

**LEE COUNTY
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2026**

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
Steve Jansen, Walkable Community Representative, At Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

Damon Shelor, District 5

STAFF

Rob Price, LC DOT
Jillian Scholler, LC DOT
Tom Marquardt, LC DOT
Bruce Littleton, LC DOT
Bridgette Blanchard, LC DOT
Jose Perez, LeeTran
Brandon Kaczmarek, LC Parks & Recreation

GUESTS

Sue McMillin, Pine Ridge Rd
Brian Saylor, Cypress Trail RV Resort
Angie Saylor, Cypress Trail RV Resort
Darrell Fisher, Cypress Trail RV Resort
Jack Rex, Cypress Trail RV Resort
Craig Lannoye, Cypress Trail RV Resort

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. Wheaton asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Paul Cohen 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 November 19, 2025 meeting minutes.

Mr. Wheaton called for a review of the November 19, 2025 minutes.

Mr. Paul Cohen made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Steve Jansen. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comments:

Agenda Item #3 was originally listed as *Election of Officers*, but Mr. Dave Wheaton stated that he was moving *Election of Officers* to Item #6 so that the guests in attendance for *Public Comment* and *Presentations* could begin. Item #3 became *Public Comment*.

- (a) Sue McMillin stated that she is pursuing a sidewalk on Pine Ridge Rd. She shared images of the Heights Career Technical Institute located at Gladiolus and Pine Ridge Rd. She stated that there is no sidewalk on the east side of Pine Ridge Rd. Pine Ridge is a major collector road and with the school opening in August 2026, she wants pedestrians to have a continuous sidewalk.

Mr. Rob Price explained that this sidewalk is already on the BPAC list. The project is currently in Tier II, and it is the first project in its impact fee district. The sidewalk for the east side of Pine Ridge is number 20 on the list and the sidewalk for the west side of Pine Ridge is currently number 21.

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

- (a) **Extend Tice St Sidewalk Project already on BPAC list from Lexington Ave to Country Lakes Dr, to 5421 Tice St** - Mr. Brian Saylor stated that he is from Cypress Trail RV Resort and that there are other residents in attendance with him, including the President of their Board and another board member. He shared a presentation requesting a sidewalk completion from the Cypress Trail RV Resort entrance to Country Lakes, crossing over Country Lakes and going across the bridge to Lexington Ave. He also shared a letter from the Cypress Trail HOA formally requesting a bicycle path and sidewalk from 5400 Tice St, crossing Country Lakes Dr and continuing to a crosswalk to join the current sidewalk on Lexington Ave.

Mr. Rob Price stated that this project is found on the BPAC list within Tier II, as numbers 37 (south side of the road), 88 (north side of the road), and 122 (north side of the road).

There was discussion among DOT staff, BPAC members, and Mr. Saylor, regarding other options, including Safe Routes to School (SRTS).

Agenda Item #5: Other Business

- (a) **MPO Update** – Mr. Ron Gogoi was not in attendance.

- (b) ***Community Support Point Scoring for Groups Present at the February 18th BPAC Meeting -** Mr. Dave Wheaton explained that there were a few groups that attended the February 18th BPAC meeting to show support for a community / sidewalk project. Being that the meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum, the committee needs to decide if it's appropriate to give attendance points to the communities that did attend.

Mr. Paul Cohen made a motion to acknowledge attendance at the February meeting, seconded by Mr. Paul Benvie. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

- (c) **March is Bike Month Proclamation and Photo** – Mr. Tom Marquardt displayed both the *March is Bike Month Proclamation* and the photo taken at the February 17th Board Meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Election of Officers:

- (a) Mr. Dave Wheaton stated that he would be stepping down as Chair. He explained that he would like to give the opportunity to another BPAC member. Mr. Eric Spivey stated that he would be stepping down as Vice Chair.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to nominate Mr. Steve Jansen as BPAC Chair, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. Mr. Steve Jansen accepted the nomination. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Mr. Derek Felder made a motion to nominate Mr. Paul Cohen as BPAC Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Eric Spivey. Mr. Paul Cohen accepted the nomination. The motion was called and passed unanimously.

Mr. Steve Jansen chose Ms. Jane Bowser as BPAC Secretary. Ms. Jane Bowser accepted the position of Secretary.

Agenda Item #7: Member Comments

- (a) Mr. Paul Cohen stated that there was some confusion during the public comment. He said that Winkler has a shared-use path, not a sidewalk.
- (b) Mr. Paul Benvie asked if the developments going in on N River Rd would be required to put in sidewalks on the south side of N River Rd.

Mr. Rob Price explained that Neale Communities would be putting in sidewalk. The Babcock development is designing and paying a fee in lieu. LC DOT will then take the design plans and go straight to construction (on the north side). Owl Creek (on the south side) is installing sidewalk.

- (c) Mr. Steve Jansen asked if when the BPAC list is updated in the summer, can the 3 or 4-mile projects be broken into smaller projects. He gave an example of Leonard Blvd, which is number 19 on the BPAC list.

Mr. Rob Price said he hesitates to break projects up into multiple projects as it will most likely be completed in phases.

- (d) Mr. Derek Felder wanted to know what the BPAC list would look like if the decision was made to shorten the list.

There was discussion among LC DOT staff and BPAC members regarding local roads versus arterial and collector roads, as well as potential projects that are along undeveloped property versus developments.

Mr. Felder also asked if 23rd St SW being added to the BPAC list could be discussed. He stated that he had spoken to a DOT staff member and was told it had previously been brought to the board and it was not a cost feasible project. There are other requests being made for 23rd St SW, as seen in the letter from Dr. David Gagnon (included in the March 18th agenda packet).

It was requested that the BPAC Administrative Code be sent to the BPAC members as there were concerns regarding the number of members needed for quorum.

Agenda Item #8: Staff Comments

- (a) Mr. Brandon Kaczmarek stated that the Able Canal project is going well and is currently on schedule. The pedestrian bridge construction is on-going. It is still scheduled for Summer 2027.

Agenda Item #9: Other Government Entity Comments

No comments

Agenda Item #10: Upcoming Meeting Items:

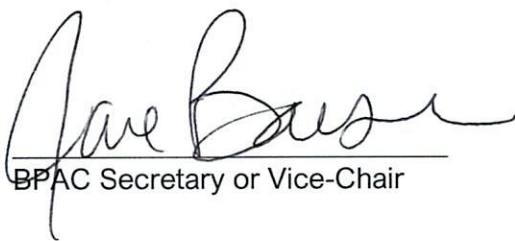
Next Meeting date - **Wednesday, April 15, 2026.**

Adjournment

Mr. Dave Wheaton adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.


BPAC Chairman

4/15/26
Date


BPAC Secretary or Vice-Chair

4-15-26
Date