalk on the south side of Griffin Dr from Gateway Blvd to Timbermarsh Ct to the BPAC List. This was seconded by Mr. Steve Jansen, who stated that because this is a collector street it needs to have sidewalks on both sides of the street. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Other Business

- (a) **Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant** – Ms. Jillian Scholler shared a presentation on Harnessing AI and High-Fidelity Digital Twins for Proactive Road Safety. She explained that Lee County has partnered with UCF and the MPO for this Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant. The BPAC committee did provide a letter of support for the grant, which was due back in May, and is provided in the agenda packet. Ms. Scholler explained that the SS4A program was developed a few years back with 5-year funding available from 2020 to 2026, with \$5 billion in funding. There's still about \$2 billion in funding available. The grant Lee County has applied for is a demonstration grant for new technology pilot programs. There are also implementation grants. The MPO did receive planning money to develop the safety action plan. Ms. Scholler shared a slide reviewing the safety action plan. This plan identifies the high injury network corridors where most of the fatal and serious injury crashes occur. These corridors account for 56% of these serious crashes. She also reviewed the proposed demonstration project, explaining that a coordinated system of roadside lidar, radar, and camera sensors at selected pilot locations will be deployed. The data collected will be analyzed. This data and analysis will be used to support identifying crash precursors, evaluating the effectiveness of targeted countermeasures, and generate insights to inform real-time operations and long-term safety planning. She ended the presentation with a review of the project tasks.

Ms. Scholler answered questions regarding the Harnessing AI and High-Fidelity Digital Twins for Proactive Road Safety grant.

There was discussion among the committee members regarding the BPAC letter of support for the SS4A grant.

Mr. Damon Shelor made a motion to accept the BPAC letter of support put together by LCDOT staff and Mr. Eric Spivey as an official request to support the SS4A project, as the BPAC committee had not met since the letter of support was due. This was seconded by Mr. Pat Connor. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

- (b) ***Annual Review of the Point Scoring System for the BPAC List** – Mr. David Wagley stated that the BPAC Point Scoring System has two sieves. The first sieve dates back to the start of the BPAC committee. The second sieve dates back from around the time of Covid, with emphasis on traffic safety, student safety, and transportation equity. The only change he suggests on behalf of county staff is removing Route 160 of LeeTran from the list as it no longer exists. Mr. Wagley asked the committee if they had any other suggestions for the point scoring system.

Mr. Steve Jansen asked with what LeeTran is doing with the on-demand service in Lehigh Acres and Bonita Springs areas, is there any way to address this in the point scoring system.

Mr. Wagley explained that this hasn't been incorporated into the point-scoring system, but it could possibly be added with a statement such as *if it falls within this service area it scores a certain number of points*.

There was discussion among the members regarding the on-demand service.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to approve the Point Scoring System with the modification of removing Route 160. This was seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

- (c) **MPO Update** – Mr. Ron Gogoi shared information on bridge usage analysis for the Edison Bridge and the Caloosahatchee Bridge. He shared usage counts (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) for the south end of the Edison Bridge on June 6th and 7th, as well as the usage counts for the north and south ends of the Caloosahatchee Bridge, using cameras at the ends of each bridge. They want to determine if people are using the new sidewalk that was built on the Caloosahatchee Bridge. Mr. Gogoi did point out the difference in the user numbers for the north and south ends of the Caloosahatchee Bridge and the possible reasons for this difference. Mr. Gogoi then showed a slide displaying the Suntrail Network alignment changes that have been completed. He also provided an update to the Caloosahatchee Downtown Multimodal Feasibility Study. He shared the purpose of this project, as well as the timeline, completed and ongoing activities, and upcoming events. Mr. Gogoi shared a slide for trip characteristics within this study area, focusing on trip distances less than three miles for automobiles, transit, pedestrians, and bicyclists. He also shared the trip distance by mode for outbound trips. Mr. Gogoi shared the link to the survey regarding the new shared-use path (urban trail) in Fort Myers and North Fort Myers that has been posted to the website, which he explained will be available until September 30th. Mr. Gogoi asked Mr. Wagley to share this slide containing the link to all the BPAC committee members. Mr. Gogoi finished his presentation by sharing information regarding trails with separate bike and pedestrian facilities, focusing on the minimum and preferred measurements for facilities.

There was discussion among the BPAC members regarding the minimum and preferred measurements for facilities.

Agenda Item #6: Member Comments:

- (a) Mr. Eric Spivey stated that he is excited that AI will be used for the SS4A and UCF project. He said that in his opinion, AI can be used for a lot of what-ifs and we can get quantifiable information on how different projects will fit in or not fit in, which will make life easier.
- (b) Mr. Damon Shelor said he's curious about Joel Blvd and the high school going in along Joel Blvd. He heard it was in contention when Gateway High School was being decided on. Mr. Shelor wants to know if it's being reconsidered for a different location.

Ms. Jillian Scholler explained that the School Board owns a large parcel of land at Joel Blvd and Tuckahoe. They have a high school and middle school planned for that lot, but she does not know how far out they are for those projects.

Mr. Shelor stated that not too far south from this location, it goes from four lanes to two lanes, and the confusion is when you get into Alva Proper from Tuckahoe to the light. There's drainage ditches and cars end up in the ditch. Will there be a widening of Joel Blvd through Alva to SR 82?

Ms. Scholler explained that it is currently in Tier II of the CIP. The School Board will widen the road along their property limits so when they build the schools, they will widen Joel Blvd to four lanes and provide the right-of-way needed to do that. The right-of-way north of Tuckahoe gets exceptionally tight, while south of Tuckahoe there is more space. There is no planning or design currently under way.

Mr. Shelor also asked about the status of extending Milwaukee to Beth Stacy Blvd.

Ms. Scholler stated that there is a developer doing this and they are currently in the DO stage. She does not have a timeline, but the developer does have a development order to make the extension.

Mr. Bruce Littleton added that the developer is only extending to the canal crossing and that DOT will upgrade Milwaukee Blvd from the canal to Alabama Rd.

Mr. Shelor wanted to know who owns the crossing.

Ms. Scholler stated that the County will take over ownership and maintenance of the road.

- (c) Mr. Derek Felder stated that BPAC had previously discussed a Veterans Park sidewalk by Arthur. He wanted to know if that has ever been considered.

Mr. Brandon Kaczmarek said it is being budgeted in their upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Felder also asked for an update for the Able Canal pathway.

Mr. Kaczmarek stated that August 21st is the official notice to proceed with the contract, and it's expected to end in July of 2027.

Mr. Felder stated that Joel Blvd is currently at the top of Tier II and wanted to know if the project could potentially be moved to Tier I after the workshop in April 2026, as the school will most likely be approved by then.

Ms. Scholler explained that they have a multi-faceted scoring system for how the roads are ranked, taking into account development and volumes on the roadway among other things. She does not expect too much change in Tier I unless they get some type of new funding.

- (d) Mr. Steve Jansen stated that during the past few months, a resident from McGregor Groves has come to the meetings wanting a sidewalk on a local, low-volume street. At one point in time, there was a push for an edge lane road for low-volume streets, basically taking a two-lane road and striping a four or five-foot shoulder on each side. He wanted to know if there had been any discussion about this being an alternative for these low-volume streets.

Mr. Bruce Littleton explained that the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) have considered it and has it in their manual.

Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments

- (a) Mr. David Wagley shared that the Bell Blvd project, from SR 82 to Sunrise Blvd on the east side, is now complete. That part of that project included connecting sidewalk to crosswalks at the intersection of Milwaukee Blvd and Thomas Sherwin Ave S.

Mr. Wagley shared that Unice Ave near Harns Marsh has been removed from the BPAC list. There is a development going in and the developer built sidewalk on the entire frontage.

Mr. Wagley also shared the few changes that were made to the BPAC FAQs. These changes include the transition of the committee from DCD to DOT, as well as the three-tier system.

Mr. Wagley let the BPAC members know that there will be a change of location for the September 17th BPAC meeting due to first-floor renovations. The September meeting will take place in the first-floor conference room located in the Admin Building at 2115 Second St.

- (b) Mr. Brandon Kaczmarek stated that the Able Canal starts August 21st, 2025. The contract officially begins on this date and is expected to be completed by Summer 2027. This is a 6-mile-long path from Harns Marsh to Joel Blvd. The path will be twelve feet wide. It will also connect to a few different County parks.

Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments

No comments

Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meeting Items

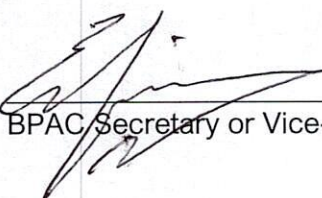
Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

Adjournment

Mr. Dave Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.


BPAC Chairman

9/17/2025
Date


BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

9/17/25
Date