



**4. Approval of the December 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Ortman entertained a motion for approval of the December 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

**Ms. Fendrick:** I move to approve the minutes.

**Ms. Halman:** I second the motion.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Open to the Public for Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

Mr. Ken Oehler, speaking on behalf of the Palm River community, stated that this issue has been before the committee before. He gave the committee an overview of the history of the community stating that in 2016 the County put in sidewalks along Cypress Way E., from Piper to Eastwood. Mr. Oehler stated that at the time the community thought that the County would finish the loop from Cypress Way E. to Viking Way and Palm View which would connect to the new park on Piper. This loop would connect the entire community however, the community was told that this wasn't planned as the project, or need for, was not on any of the County's plans. At the time the community was told that the Horsecreek developer should've put in sidewalks at the time of development. Mr. Oehler stated that the last time the neighborhood came to the committee they were given the suggestion to develop an MSTU to pay for the remaining sidewalks. He stated that he reached out to Mr. Dan Shoemaker who helped develop a map and cost estimates for this possible project. Mr. Oehler stated that while this was helpful they were still faced with going to all their residents and getting at least 950 of them to agree to the idea of the MSTU in order to fund this. He also stated that he had been informed by others at the County that the County's budget for sidewalks was only \$250,000. He also stated that he went before the BCC to ask them to increase the budget for sidewalks as there were many areas in the County that are unsafe. Mr. Oehler stated that a big issue in the community is that the drivers don't slow down when they see pedestrians. He then asked the committee how else they can approach this issue since there's no budget for it and the prospect of getting citizens to agree to an MSTU is very slim.

Mr. Ortman stated that the MPO is currently working on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan and both safety and connectivity would be focused on in the plan. MPO dollars are short and there are many needs within the County. Mr. Ortman stated that part of the plan will take a closer look at local roads so that potential local road projects can be vetted through the plan. He also stated that potential projects can be brought before the committee through the application process however, the committee would not be prioritizing projects for several years due to the Board's policy change in allocating SU funds. Mr. Ortman stated that a MSTU is another viable avenue as well as working through the County's process.

Ms. Halman stated that the MSTU has been working well in Immokalee and suggested Palm River give that option a try. She stated that she's hearing a lot of the same issues from Mr. Oehler that are happening in Immokalee; lack of funding, heavy drainage issues, etc.

Discussion ensued amongst committee members surrounding Mr. Oehler's concerns, including other options the community may pursue. Ms. Lantz stated that the County has looked into this issue, particularly on Cypress Way East. She stated that cost estimates were over a million dollars because of the drainage issues. Mr. Musico pointed out that FDOT's standard will not allow the MPO's funding to be used on sidewalk projects when over 50% of the project's cost in drainage.

Mr. Ortman stated that Mr. Oehler can email his comments and concerns to the MPO to be entered into the BPMP as official comment.

**6. Agency Updates**

A. FDOT

Mr. Agacinski stated that the Florida Greenways and Trails Council met on January 11<sup>th</sup> and approved final priority and opportunity maps. He stated that Suntrail coordinators were working together with the Council to update the Suntrail maps based on the new priority and opportunity maps. Mr. Agacinski stated that effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, the FDOT Design Manual had replaced the Plans Preparation Manual. He stated that there are now separate chapters for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, shared use paths, and transit facilities. The chapters for these are now chapters 222-225. Mr. Agacinski stated that FDOT has also released the 2018/2019 Standard Plans for Road & Bridge Construction (formerly known as design standards). He stated that the new standards go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Discussion ensued amongst members and Mr. Agacinski concerning minimum sidewalk widths. Ms. Halman expressed a concern with a width of 6ft and stated that 8ft is the most ideal. The committee also discussed bike lanes widths. Mr. Agacinski stated that if the facility is brand new FDOT prefers to put in a 7ft bike lane with a buffer so long as the right of way is available. Ms. Olson asked about the Suntrail Map. Mr. Agacinski stated that the map could be found at [FLSuntrail.com](http://FLSuntrail.com).

Ms. Fendrick stated that there is a Safety Summit in Tampa and asked if Mr. Agacinski could send more information on that to the MPO. Mr. Agacinski stated that the Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit was being held on the 27<sup>th</sup> in Tampa and would begin at 8:30 a.m.

B. MPO

None.

C. Collier County

Ms. Lantz stated that the County had submitted a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) application for Shadowlawn Elementary and it had been accepted. The application was one of nine received. Ms. Lantz stated that Airport Pulling Rd. from US41 to Davis Blvd. which is parallel to Shadowlawn Elementary, has moved up in bike/ped crash rankings to the fifth worst in the district. She stated that this proved an even further need for the SRTS project. She stated that they should know over the summer if the SRTS project application would be awarded. Ms. Lantz also stated that they should be hearing back on the TIGER grant application sometime in April. She stated that the TIGER grant was for projects in Immokalee, and if awarded would be over \$16 million dollars in funding.

D. City of Naples

E. City of Marco Island

No updates were provided from the City of Naples or the City of Marco Island.

**7. Committee Action**

A. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Ortman introduced the item and stated that each year a committee Chair and Vice-Chair must be elected. He stated that terms are for a period of one-year and any member can serve. Mr. Ortman stated that Mr. Adams was out sick with the flu but had offered to continue serving as vice-chair.

Mr. Musico explained the process the committee has followed when voting for Chair/Vice-Chair. Mr. Bonness stated that he was willing to continue serving as Chair however, his term was coming to an end.

**Ms. Cheffy: I nominate Joe Bonness as Chair and Joe Adams as Vice-Chair.**

**Mr. Musico: I second the motion.**

Ms. Halman asked if Mr. Bonness would be resubmitting his application for another term. Mr. Bonness stated that he would be doing so. Ms. Fendrick asked if the MPO staff foresees any opposition from the MPO Director or Board on this. Mr. Ortman stated that he doesn't anticipate any, but he cannot speak for the Board. Mr. Bonness called the motion on the Chair nominee to question.

**THE MOTION FOR JOE BONNESS AS CHAIR CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bonness called the motion on the Vice-Chair nominee to question.

**THE MOTION FOR JOE ADAMS AS VICE-CHAIR CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Reports and Presentations (May Require Committee Action)**

**A. Update on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan**

Mr. Ortman introduced Wally Blain, representing Tindale Oliver, who gave an update on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP). Mr. Ortman stated that the MPO has done extensive public outreach for the plan and to date has received over 400 comments. He stated that the next steps would be to refine the broad themes of the plan, work on a policy element, project selection process, performance measures, and consideration to how the plan will be implemented.

Mr. Musico stated that he was very pleased with the public outreach that has been done for this plan. Ms. Halman agreed with Mr. Musico stating that the MPO has also done extensive public outreach in Immokalee.

Mr. Blain stated, in reference to a question asked previously, that the WikiMap would remain up and open for comment throughout the duration the public involvement efforts for the plan. He stated that the information received to date has already been pulled to begin analyzing. Mr. Blain stated that Tindale Oliver has started working with the County for input on how to develop a policy portion to the plan and how to make the plan more user friendly for localities to implement.

Mr. Musico stated that public support was very important and he believed this should be integrated into the committee's evaluation criteria. He stated that the other side of public support – non-support – was also very important and the committee should think about how to handle this when it arises. Mr. Ortman stated that these are both very important to consider however, lack of support does not prove a lack of need or desire.

Mr. Blain continued with the presentation covering public engagement and input; survey and workshop comments received, and comments on the WikiMap. Mr. Blain stated that more than half of the comments received were on safety and connectivity, with the rest being distributed between health, environment, equity, livability, and economic concerns. The presentation also covered the public's input on what would make the plan successful, and public concern with current walking and biking conditions.

Mr. Musico stated that 75% of bike riders in Florida are recreational riders and he believed there needed to be a balance in facilities to serve both the recreational rider and the person that rides out of necessity. Mr. Musico stated that it was important to put facilities in where they would be used.

Mr. Blain discussed other public comments received noting that a large portion of people commented that they are concerned with the lack of facilities available, large intersections, high speed traffic, driver behavior, and a lack of lighting.

Ms. Fendrick asked to what extent the data from the previous plan was being used. She stated that there was a lot of data on origin and destination. Mr. Blain stated that the plan would look at connections to school, parks, commercial activities, and transit stops. Mr. Blain stated, in reference to a question on Strava data, that the data is limited and likely captures only a specific subset of rider.

Mr. Musico stated that population density was something that needed to be considered in this plan as the community is very seasonal and many of the residents are not full time. He stated that the MPO should also consider tourism.

Ms. Olson asked how the blind and visually impaired citizens would be considered in the plan. She asked if staff has looked at audible crossing signals when considering safety. Mr. Blain stated that they have not specifically considered that however, this may be something that needs to be looked at and rolled up into the policy element. Discussion ensued amongst members on how to identify where blind and visually impaired people live to decipher where an audible crossing signal may be needed.

Mr. Blain discussed the plan's draft vision statement which is "to provide a safe and comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network that promotes and encourages community use and enjoyment." He then discussed the goals and objectives for the BPMP and compared them to the goals of previous plans.

Mr. Musico stated that he believed an additional goal needed to be added; a cost benefit analysis. Other members expressed uneasiness with adding this as a goal but stated that perhaps the proper place for this was in the committee's prioritization process.

Mr. Blain summarized the next steps in the development of the plan including a complete summarization of public comments, coordination with local agency staff on policies, completion of performance measures, finalizing project evaluation criteria, reviewing project identification and prioritization, and beginning to identify project needs. Mr. Blain concluded his presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions. The Power Point presentation can be made available to anyone who requests it.

Ms. Fendrick asked if staff has developed a user profile; if staff was getting a sense of who the users were and what kind of facilities were necessary for those users. Mr. Blain stated that often when structuring a public comment process those that come out and give comments are folks with more leisure time. He stated that most of the comments received deal with larger roads. Mr. Blain stated that the County is aware of localized issues and the two sources of information needed to be merged together. Mr. Blain also stated that it is difficult to put people into a category and it's important to rely on EJ data. Using the five EJ variables we can identify where more opportunities are needed. Mr. Ortman stated that the MPO has not developed a user profile and were doing various forms of public outreach to reach a broad cross section of the public. Mr. Ortman stated that most of comments received were concerning safety and connectivity.

Mr. Blain stated that the next stakeholder meeting would be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ortman stated that staff was considering merging the BPAC and TAC for the stakeholder meeting as was done previously.

Mr. Blain stated that the MPO was looking to have the plan adopted in June and the committee would be seeing a lot more information coming very quickly. Mr. Musico asked why there was a need to adopt the plan so quickly if the next call for projects would be in 2019. Mr. Ortman stated that the June timeframe was set because the MPO has committed to completing this by June 30<sup>th</sup> in the UPWP. Mr. Musico asked if the MPO could ask for an extension given the extenuating circumstances of the recent Hurricane. Mr. Blain stated that while the schedule was tight, completion of the plan should not be rushed. He stated that the MPO would begin development of the 2045 LRTP and the BPMP would be rolled into that. Mr. Ortman stated that if staff felt the BPMP could not be done right within the timeframe, they would ask for an extension.

Ms. Fendrick asked if staff was looking at different techniques in different locations such as using alleyways for facilities in grid like locations. Mr. Blain stated that the plan would look at other studies and plans that have been done, such as walkability studies, to move those forward and develop policy language for connectivity and to develop recommendations.

**9. Member Comments**

None.

**10. Distribution Items**

A. FDOT Safety Performance Measures Targets

Mr. Ortman briefly described this topic and explained its background, stating that the Board has acted to adopt FDOT's 'Vision Zero.' Mr. Ortman explained what 'Vision Zero' means and then opened the floor for comments and questions.

Ms. Fendrick asked if there were any penalties for not meeting the performance measure targets. Mr. Ortman stated that as of now the MPO would not be held liable for not meeting the performance measure.

Mr. Bonness asked how the MPO would work towards 'Vision Zero.' He asked if the committee should be looking at outside community education such as education on Road Safety Audits (RSA). Mr. Ortman asked if FDOT would be willing to do a RSA crash course with the committee. Mr. Agacinski stated that he would bring this request up with FDOT management and bring back further information.

B. FDOT US41 Road Safety Audit (RSA)

Mr. Ortman stated that the Safety Arterial Study was done in 2015 and the County had some additional concerns on US41 therefore, additional analysis was done. Mr. Ortman stated that included in the attachments was just the text of the document and first appendix however, the entire document was emailed to the committee. He stated that a direct impact of the RSA is further safety improvements that will be done when US41 between Courthouse Shadows and Davis Blvd is resurfaced. Improvements will total nearly \$1.5 million.

Discussion ensued amongst committee members concerning improvements mentioned in the RSA and their thoughts. Ms. Fendrick discussed some options done in other areas of the Country such as high visibility crosswalks. The committee also discussed roundabout design options that were cyclist friendly, speed limits, and the closing of extra driveways as a policy.

Mr. Ordija pointed out that there has been an increase in rear end crashes but bike/ped crashes has remained the same. The committee discussed several reasons why this may be, including an increase in tourist drivers and increase in driver distraction.

C. Update on CAT Fare Analysis Study

Mr. Ortman gave the committee a brief update on the CAT Fare Analysis Study. There were no questions or comments.

D. Update on the FY2019-FY2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Ortman stated that a large portion of the next UPWP would be the undertaking of the 2045 LRTP, and that there wouldn't be much money left-over to do many other studies.

Ms. Fendrick asked if the BPAC would be briefed on the amendment to the 2040 LRTP. Mr. Ortman stated that this can be brought before the committee if they so request. He briefly summarized the current work on the Amendment to the 2040 LRTP. Mr. Blain pointed out that this was an amendment to the 2040 LRTP and not the commencement of work on the 2045 LRTP. He stated that further updates were first going to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the BPAC could be given an update as well.

11. Next Meeting Date

March 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Bonness entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Dr. Friedman:**                      **I move to adjourn.**

**Mr. Bonness:**                      **I second the motion.**

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**