

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Virtual Meeting via ZOOM platform
In-Person Location – 609/610 Conference Room, Growth Management Division
2800 N Horseshoe Dr
March 16, 2021 ---- 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 in the room.

Members Present In-Person

Joe Bonness, Chair
Alan Musico
Patty Huff
Larry Smith

Members Present Virtually

Andrea Halman
Dayna Fendrick
Anthony Matonti
Kim Jacob
Dr. Mort Friedman (joined after roll call)

Members Absent

Claudia Keeler

MPO Staff, Present In-Person

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

Others Present

In-person:

Michel Tish, Collier County, Transportation Planning

Virtual attendees:

Trinity Scott, County, Transportation Planning Section Manager
Debrah Forrester, County Community Redevelopment Agencies
Anne Marie Bularzik, Lely Traffic Committee
Kerry Irons, Adventure Cycling
Jan Face Glassman, Lely Traffic Committee

Susan Vicedomini, Lely Master Association
Sue Robertson
Bill Fox

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

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

4. **Approval of the February 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Smith moved to approve the February 16, 2021 minutes. Second by Ms. Huff. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. **Agency Updates**

A. **FDOT**

[No report]

B. **MPO Executive Director**

Ms. McLaughlin – reported on MPO Board action reducing in-person quorum requirement to 3 with direction that should return to majority quorums again when the pandemic emergency has passed, which may occur when the Board reconvenes in September. Staff working on developing the TIP based on the FDOT Work Program and on new list of project priorities, will report to committee in future.

7. **Committee Action**

A. **Endorse Proposed US Bike Route 15 Through Collier County**

Ms. McLaughlin – objective to endorse proposed US Bike Route 15 through Collier County, proposed by Adventure Cycling, supported by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Will be hearing from Lely Traffic Committee – take their concerns under advisement. The Board of County Commissioners has final authority over the alignment when it affects County roads. Initiated contact with Miccosukee Tribal staff following Government-to-Government policy, have not received a response. The policy allows MPO to move forward in a timely manner.

Mr. Irons – gave presentation [can be viewed in agenda packet]. Really an introductory presentation, if there are any questions, welcome endorsement but if further discussion needed, that's not a problem. Introducing the concept, if there are more questions, we'll follow up. US

Bike Route System (USBRS) is about bicycle tourism. Developing national network. Roughly 1/3 are signed. Officially approved by state transportation agencies and AASHTO. They regulate US Interstate numbering. AASHTO funds some of Adventure Cycling work on USBRS. Described Adventure Cycling membership and their national route system, formed the basis for the USBRS. Reviewed history of development of USBRS.

In order to designate a USBR, the DOT has to notify AASHTO that local road owners support designation by way of a letter or resolution of support. Patty Huff, Florida volunteer, has been defining the proposed alignment based on input from riders. Target audience, multi-day, multi-state riders. Benefits include fostering bike-friendly image, positive role modeling, potential economic benefit for small towns on the route, spending about \$150/day per rider. [That concludes presentation.]

Mr. Bonness – Will have committee members ask questions before hearing from the public. What ridership volume anticipated?

Mr. Irons – don't know yet but estimate 2,000 riders a year based on usage of Adventure Cycling's route. On the order of 10 more riders per day. Would not expect large numbers at one time. More of a trickle.

Ms. Huff – we get a lot of groups that come through [on US 41 east] – End of the Earth Cycling Club; 3 large groups annually, 30 people in 2 combined groups came through recently; 20 out of San Diego Adventure Club; seeing more and more people in groups of 2-20.

Mr. Musico – are there standards for the roads?

Mr. Irons – up to local agencies to determine whether a given road or trail is appropriate. If highlighted in a local plan that's a good thing. 15,000 miles of national route, roughly 1/3 on rural two-lane road with no shoulders. Very typical. Target audience is experienced road cyclists.

Mr. Bonness – Radio Rd and Rattlesnake Hammock are 6-lane, high volume, high speed roads. Does not endorse them [being part of the designated route]. Livingston Rd is also high-speed, high-volume. Proposed an alternative route. [difficult to hear details on video.] It's actually possible to get through Collier County without being on a high-speed, high-volume road.

Ms. Huff – discussed alternative route details, reflecting on other riders' experiences. [Difficult to hear details on video]

Mr. Irons – every six months there's an opportunity to change the route; as new facilities get built, can incorporate them. Cyclists would prefer separated paths if available without a lot of other users, trade-offs need to be made. Good discussion. Sounds like we need to work out some on the route and reflect local knowledge.

Ms. Glassman – discussed at last Traffic Committee meeting – regarding route down Grand Lely, we already have enough issues with cyclists running through stop signs without stopping, disobeying traffic laws, we don't need more. Even if the route changes, once a route is

publicized, it's out there permanently; this will bring more cyclists into Grand Lely. Better to route on Rattlesnake Hammock to Collier Blvd.

Ms. Bularzik – there are no bike facilities on Grand Lely; over 1100 doors [homes] front on Lely, as do driveways, generates lots of in/out traffic. There are lots of walkers, many walking dogs and pets. No potential financial benefits because Grand Lely is all residential, no commercial. Real safety concern. Cyclists don't obey traffic laws; has seen them riding in the wrong direction; running through stop signs; as a pedestrian, has been asked to get off sidewalk to make room for cyclists.

Ms. Vicedomini - President of Lely Master Association, represent most of the Homeowner Associations (HOAs); proposed bike route would be even more burdening; she is not for it at all.

Mr. Irons – very clear Grand Lely Drive is a problem, so it's out.

Mr. Bonness – I don't endorse Rattlesnake Hammock – high speeds. Use St. Andrews instead. Santa Barbara to St. Andrews to 41.

Ms. Huff – suggested an alternate route involving commercial area [difficult to hear on video]

Ms. Bularzik – responding to Ms. Huff – hotel gets too much traffic, not a good place for cyclists.

Ms. Huff – endorse modified route.

Ms. McLaughlin – the public doesn't know what's being considered. Bring revised map to next meeting so public can review and comment

Ms. Scott – wouldn't endorse until have opportunity to bring revisions back and obtain additional public input. BCC has final decision, not the MPO; would appreciate additional vetting by BPAC before taking this to BCC.

Mr. Irons – has captured changes heard on map. Can look at it if interested. Good idea to continue vetting. No need to rush.

Mr. Bonness – what's the route's status in Lee County?

Mr. Irons – similar status, has not requested official approval. Pretty close in Lee and Charlotte. Connections between Lee and Collier County in pretty good shape but can go back if Collier wants changes.

Mr. Bonness – thought cyclists would prefer a coastal route.

Ms. Huff – cyclists say can't really see the water but we get comments that coastal roads are very crowded. Lots of cars and walkers.

Mr. Irons – encourages everyone to take opportunity to look at map and make sure we haven't just kicked the can down to someone else's neighborhood.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. Call for Bike- Ped Projects 2021-22

Ms. McLaughlin – this is on agenda to give members opportunity to ask question, get clarification on process. **Ms. Fendrick** – sees need to set a cap on the amount that can be requested per project; example is Ped Bridge over Golden Gate Parkway [2019 Priority] – single project used entire budget. **Ms. McLaughlin** – Call for Projects is following guidance in the Bike-Ped Master Plan, which doesn't set a cap, although it could be amended. Does not recommend setting a cap, would not allow committee to consider supporting a large, regional project like the Livingston Rd FPL easement. **Mr. Musico** – should break large projects down into smaller segments. Need more of a back-log of prioritized projects read to go if funds become available.

9. Members Comments

Ms. Huff – Possible to put paths under other powerline corridors, along SR 29 for example?

Ms. Scott – Would have to do study, identify underlying property owners; start by identifying corridor on Bike-Ped Master Plan, then do a study.

Mr. Smith – questioned Ms. Scott about bike connections to/from Naples One. [details difficult to hear on video.]

Ms. Scott – developer continuing current path, will be adding bike lane and sidewalks on South Bay Dr. We are looking at some additional through our Safety & Traffic Ops Committee, whether possible to provide additional bike facilities.

Mr. Smith – had additional questions, [difficult to hear on video] asked Ms. Scott to get back with him.

Ms. Scott – will get back to him but it will take some time to have staff do field analysis

10. Distribution Items

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

April 20, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Hybrid: In-Person Quorum Required, Virtual Access Available via Zoom.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.