

**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
April 20, 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
Andrea Halman
Anthony Matonti

Members Present Virtually

Dayna Fendrick
Kim Jacob
Dr. Mort Friedman
Claudia Keeler

Members Absent

MPO Staff, Present In-Person

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

Others Present

In-person:

William Douglass, resident, St. Andrews Blvd.
Tony Branco, Chairman, Lely MSTU

Virtual attendees:

Lorraine Lantz, Collier Transportation Planning
Trinity Scott, Collier Transportation Planning
Michael Tish, Collier Transportation Planning

Megan Greer, Blue Zones Project
Christie Betancourt, Immokalee CRA [joined late]
Kerry Irons, Adventure Cycling [joined late]
Lisa McGarrity [signed on as Lisa Rice], President of Lely Civic Association HOA

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Musico moved to approve the March 16, 2021 minutes. Mr. Smith requested correction to his comments under Item 9 Member Comments to read requested that the County “extend existing bike path on Vanderbilt Beach Road from Vanderbilt Drive to Gulf Shore Drive in conjunction with Naples One redevelopment.” Noted that County staff had not reported back to him yet. Second to approve as corrected by Ms. Halman. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

[none - no representative present]

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin – this will be the committee’s last hybrid meeting due to reduction in staff; the MPO’s Administrative Assistant has submitted her resignation, last day will be this Friday. With just two staff members remaining, cannot manage the technology required to host hybrid meeting. Only one meeting in May remaining before summer hiatus will be in-person only.

7. Committee Action

A. Endorse Proposed US Bike Route 15 Through Collier County

Ms. McLaughlin – introduced item, for benefit of attendees hearing about USBR 15 for the first time – Adventure Cycling is coordinating nationwide effort to develop US Bicycle Route System, national network of numbered and signed bike routes supported by American Association of State highway and Transportation Officials. USBR 15 currently ends at Madison, FL, just south of Georgia state line. Proposed to extend the route along the west coast of Florida, ultimately connecting with Miami. Revised route enters Collier County from Lee County on Imperial Parkway, continues on Livingston Rd to Golden Gate Pkwy, then Santa Barbara Blvd, to St. Andrews Blvd, connecting to US 41 and continuing east to Miami. Kerry Irons with Adventure

Cycling was expected to give a brief presentation but is not on-line, so graphic from his presentation is displayed for committee's review.

Mr. Bonness – as we did last time, we will hear from committee members first then members of the public.

Mr. Friedman – trouble hearing what's being said. **Ms. McLaughlin** – unfortunately the audio is something we haven't been able to fix for hybrid meetings.

Ms. Halman – has MPO contacted the Miccosukee Tribe concerning US 41 portion of route?

Ms. McLaughlin – I have but have not received a response.

Ms. Halman – has MPO followed the Government-to-Government policy and communicated with Tribal leaders?

Ms. McLaughlin – Not yet. Standard procedure is to contact tribal staff, provide project information and ask whether Government-to-Government consultation is called for. Usually do get a response. Perhaps route is not a concern. Won't have a significant effect. Long distance riders are already using US 41 to travel from Naples to Miami. There is no other route to take. But your concern is well founded. Will reconsider contacting Tribal Chair directly since haven't heard back from staff.

Ms. Fendrick – The route uses existing paved facilities on US 41 – not proposing anything new.

There being no further committee comments at this point, **Mr. Bonness** invited members of public present in the room, both of whom had submitted speaker forms to address the committee.

Mr. Douglas – resides on St. Andrews Blvd., formerly President of Lely property owner association. Traffic on St. Andrews has been a problem since connection to Santa Barbara was made. Has bike lanes, some speed bumps. Issues caused by drivers speeding and using bike lane to pass slower traffic. Lots of walkers and joggers use bike lanes too. Invited committee members to come out on weekend and see bike packs being rude to people and visa/versa. Residents are very concerned. County must do what needs to be done to make St. Andrews safer for everyone, including cyclists.

Ms. Halman - what would make it safer?

Mr. Douglass – ever since County opened Santa Barbara have been working on solutions to slow down traffic. County has put in stop signs, speed bumps, cross walks, flashing lights, created bulb-outs at intersections, installed signage saying no trucks over 1,000 tons – but it's not working. Trucks still use road. Met with County 2-3 weeks ago to go over what can be done to slow traffic down and reduce flow of traffic. To County it's a Collector Rd, to them it's residential. What can be done? Limit access, enforce speeds.

Ms. Fendrick – appreciates coming to say help us instead of don't designate the bike route.

Mr. Branco – Chairman, Lely MSTU [Municipal Service Taxing Unit], responsible for median signage, benches, landscaping, within St. Andrews ROW. Build as residential community access road. Traffic increased since Santa Barbara completed and aligned with St. Andrews, became short cut between East Tamiami and I-75. Very busy road, just 2-miles long, but intersects with 17 cross streets, lined with 195 private driveways. Last month's traffic over 128,000 vehicles, that's over 4,000/day. Speed study, over 1,100 exceeded 41 mph with maximum speed over 70 mph; peak hours exceeded 1400 vehicles/hour that's equivalent to 23/minute, 1 every 2.6 seconds. Homeowners backing out of driveways into oncoming traffic – additional bike traffic will make it worse. [distributed photos of accidents on St. Andrews. Copies available on-request to MPO.] Lely MSTU opposes realignment of USBR 15 with St. Andrews Blvd.

Ms. McLaughlin – read email from **Linda Jorgenson** into record along with response from Kerry Irons [received over the weekend]: Your riders must be very brave to wish to use St. Andrews to access Route 41. St. Andrews has one lane with bicycle path in each direction. Over 2,000 cars and trucks use St. Andrews every day. Very few follow speed limit of 25 mph notwithstanding speed bumps. Have clocked vehicles at 77, 75, 67 on down to a few at 25 mph. Excessive speed and drivers use bike lanes as turning lanes. Have about one accident per month. Only one fatality some years ago. **Kerry Irons** response: 2,000 ADT [Average Daily Traffic] is considered relatively quiet road by most cyclists. Experienced long-distance travelers on multi-day, multi-week, multi-month tours typically cover 50-75 miles per day. An additional 10 bicycles per day would be considered significant use of a US Bike Route. Hard to imagine vehicles traveling 80 mph could deal with speed bumps, suggesting speeds in excess of 70 mph somehow typical on road with 25 mph speed limit? Local police would be out in force to deal with this. [Later email] Thanks Linda for speed report. Appears average is slightly less than 30 mph typical for roads with 25 mph limit. Speeds of 30 mph fairly comfortable for experienced cyclists.

Ms. McGarrity – reached out to St. Andrews residents, spoke to over 100. Actual idea is great. Residents concerned about traffic. Speed bumps end around Barnes St, from there to US41 still a problem. Only 8 residents said not a favorable thing. She runs 30-40 miles a week, uses bike lanes. Sees Joe Bonness and his group riding. Cars careen into bike path [lanes].

Ms. Huff – Am a long-distance rider; drove on St. Andrews; saw bike lanes, flashing signs. Long-distance riders want to ride through areas that are bicycle friendly.

Ms. Halman – Could route go through Immokalee? We'd be happy to have route come through, we'll build a bike path.

Ms. Huff – Right now SR 82 is not great.

Ms. Fendrick – Consider alternate route – Santa Barbara to Radio or Davis to path on 951.

Mr. Musico – duplication of routes – NPC [Naples Pathways Coalition] has a [coastal] route, but value to long-distance riders may be a different route. Likes Immokalee idea better.

Ms. Halman – Could add Ave Maria [to route].

Mr. Bonness – Does Adventure Cycling sponsor events or is this just a mapping exercise?

Ms. Huff – No. May put notice in their magazine when it opens. Just a mapping exercise.

Mr. Bonness – studies show cyclists have traffic calming effect, may help on St. Andrews Blvd.

Ms. Huff – is there a consensus on the route?

Mr. Matonti -can more than one route be identified for the corridor?

Ms. Huff – one route only.

Mr. Bonness – according to USBR map there are states with multiple routes.

Mr. Matonti – regarding pathway on 951, there is an elementary school, lots of pedestrian activity surrounding it.

Mr. Irons – [came on-line and requested briefing on discussion up to this point.] St. Andrews looks good from cyclist perspective. 2,000 ADT, 30 mph average speed, based on data provided, St. Andrews is a very peaceful road. Additional 2,000 cyclists a year [after designating route] would be a lot, that's roughly 200 throughout the cycling season and that would be a lot, translates to 6 to 12 riders/day [both directions combined total]. St. Andrews looks good, but it's up to the County. Local residents won't see a noticeable difference in ridership. The more bicyclists on a road, the safer the road is for everyone, drivers slow down.

Mr. Douglass – could be small segment that only has 2,000 cars per day but last count we were told was 9,000 ADT. Residents concerned about safety.

Mr. Irons – half of fatalities [nationwide] involve inexperienced cyclists, intoxication, riding after dark, wrong way riding, veering into traffic. Not a single fatality on USBR System.

Ms. Halman – would like to get most current traffic counts from County.

Mr. Musico – we should hold a workshop to design the route.

Patty Huff – concurs with holding a workshop.

Mr. Bonness – this meeting is a workshop.

Ms. McLaughlin – committee's next meeting is May 18th; nothing else on agenda, can post as workshop if you wish to, but workshops don't usually include action items. Committee can use the regular meeting format as see fit. Will coordinate with County staff to have information on recent traffic counts; will look into construction schedule for SR 82 and report.

Mr. Bonness – Suggest we table this to next meeting.

[No further discussion]

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Members Comments

Ms. Huff – Next meeting will be in-person – can Kerry Irons phone in?

Ms. McLaughlin – We have difficulties with speaker phone audio, would have to open up to all members of the public who wish to participate that way and it's hard to manage having people participate by phone without benefit of visuals and in-person meeting. We've never offered it. Cannot take it on now [with limited staff]. Determining the preferred route is a local issue, needs to be determined locally.

Mr. Smith – speaking to Mr. Bonness – wants to hear back from Collier County regarding Naples One and extending bike path from Vanderbilt Dr to Gulf Shore. Keep topic on table.

Ms. McGarrity – invites committee members to drive down and look at the bike path.

10. Distribution Items

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

May 18, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
In-Person Only

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.