

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM platform
September 15, 2020 ---- 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Bonness called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

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

Members Present

Joe Bonness, Chair
Anthony Matonti, Vice-Chair
Alan Musico, At-Large (left meeting at 10:09 am)
Kim Jacob, At-Large
Susan Sonnenschein, At-Large
Andrea Halman, At-Large
Patty Huff, At-Large
Dayna Fendrick, At-Large
Dr. Mort Friedman, At-Large (joined later)

Members Absent

David Driapsa, At-Large
Larry Smith, At-Large
Claudia Keeler, At-Large

MPO Staff

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner
Karen Intriago, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Victoria Peters, FDOT
Lorraine Lantz, *Chair*, TAC
Tamarin Kirby, Planner, CAT
Zachary Karto, CAT
Trinity Scott, Collier County
Catherine Faerber, Naples Pathways Committee
Valerie Nowotnick, Minute Taker

3. Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Sonnenschein moved to approve the agenda. Second by Ms. Huff. Carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the August 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bonness – correction – add in “bike lanes” in paragraph 1 when referencing shoulders.

Ms. Sonnenschein moved to approve the August 18, 2020 minutes as corrected. Second by Ms. Halman. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Peters – BPAC and Patty Huff had requested reflective pavement markers near bridges on US 41 to be removed about a year ago. Will be approved to reduce or remove all of them by FDOT. Will be put out for bid and hopefully completed in 5-6 months. Requested a revisit for traffic light at Westclox Street and SR 29 near Immokalee. Was conducted in February to witness full capacity of seasonal traffic flow. Study found that intersection warrants a full signal due to crashes. No timeline but FDOT will look at design.

Ms. Halman – is roundabout canceled. **Ms. Peters** – no. Traffic light will be an interim solution but may become permanent solution. Will likely take a year to design and then install. Currently in design but is not completed. Alternative may be roundabout. Brief discussion concerning necessity of solution whether roundabout or traffic signal.

Ms. Huff – commended **Ms. Peters** in assisting with the removal of the reflective pavement markers on 41 east. **Ms. Peters** – Deborah Chesna is an advocate for the causes of bike/ped projects.

Ms. Fendrick – inquired about SunTrail application [to fill in the gap in the shared-use-path on 41 east. **Ms. Scott** – County has not approved. SunTrail has statewide requirements to have trail manager. Must take on significant maintenance responsibilities including drainage. Cannot recommend that the Board take on the responsibility. Other agencies – Everglades City, City of Marco Island, City of Naples – can agree to be trail managers – not just County. Maintenance includes litter pickup, trash removal, soil/weed control, graffiti control and many others. FDOT would provide remedial maintenance only. Provided exact verbiage from SunTrail maintenance agreement on all duties. Funding source is not available. Application for feasibility

study was submitted to SunTrail instead, with the County's support. **Ms. Peters** – Deborah Chesna has been working on application for FPL easement. Missing link area on US4 – part of project – waiting on funding. **Ms. Fendrick** – are these requirements on all applications. **Ms. Scott** – yes, it is required. On state facility it will be difficult. Pivoted and went to all County facility [on FPL easement and along County roads]. Going after funding but on a state facility like US 41 should pursue other funding. FPL greenway is several miles and includes SunTrail alignment. Pursuing FDOT improvement on US 41 – roadway needs to be widened in 5-10 years. Will be discussing including road widening project in Long Range Transportation Plan - Cost Feasible Plan. Discussion has been happening in Lee County with maintenance responsibility – they received SunTrail monies for off-system trails – but building bike/ped facilities along roads through other funding sources, including in road projects. **Mr. Matonti** – area outside of Tampa was successful in getting agreement but it was years ago. How does maintenance on Gordon River Greenway differ from SunTrail. **Ms. Scott** – application is very open ended on maintenance. FDOT has leverage. Could require County to maintain entire drainage area. Could be very costly unless specifically designated. Can enter into agreement for benches, etc. Part of the transportation network should be maintained by both. **Mr. Bonness** – need to find budget source if SunTrail projects are maintained? **Ms. Scott** – if County owned, does not require additional maintenance funding. Utilizing SunTrail statewide funding on state highway system requires the County supply maintenance – but maintenance funding is limited. Brief discussion among members regarding applying for funds through statewide versus local funding sources.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin – None.

7. Committee Action

A. Endorse Amendment to Committee Bylaws

Ms. McLaughlin – every summer, the agreements and bylaws are reviewed to see if changes are needed for each committee. Want to be consistent with MPO bylaws changes. (1) name of committee – changing from “Pathways”; (2) under “Purpose” – language would mirror MPO Board bylaws. Intended to be cleanup amendment; (3) Membership was approved to be 12 instead of 9 – taken from MPO bylaws; (4) Chair Duties – chair is empowered to call special meetings. Change to Chair and Executive Director shall collaborate; (5) Special Meetings – may be called by Chair in coordination with Executive Director; (6) Agendas – recommending that language be deleted stating that agenda can be changed during meeting; (7) Quorum – County attorney does not agree with sentence 2 and making recommendations when quorum is not present, so deleted it; (8) Staff shall maintain minutes and other records. Not verbatim minutes but ensure accuracy; (9) Amendments – making clear that Board is final approval body for any changes to bylaws.

Ms. Huff – Were MPO Board bylaws regarding BPAC changed before discussing with committee. **Ms. McLaughlin** – was done awhile ago but Board has authority to change bylaws without seeking committee approval first but preference is to get committee endorsement. Membership increase was Board action and spontaneous in response to applications received.

Committee was opposed to idea. **Ms. Huff** – voting – can be Zoom meetings also? **Ms. McLaughlin** – not likely – would require new interpretation of law by County Attorney’s office. Ability to meet by Zoom is due to Governor’s Executive Order temporarily suspending single component of Sunshine law. Need change at state level and/or Governor’s Executive Order to make change permanent. Quorum needs to be physically present. **Ms. Halman** – can virtual be made permanent and other types of meetings may be virtual permanently. **Ms. McLaughlin** – can ask question but County Attorney’s office has been adamant. Rules were reluctantly modified and only after majority of MPO offices changed their requirements. Not optimistic about any rule changing in the future. Brief discussion regarding possibility of virtual meetings going forward.

Ms. Halman – Section 4 – page 3 – will language be included – after corrections and signature – officers and terms of office. **Ms. McLaughlin** - no changes are proposed. **Ms. Halman** – should add “quorum” – may not be a quorum. **Ms. McLaughlin** – confirmed language covered quorum issue.

Ms. Huff – section 2 B – deleted everything on C – seems important for BPAC on 3-4-5 under C to recommend opportunities that will improve walking, etc. – entire deletion of C is not appropriate. **Ms. McLaughlin** – Section A picks up quite a bit from C and includes other verbiage that was not originally under C.

Ms. Halman – Chair Duties under 2 B – should include “all meetings” instead of just “meetings.” **Ms. McLaughlin** – would need to go back to County Attorney to revise document again. **Ms. Musico** – “meetings” is implied as all meetings.

Ms. Huff – section meetings under A on page 2. Primary responsibilities are recommending priorities and giving comments on LRTP. **Ms. McLaughlin** – falls under advising MPO Board of opportunities. MPO Board bylaws for BPAC committee – compared to actual BPAC bylaws – were out of sync. As MPO Bylaws were amended – BPAC bylaws could be changed in concert with them. BPAC cannot do something not already authorized under MPO Board bylaws. LRTP and TIP projects are presented to BPAC for comments. Purview is not the same as CAC and TAC – more administrative duties with those committees. Policy items with significant bike/ped components are brought to BPAC.

Mr. Matonti moved to endorse the Amendment to Committee Bylaws. Ms. Sonnenschein seconded. Passed unanimously.

B. Review and Comment on 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) Roadway Network, Draft Chapter 4 System-wide Needs Assessment

Ms. McLaughlin – Cost Feasible Plan is work in progress. Have not brought final list of roadways on Cost Feasible Plan for endorsement for various reasons. Difficult to work through FDOT travel demand modeling process and arrive at firm conclusions while consultant is working on revenue projections. Wanted BPAC to have opportunity to look at what is on table and what CAC/TAC have reviewed. Referred to spreadsheet in agenda packet. Seeking comments on Alternative 5 but will likely change again before finalized. Will present changes as they occur prior to adoption of plan in December. Explanation of color coding on spreadsheet for projects as

to funding source or plan source. Provides background context for Chapter 4 – system wide Needs Assessment – pertinent items to committee begin on page 39. Plan is still evolving. Consultants captured critical details of bike/ped master plan based on markups provided. Referred to page 4-39 of Needs Plan /p. 75 of packet. Consultant language indicates that products were only element of Bike-Ped Masterplan included in the LRTP. MPO intended that entire Bike-Ped Masterplan be included by reference. Very significant to include all aspects of entire plan. Other changes were clarifications. Emphasis on concerted effort to incorporate recommendations by reference. Necessary for funding. City of Naples and Everglades City were still in process of updating plans when Master Plan was adopted. As new plans come on-line they are incorporated automatically. Marco Island updates plan almost annually. Same incorporation for that process. Reviewed remaining language changes. Consultant covered many complicated items very well. SunTrail is also included. Bike/Ped Master Plan adopted in 2019. TAC commented that Needs Plan was outdated for Everglades City. Language updates priorities in 2017 and 2018. Also included TIGER grant specific to Immokalee. Goal of revisions was to get the Bike/Ped Master Plan to be incorporated completely.

Mr. Bonness – great job on getting everything included. **Ms. Huff** – page 443 – alignments and SunTrail corridors – not very much is rural Collier County or Everglades area – possible to consider SR 29 alignment for SunTrail for 2045 LRTP – connection between Immokalee and Everglades City. Rails to Trails. **Ms. McLaughlin** – couple ways to answer question. SunTrail alignment is officially recognized by State – adopted by Board. Bike/Ped Master Plan did recommend additions to SunTrail network with focus on roadway alignments that would not be eligible for funding as trail. Wanted to position Collier County to do the same as other MPOs, although not applying for SunTrail funding for road corridors. Paradise Coast Trail – Naples Pathway Coalition recognizes scenic trail/pathways. Contacted SunTrail agency to include map change but was not considering at the time – out of sequence. Adding US 29 to SunTrail network – when Bike/Ped Master Plan was prepared – it was not proposed. Mentioned as part of regional bike network – part of the Spine Trail system. Brief discussion regarding obstacles to getting it included. **Ms. Huff** proposed adding bridge repairs on US41 east due to safety considerations. Extensive discussion with members regarding bridge repairs and plans to improve them in the near future. **Ms. McLaughlin** would not advise that bridges be added to LRTP. **Ms. Peters** FDOT reviews safety of bridges on a regular schedule. Will report back to committee on schedule.

Ms. McLaughlin – will send revised, complete version of Needs Plan once consultant has made further changes/corrections. **Mr. Matonti** – how are comments incorporated into LRTP and map. **Ms. McLaughlin** – Jacobs is transitioning from comment map focused on needs – to new map focusing on cost feasible plan. Comments in each phase will be recorded when reporting is done for each phase of assessment. Some comments will result in changes to the plan. Lengthy discussion among members of procedure to finalize plan and options available on website to comment on maps, etc. Can visit www.mpocollier.org for additional information on entire plan and changes.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Members Comments

Dr. Friedman – inquired about pathways – how many active pathways are currently unusable due to accumulation of rain. How to get word out to public. **Ms. Scott** – stormwater personnel are checking case-by-case basis. One area on Immokalee is underwater. News outlets are a good resource. Brief discussion regarding pathways and local areas affected by flooding.

Mr. Matonti – has road diet been discussed for US 41. **Mr. Bonness** – around Coastland Mall to south towards downtown. Discussed many times. A lot of discussion by City of Naples. Does not want to see change in roadway. Brief discussion regarding previous proposals to incorporate on-street parking and other roadway options but nothing approved. **Ms. McLaughlin** – FDOT is still reviewing but not ready to propose a change to City of Naples.

Ms. Scott – currently reclassing position for project manager. Goal is to work on bike/ped projects. Will have someone designated as point person with her agency. Hopefully starting November 1, 2020. **Ms. Sonnenschein** – will they also assist with Paradise Trail. **Ms. Scott** – probably not as other projects are already pending that they will inherit. \$16M TIGER project is about to commence that includes 20 miles of sidewalks and transit facility.

Dr. Friedman – familiar with growth area where large buildings are being constructed. Golden Gate Parkway. Moorings Park. Numerous bikes in garage area. Senior citizens inquiring about safety concerns around development. **Ms. Scott** – signal does not meet signal spacing. No issues thus far with safety. Commissioners office has been contacted but signal is not warranted. Intersection at Livingston and Golden Gate Parkway is extremely close to location. Brief discussion regarding safety concerns observed.

Ms. Huff – Everglades City [City Council] approved road diet on CR29 Part of bike/ped master plan where County is resurfacing road. CR 29 – at separation point between 2 bridges – road diet will be 7 ft. bike plane and 15 feet car lane. Have submitted Bike/Ped Master Plan for Everglades City will be discussed at October meeting. www.evergladescity.com and www.visitevergladescity.com are two sources of websites for additional information.

Ms. Faerber – Blue Zones has circulated flyers to hospitality industry to reach bike-to-work employees. Hope that people who participate in Bike-To-Work day will utilize various stops. Also need to get lights and helmets distributed to people. Will use 3 locations to distribute. Need bilingual citizens to assist. Scheduled for Tuesday, 9/22/20. Seeking volunteers. Brief discussion regarding further details of event and recruitment of volunteers.

Ms. Lantz – applied last year for Golden Terrace Elementary School for safe routes program. Did not receive grant award but are putting another application for same location – Laverne Gainor Elementary School – it will be resubmitted. Will need letters of support to submit with grant application.

10. Distribution Items

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

October 20, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

TBD whether will be virtual or in-person

12. Adjournment

Mr. Bonness asked for motion to adjourn. Dr. Friedman moved to adjourn. Ms. Huff seconded. Unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.