

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM platform
May 19, 2020 ---- 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bonness called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. McLaughlin called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

Members Present

Joe Bonness, Chair
Susan Sonnenschein, At-Large
Kim Jacob, At-Large
Patty Huff, At-Large
Andrea Halman, At-Large
Alan Musico, At-Large
Dayna Fendrick, At-Large

Members Absent

Anthony Matonti, Vice-Chair
Dr. Mort Friedman, At-Large
David Driapsa, At-Large
Larry Smith, At-Large

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Karen Intriago, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Victoria Peters, FDOT
Cathy Faerber, Naples Pathway Coalition
Debra Chesna, FDOT
Debra Forrester, Collier County Redevelopment Agency
Eric Ortman, Blue Zones Project
Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Planning Dept.
Valerie Nowotnick, Minute Taker

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Musico moved to approve the agenda. Second by Ms. Halman. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the January 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Musico: Section 7.B – 2nd paragraph – “project needs support from the community.”
Corrective statement: “Project had the support from the community...”

Ms. Huff – Section 8.A – 2nd paragraph, next to last sentence in paragraph: “The new visitor center on 41 is having a grand opening.” Corrective statement: “The new visitor center in Everglades City is having a grand opening.”

Ms. Fendrick – Section 7.B – 4th paragraph – “FDOT has been using sidewalks that back to curve but they are moving away from it.” Corrective statement: “FDOT has been using sidewalks that back to curb but they are moving away from it.”

Ms. Fendrick moved to approve the January 21, 2020 minutes as modified. Second by Mr. Musico. Carried unanimously.

5. Open to the Public for Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Faerber – Naples Pathway Coalition – had board meeting last night. Would like to see sidewalks along Mandarin be completed. 26th Avenue sidewalks are also of interest. South Gulf Drive from Gulf Shore to 41 – the multi-use pathway. Would like these projects considered when funding is available. **Ms. McLaughlin** – project priorities are new this year. 26th Avenue is new. **Ms. Faerber** – project is very needed due to location near Naples High School and a lot of pedestrians. **Ms. McLaughlin** – will check on these projects and advise.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Chesna – will send link to ConnectPed – has map of facilities (bicycle/pedestrian) and a crash map. Same data shared with partners.

Ms. Peters – in process of vetting and doing constructability reviews of draft bike/ped projects. Meetings are coming up. Engineers working with counties and cities to answer questions to get programs in the current cycle. FY 2022-2026 being reviewed.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin – MPO Board authorized 12 persons to be on committee. Received new application for membership. Will be bringing MPO bylaw amendment to Board on June 12. Met with TAC and CAC on May 18, 2020 virtually. Had waited for guidance from county management and legal staff as to viability for virtual meetings. **Ms. Halman** – expressed concern about even number of members on committee. Brief discussion among members as to how many members should be on committee to avoid tie decisions and reaching a quorum.

7. Committee Action

A. Review and Comment on Collier County FY20-25 Resurfacing Plan

Ms. McLaughlin – MPO Board concurred with committee chair request for opportunity to review/comment on road resurfacing plan. Purpose is to identify potential projects that could better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. Consulted with Albert English (Division Director, County Road Maintenance). Plan is subject to change – shared current plan that is subject to funding availability. Cannot always predict whether project can move forward or if it will need pushing back but will consider committee comments. Available right of way and roadway cost restrictions. Resurfacing plan is subject to change based on fluctuating revenues. Turned presentation over to Mr. Bonness to lead discussion.

Mr. Bonness – in midst of multi-year plan. 4-5 projects have already been completed (refer to materials in agenda packet). Want to ensure that bike lanes are 5 ft. wide if allowed. Have been 4 ft. wide historically. Discussion of pending projects on schedule and various issues with projects including widening bike lanes, shoulders, re-striping. Questioned about Everglades Blvd. to Immokalee – if bike lanes are going to be included when road is widened. **Ms. Scott** – needs to confirm striping. Including bike lane would be a decision by traffic operations. **Ms. McLaughlin** – asked that committee members submit comments in writing and they will be forwarded to Albert English. Discussion and comments continued on inclusion of bike lanes and necessity of striping to allow for at least 5 ft. lanes throughout roadways. Also, extensive discussion pertaining to right of ways, easements and very specific issues involving Immokalee with lack of bike lanes, narrow sidewalks, and other pedestrian impediments. **Ms. Scott** – addressed several specific issues mentioned by **Ms. Halman** pertaining to road projects in and around Immokalee. FDOT tries to install 6 ft. sidewalks but, if it is not viable, they are a minimum 5 ft. wide.

Ms. Jacob – asked for clarification about projects being scheduled out further. Vanderbilt Beach Road, Gulf Shore, Goodlette/Vanderbilt – is entire list being reviewed? Also, is summary available as to what is projected. **Ms. McLaughlin** – this is first review. Focusing on projects happening sooner. Will spend more time at a later date on projects scheduled further out. Strongly encouraged members to submit comments by email for committee meetings. **Ms. Scott** – keep comments to project scheduled within next 2 years but all projects will be considered.

Ms. Huff – asked for clarification about SR 29 project and what portion is covered in the stated project. From US 41 to bridge and then to Chokoloskee. Resurfacing projects – asked about shoulders – would FDOT consider separated pathway. **Ms. Scott** – need to ask Albert English for definitive answer. Would not look at separated pathway for resurfacing. Also consider ADA projects when reviewing actual locations. **Mr. Bonness** – offered alternatives to a widened bike lane if road does not permit.

Ms. Fendrick – SR 29 project could impact current application. Is funding source from MPO or County? **Ms. McLaughlin** – if project came from County instead of SU funds, it would free up more SU funds. **Ms. Scott** – might be a moot point but if within curb lines and scope of project, would need to have conversation with Everglades City as to funding source and

allocations. Extension discussion among members regarding additional components of project and evaluation of possible changes.

Ms. Peters – inquired about resurfacing plans for SR 29 to US 41 near Everglades City – could road be changed from 4 to 2 lanes if evacuation route. **Ms. Scott** – County is not considering a “road diet” at this time.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. Update on 2020 Bike-Ped Priorities

Ms. McLaughlin – discussed Executive Summary in agenda packet. Bike/ped projects are slated to receive 100% MPO’s annual Federal SU funding. Allocation for FY 2026 would be approximately \$4.1 million. Committee met in November and rated/ranked 10 new projects for programming. Estimated costs of projects is \$13 million. SU funding is on a rotating 5-year cycle with 2 years to bike/ped, 2 to congestion management, 1 to bridges. SU funding should not be viewed as budget cap because FDOT funds may also be available. Should focus on priorities. Referenced spreadsheet with costs sorted by phase – Preliminary Engineering, PD&E, etc. First year funding request is actually \$2.9M and other costs would appear later, during construction phase. CAC and TAC voted to endorse bike/ped priorities along with other project priorities. Discussed 2020 Collier MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Priorities as Ranked by the BPAC on November 19, 2019 (in agenda packet). FDOT requires 2-year gap between design and construction. FDOT is currently performing constructability review.

Ms. Peters – have received responses from municipalities and reviewing **Ms. Fendrick’s** projects. Citizen work program is 5-year plan. Will include phases, funding, etc. MPO has funding available in FY2024-2025. Reviewing whether any projects can be added into FY programs to maximize use of funds without extending projects out unnecessarily.

Mr. Musico – review of initial projects – County projects would be designed by County – but now FDOT will do design and that causes 2-year lag. Question to **Ms. Scott** – can a District 1 or District 3 project – would County agree to design – could that move construction money forward by 1-2 years. **Ms. Scott** – not feasible to do that proposal. Projects are programmed 5-7 years out and costs change. Do not focus on range of year for project as funding can change.

Continued discussion between **Ms. McLaughlin** and members regarding summarizing project priorities and funding resources.

Ms. Fendrick – allocated \$4.1M but spending \$2.9M. Do you lose the difference if not spent? **Ms. Peters** – money has carried over historically but cannot guarantee. Usually leave some funding available to allow for higher incoming bids and other non-budgeted costs. **Ms. McLaughlin** – that applies to MPO’s SU funds, rather than program amount for bike/ped. Over time committee will see more money going towards bike/ped from budget balances and carryovers. Funding can be moved around between priority categories. System needs flexibility because of risk of losing funds if not spent. Discussion among members regarding balancing needs versus what can be accomplished.

B. Update on Local Roads Safety Plan

Ms. McLaughlin – discussed Local Road Safety Plan (“LRSP”) provided in agenda packet. Tindal Oliver is consultant. Budgeted approximately \$100k in FY2021-2022 to implement the public safety education component. In February 2020, MPO Board passed motion to involve CTST [Community Traffic Safety Team] in enhancing educational process. LRSP will address vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. LRSP will provide framework through data analysis, public outreach, collaboration and coalition building, and development/adoption of recommendations. Public outreach is on hold due to COVID-19. Reviewed LRSP scope and budget (in agenda packet). LRSP is set to be completed by the end of September 2020.

Ms. Halman – commented on education component. Immokalee has many different cultures and languages. Very important to get the message out and maybe use pictures in addition to words. Level of education is not as great in Immokalee. Also inquired about green pavement markings to indicate crosswalks and bike lanes – is this something new? **Ms. Peters** – brightens the crosswalks and is intended to encourage people to use them without signage. **Ms. Forrester** – green paint indicates bike lanes in conflict areas. Put in near intersections to indicate “bike box” to wait for signal. **Ms. Halman** – will this type of marking be standard. **Ms. Forrester** – Public Works needs to coordinate for maintenance purposes. “Community Engagement” is the program. **Mr. Bonness** – City of Naples has used this pavement marking program quite a bit. Warns car traffic that bike lane exists. **Mr. Ortman** – has MPO had any discussions about the \$100k for education? How is the funding going to be allocated? **Ms. McLaughlin** – had discussions to determine if \$100k is too much or not enough. Waiting on LRSP study to be completed before deciding. Would like to use social media and TV. **Ms. Chesna** – FDOT is conducting major study of district secretary’s charge to lower number of crashes. Also working on district-wide pedestrian/bicycle master plan. Collier County’s study will help FDOT’s plan. **Ms. McLaughlin** – LRSP proposed by Congestion Management Committee in 2013. Very important to include as many technical resources as possible. Continued discussion with members and FDOT regarding progression of study and program data.

9. Members Comments

Mr. Bonness – “Ride of Silence” on May 20, 2020, but will be virtual ride because of COVID-19. NPC [Naples Pathways Coalition] will be placing a couple of ghost bikes near intersections where fatalities have occurred. **Ms. Faerber** – asking people to take photos during Ride of Silence and put on social media. **Ms. Sonnenschein** – NPC meeting last night – should wear NPC jersey, take selfie, and post on social media (Naples Pathway FB, etc.). **Ms. Faerber** – event scheduled for 6:30 pm so event can conclude before sundown. Post photo on personal FB or send to Naples Pathway Coalition to post. **Ms. Halman** – plan to participate but nothing organized in Immokalee – where to send photos? **Ms. Faerber** - can send to NPC and/or post on NPC FB page – will share email address for submission. Wear NPC shirt or neon colors. **Ms. Halman** – can Immokalee be included in organized events? **Ms. Faerber** – international event but Immokalee can be considered in the future. Probably 70-80 people on ride. **Mr. Bonness** – can go to Ride of Silence website for more information worldwide.

Ms. Peters – referencing Ms. Halman’s comments – FDOT conducted “Mobility Week” in or around January. Visited Immokalee with another staff member and had reflective arm bands for community members. 177 people attended. Provided various items such as coloring books, arm bands, bike lights, and other safety items.

10. Distribution Items

- A. Revised November 19, 2019 Minutes
- B. 2019 Meeting Attendance

11. Next Meeting Date

August 18, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Collier County Growth Management Department Conference Rooms 609/610

**Meeting may be virtual - TBD

12. Adjournment

Mr. Bonness asked for motion to adjourn. Mr. Musico moved to adjourn. Ms. Halman seconded. Unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.