

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF

Rob Price, LC DOT
Tom Marquardt, LC DOT
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT
David Wagley, LC DOT
Jose Perez, LeeTran
Danny Reyes, LC Utilities
Brandon Kaczmarek, LC Parks & Recreation

GUESTS

Greg Lambrecht, Eagle Ridge Property Owners Association
Kelly Lambrecht, Eagle Ridge
Kathy Blackburn, Eagle Ridge
Dave Blackburn, Eagle Ridge
Sue Mooney, Eagle Ridge – Fairways
Phil Mooney, Eagle Ridge - Fairways
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 3:00 p.m. in the Community Development/Public Works building, 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, First Floor Conference Room 1B. Introductions were made. Mr. Pat Connor announced that he did not accept reappointment for his role in the District 2 BPAC position.

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

Mr. Derek Felder 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 October 15, 2025 meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Eric Spivey made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Paul Benvie. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comments:

(a) Mr. Greg Lambrecht stated that he represents Eagle Ridge and is the vice president of the Eagle Ridge HOA. There have been talks and meetings within their community on how they can move forward with getting a sidewalk installed. Mr. Lambrecht stated that he has talked with the BPAC committee and heard the suggestion for a special tax unit or MSTBU, and he will be talking with Josh Malo tomorrow.

(b) Ms. Kathy Blackburn supports a sidewalk for Eagle Ridge. She stated that she did a brief search on the internet and found that a sidewalk would impact 1500 doors as well as six different neighborhoods within Eagle Ridge. A sidewalk would also benefit both a church and a rehab center in that area. One of the neighborhoods has families with young children that could also benefit from a sidewalk while waiting for the bus.

(c) Mr. David Wagley read an email from Ms. Michele Oppenberg in support of a sidewalk on Mandel Rd.

Mr. Wagley also stated that Ms. Oppenberg wanted to know if the BPAC committee would reconsider the idea of scheduling the meetings later in the evening so that people who work could attend the meetings.

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

(a) ***Sidewalk on Milwaukee Blvd - East Side of Street from Copperhead Canal to Alabama Rd S** - Mr. David Wagley stated that LCDOT staff recommends completing this as one project rather than two separate projects. If it was decided that this would be completed as one project, it could always be divided up by phases in the future. He also mentioned that the more area a project has, the higher the point score will be. The approximate length for the first section (Copperhead Canal to Alabama Rd S) would be 1900 linear feet. The approximate score would be 50 points. The estimated cost would be \$285,000. This section is considered a local road.

(b) ***Sidewalk on Milwaukee Blvd - East Side of Street from Alabama Rd S to Savannah Lakes/Panther Canal** – Mr. David Wagley shared that the approximate length for the second section

(Alabama Rd S to 270 ft south of Preston St) would be 4000 linear feet. The approximate score would be 69 points. The estimated cost would be \$600,000. This section is considered a collector road.

If the two sections were combined as one project, the total length would be 5900 linear feet. The approximate score would be 71 points. The estimated cost would be \$885,000.

Mr. Damon Shelor made a motion to combine the two separate sidewalk projects for Milwaukee Blvd as one project and add it to the BPAC list, seconded by Mr. Derek Felder. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Other Business

(a) **MPO Update** – Mr. Ron Gogoi did not have any MPO updates.

Mr. Steve Jansen stated he had a question for Mr. Gogoi regarding San Carlos Blvd between Kelly Rd and Summerlin Rd and the improvements made to the pedestrian crosswalks.

Mr. Gogoi said he does not know why the sidewalk has not been connected. He stated that the project they have calls for connection from the back of the shelter to the existing sidewalk.

Mr. Jansen also had a concern regarding the project for US 41 and Six Mile Cypress. Mr. Jansen wants to make sure that when they start the design for this project in 4 to 5 years, that sidewalks are included being that it is a State project.

Mr. David Wagley stated that sidewalks for this area of road are currently on the BPAC list.

(b) ***BPAC Letter of Support for Mirror Lakes Elementary Safe Routes to School Grant Application**
- Mr. Dave Wheaton shared that the letter of support is a letter that the committee does for these grant applications and that they did well last year.

Mr. Damon Shelor made a motion to approve the letter to the Safety Department - Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, seconded by Mr. Pat Connor. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #6: Member Comments:

(a) Mr. Damon Shelor thanked Mr. Pat Connor for his years of service on the BPAC committee.

(b) Mr. Pat Connor stated that his eight years on the BPAC committee have been interesting. He said he is disappointed with two specific District 2 projects. The first project is Plantation Rd. The other project he thinks could be done now is the Eagle Ridge/ American Colony sidewalk project. Mr. Connor also mentioned that Eagle Ridge only has one exit from their community.

Mr. Wagley stated that all the crash data factors have been considered. He also reminded Mr. Connor that he calculates the points yearly (every summer).

- (c) Mr. Paul Benvie thanked Pat Connor for his service to the committee.
- (d) Mr. Derek Felder stated that all the discussions and comments we are having, whether it be a discussion on member comments or not, are warranted because they pertain to the sidewalks and the bicyclists/pedestrians. We are also nowhere near our end time of 5:00 PM, and are ahead of schedule, so he welcomes all discussion, including comments from DOT staff.
- (e) Mr. Steve Jansen stated that FDOT is working with the city for a multimodal path project between Littleton Rd down to Hanson St trying to connect everything together. Mr. Jansen will be hearing from FDOT in the next few months, and he will let the committee know what the outcome is.

Mr. Jansen also made a comment about the speed humps on Mandel Rd. If you look in the archives, there was a before and after study done and there was a reduction in speed of about 5 miles per hour.

- (f) Mr. Paul Cohen thanked Mr. Pat Connor for the passion he has brought to the BPAC meetings. Mr. Paul Cohen stated that the letter of support for the SRTS grant for Mirror Lakes Elementary that was just approved does not match what was in the meeting minutes of October 2025. Mr. Cohen would like to see the letter of support changed to reflect the following: *During the November 19, 2025, meeting of the Lee County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), the committee voted unanimously to support...*

Mr. Paul Cohen said he also wants the November meeting minutes to reflect that he is now Vice Chair for the Audit Committee for the Lee County School District.

- (g) Ms. Jane Bowser thanked Mr. Pat Connor for all his years of service on the BPAC Committee.
- (h) Mr. Dave Wheaton thanked Mr. Pat Connor for his service.

Agenda Item #7: Staff Comments

- (a) Mr. Robert Price shared information on some of LCDOT's current projects. He also added that the BPAC list is helpful, and we are making progress. We are doing the best we can to build sidewalks with the limited funds that are available.
- The Tice St sidewalk is going to the Board for construction on December 2nd. This has been a BPAC priority (number 1 on the list).
 - Orange River Blvd is under construction, which is another BPAC priority.
 - The Richmond Ave pedestrian bridge was set a couple weeks ago. The project is moving along.
 - Lee County DOT recently finished the construction on Littleton Rd, which included shared-use paths and sidewalks. Rob urged the BPAC members to go to the County's social media channels to view the virtual ribbon cutting for this project.
 - Lee County DOT will be starting construction after the first of the year at Treeline and Daniels. They will be converting the triple lefts on northbound Treeline as they are underutilized. The outside left turn lane will be converted into a through lane and the outside through lane will be converted into a right turn lane, making two right turns lanes headed into Lehigh Acres and Gateway.
 - The Alico Rd sidewalk will be starting soon.
 - We were just awarded the CEI services for the last piece of the Hancock Bridge Pkwy

sidewalk. There will be a sidewalk connection on the north side of Hancock Bridge Pkwy all the way to Cape Coral from US 41.

- Bell Blvd was recently completed and there is a second phase.
- Jet Port Loop and Pine Ridge Rd just entered the design phase.
- The PD&E for the replacement of the bridges was just awarded and the Sun Trail funding for the design for the shared-use path/trail from the south end of the Big Carlos Pass Bridge all the way down to Bonita on Hickory Blvd. The project that just went to design will not incorporate the bridges because the bridges will be replaced separately. There will be sidewalks on the land side of the bridges and then the bridge replacement will connect to those sidewalks. This will complete the Sun Trail network from Fort Myers Beach to Bonita Beach.

Mr. Rob Price did want it to be reflected in the minutes that the Lee County MPO built the improvements for bicycle/pedestrian improvements at Treeline and Daniels.

- (b) Brandon Kaczmarek stated that the Able Canal Greenway is coming along. There is some clearing still taking place, as it is a process to clear six miles of exotics. It will be a bit before they start working on the path. Everything is currently on schedule.
- (c) Mr. Jose Perez stated that the trolleys will be back in service starting tomorrow. There is also a schedule change starting tomorrow for both downtown and the beach.

Agenda Item #8: Other Government Entity Comments

No comments

Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meeting Items

Mr. Wheaton stated that the BPAC committee will take a break for the month of December due to the Holidays.

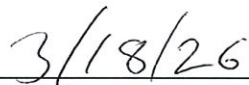
Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, January 21, 2026.**

Adjournment

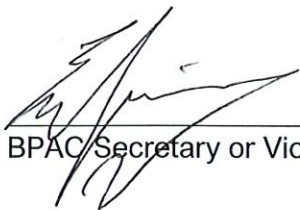
Mr. Dave Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.



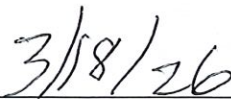
BPAC Chairman



Date



BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair



Date