

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
609/610 Conference Room, Growth Management Division
2800 N Horseshoe Dr
May 18, 2021 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bonness called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. McLaughlin called roll and confirmed a quorum was present in the room.

Members Present

Joe Bonness, Chair
Alan Musico
Patty Huff
Larry Smith
Andrea Halman
Anthony Matonti
Larry Smith
George Dondanville
Claudia Keeler [arrived late]

Members Absent

Dayna Fendrick
Kim Jacob
Dr. Mort Friedman

MPO Staff Present

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner

Others Present

Trinity Scott, Deputy Department Head, GMD
Michael Tisch, GMD, Transportation Planning
Alex Showalter, Collier Area Transit
Tom Robustelli, Lely County Club Property Owners Association

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Smith moved to approve the April 20, 2021 minutes. Mr. Musico seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. McLaughlin read update provided by Deborah Chesna, FDOT District 1 Pedestrian – Bicycle Planning Coordinator, into the record:

FDOT is conducting Speed Management training for FDOT staff and external partners. We have completed workshop for Leadership and one for production folks and to conclude the series will be taking the workshop on the road to invite our local partners. This workshop is where the Department would like to go in terms of bringing down the speeds to match the context of the roadway and land use.

FDOT has initiated a safety campaign that will focus on Human Behavior changes. The Safety office is conducting a root cause analysis for behavior factors contributing to fatal and serious injury crashes. Updates to come.

The Active Transportation Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan is moving along. The GIS Advanced Safety Tool has been refined to emphasize connectivity and proximity to trails in the rural areas. We were seeing anomalies that were affecting the criteria so it was further analyzed and refined to simulate real conditions. The plan will include prioritized corridors for Pedestrian Bicycle Needs, Speed Management corridors and we are working to take a closer look at mid-block crossings.

B. MPO Executive Director

Ms. McLaughlin – We have hired an Administrative Assistant who is tentatively scheduled to start work on June 7th. We were very close to hiring a new Principal Planner, but that individual declined the position, so we are starting over again posting the vacancy. Have just loaded the Final Draft FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the MPO website. Can view it under Latest News and on the TIP page. Please review bike/ped projects for accuracy, particularly regarding the location maps. Corrected map for Wiggins Pass Rd based on a comment from member of the public. Introduced new member, George Dondanville, approved by MPO Board last Friday (May 14th) to switch from Citizens Advisory Committee to BPAC.

Mr. Dondanville – briefly described his background and previous membership on the Pathways Advisory Committee.

7. Committee Action

A. Review Proposed US Bike Route 15 Alignments Through Collier County

Ms. McLaughlin – introduced item, thanked Collier County Transportation Planning for their assistance providing GIS mapping and analysis; noted Ms. Scott recently promoted to Growth Management Department Deputy Department Head in charge of transportation and other divisions.

Ms. Scott – Introduced Mr. Tisch. We have listened to conversations among committee members and prior meetings and pulled together a series GIS overlays showing existing facilities and up-to-date traffic counts – Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) - on roads under consideration for US Bike Route 15. [Mr. Tisch displayed map on large screen]. Purpose is to have good conversation and try to come up with final routing.

Ms. Huff – Thanked Ms. Scott for map and information provided. Think we can decide not to do Lely or St. Andrews, take those two routes off the table due to opposition from some of the residents.

Ms. Halman – Would agree with you if we can find something comparable.

Mr. Bonness – Don't see another safe route, to travel on 951, 4' bike lane on 6-lane road with high speeds and heavy traffic. Posted speed recently increased to 50 mph.

Ms. Scott – keep an open mind; US41 is also a high-speed road with narrow shoulders whereas 951 does have a multi-use path.

Mr. Bonness – Consider who will be using it – road bikers - won't be directed to the multi-use path.

Mr. Musico – But the path goes for miles, I would not rule it out. Propose two routes, one down Lely and one along Immokalee Rd connecting to Ave Maria, south down 29 – would be useful for County residents.

Mr. Bonness – USBR is on a national map to get from one end of Collier County to another.

Ms. Huff – cannot designate 2 routes. Purpose is to provide guidance, recommend the best route to take.

Ms. Huff and Mr. Bonness raised possible alternate routes to consider. Discussion ensued. [Ms. Keeler arrived and was seated at the committee table.]

Mr. Bonness invited members of the public to speak.

Mr. Robustelli – President of Lely Country Club Property Owners Association, 709 property owners are members. Association extends along St. Andrews from Rattlesnake Blvd to Forest Hills. Lely Golf Estates extends from Forest Hills to US 41. Not necessarily here to object.

Is a bike rider. St. Andrews has one travel lane in each direction. Bike lanes also serve as road shoulders. Work vans park in bike lane during the day. St. Andrews is a residential street with 50-60 driveways, mailboxes up against the curb. Bit of an obstacle course. 1 Pedestrian death in 2016, distracted driver ran up on sidewalk. Problems with impatient drivers. Posted speed is 25 mph. Most follow but some in a hurry, use bike lanes to pass slower cars. Lely Resort may be missing boat on not putting in bike lanes. See many bikers in travel lane. US41 at end has wide sidewalk to get to Triangle Blvd. If we were to be selected [for USBR 15], residents would insist on some kind of deterrent to vehicles, like a buffered bike lane. Association Board has not taken a position for or against. Here to listen and provide information to support discussion.

Ms. Halman – Would organized tours use the route?

Ms. Huff – No organized tours but Adventure Cycling does organize some tours.

Mr. Robustelli – Rides in bike lane on Collier Blvd – it's a pleasant route to take. Would really like a paved route through Picayune trail.

Ms. Huff – Everglades City Trail Town Committee is looking at off-road trails. Problem with Big Cypress – too wet or too dry with sand.

Mr. Bonness – we have to work off what's existing now.

Ms. Scott – Would like to remind committee of commitment made in prior meetings that route designation does not require any improvements be made. If residents on St. Andrews want to see additional improvements, will pass information on to County Traffic Operations, and have redesignation of route later on. Need to come up with a route that Mr. Tisch and I can take to the Board [of County Commissioners] without having 300 people speak negatively. Wants committee to come up with consensus recommendation that does not put anyone on the spot to make any changes.

Ms. Huff – Some communities want this. Everglades City was designated a Trail Town because we welcome cyclists.

Ms. Scott – There are very active transportation committees in both areas of Lely that have traffic concerns they deal with on a daily basis. They see the bad behavior on part of drivers. On face value, Grand Lely looks like a good choice but high medians create visibility issues that we're working with them on.

Committee members discussed alternate routes.

Ms. Scott – using map projected on screen, described existing facilities, traffic counts, led a discussion of alternative routes. Discussion included Livingston to Radio Rd; Golden Gate Parkway to Santa Barbara; Radio to Davis Blvd to 951; Golden Gate Parkway to Santa Barbara.

Committee members discussed difficulty of crossing 951 at Davis Blvd.

Mr. Bonness – long distance bikers can navigate large intersection at Davis and 951.

Ms. Scott – Summarized the proposed route: Livingston to Golden Gate Parkway to Santa Barbara to Radio Road, merge onto Davis, connect to 951; south to US41; east to Miami. We can re-evaluate the route after it's been in place awhile, she can have Traffic Operations work with residents on St. Andrews.

Mr. Musico – would like to stop route at US41 and SR29 since we don't know what Miami-Dade County is doing. Still wants a second route designated.

Ms. Huff – we need a loop ride in Collier County out on 29.

Ms. Halman – with SR 82 coming in, would be a good route to cycle on – bike lanes and sidewalks are planned.

Mr. Robustelli – Rich King Greenway is an option – has a relatively wide, paved pathway, although it's not particularly scenic and has no shade.

Mr. Dondanville – it took 20 years to get it built, we weren't overly concerned with shade at the time.

Mr. Bonness – called for a motion.

Mr. Matonti – move to endorse route: Livingston to Golden Gate Parkway to Santa Barbara to Radio Road, merge onto Davis, connect to 951; south to US41; east to Miami. **Mr. Smith** seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

None.

9. Members Comments

Mr. Bonness – Ride of Silence tomorrow (Wednesday May 19th) at 6pm out of Cambier Park to commemorate all cyclists who have been injured and killed. Two deaths here in Collier County. We need to think how we can stop more from happening. Examples – maintain clear zones at intersections and at parking lot; County's Land Development Code (LDC) contradicts what need to have such as requiring hedge to screen parking lot, blocks views of cyclists/pedestrians at entrances/exits. Major entrances at big box stores, fatalities at Home Depot on Airport Road. Cars don't stop before entering or exiting. Problems with right turns at stop signs and red lights. What's status of Local Roads Safety Plan and Safety Coalition?

Ms. McLaughlin – Board approved the Local Roads Safety Plan at their meeting last Friday (May 14th). Will give a presentation on the Plan at next committee meeting.

Mr. Musico – We looked at that – suggested putting in rumble strips and proposed a prototype installation at [Collier County] Government Center. Never happened. There should be no vegetation within 15’ of an entry/exit.

Mr. Bonness – LDC calls for 30- in each direction, no vegetation above 30”.

Mr. Dondanville – changing the LDC is long-term solution; City of Naples is looking for locations that need fixing now.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the County still has a phone number in place for reporting safety concerns, potholes, etc.

Mr. Tisch - showed County’s 311 phone number and app on the screen, service available to members of public to report safety concerns.

Mr. Bonness – couple of actions for committee – what can be done with sidewalk crossings at entrances and exits and stopping cars at right turn lanes – that’s an enforcement issue for the Sheriff’s Office.

Ms. Halman – and we need more trees for shade.

Mr. Smith – committee should limit LDC review to commercial uses; private citizens do not want rumble strips at residential entrances and exits. Reiterated request made at last two meetings – has not heard from the County yet. Would like this to be on the next agenda for action - Collier County report on extending bike path along Vanderbilt Beach Rd from Vanderbilt Dr to Gulf Shore and Naples One.

Mr. Bonness – invited **Ms. Keeler** to introduce herself as new member – moved from New York/Connecticut area 5 years ago; avid biker; live in Palm River Estates; has degree in Transportation.

Ms. Huff – welcome two new members.

10. Distribution Items

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

August 17, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
In-Person Only

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.