

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
609/610 Conference Room, Growth Management Division
2800 N Horseshoe Dr
August 17, 2021 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Mr. Matonti called roll and confirmed a quorum was present in the room.

Members Present

Anthony Matonti
Alan Musico
Dayna Fendrick
Dr. Mort Friedman
Andrea Halman
Patty Huff
Kim Jacob
George Dondanville
Mark Komanecky

Members Absent

Joe Bonness
Larry Smith
Claudia Keeler

MPO Staff Present

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner
Danielle Bates, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Michael Tisch, GMD, Transportation Planning
Lorraine Lantz, GMD, Transportation Planning
Victoria Peters, FDOT, Community Liaison

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the May 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Musico moved to approve the May 18, 2021 minutes. Ms. Huff seconded. Carried unanimously.

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

None.

6. Agency Updates

A. FDOT

Ms. Peters: Draft tentative work program this summer, priority projects going well, wrapping up, anticipate public hearing in early October meaning new draft tentative program is expected about the end of October or November. In response to a number of committee members' questions and comments on other projects, Ms. Peters agreed to follow-up on the status of the Marco Loop Trail Project (**Mr. Musico** asked to be included in the development of the project); status of Project Development and Environmental Study (PD&E) for SR 29 From Oil Well to I-75; the intersection of US 41 and Golden Gate Parkway (will pass along **Mr. Dondanville's** safety concern regarding northbound left turns out of shopping center to project manager) and **Mr. Matonti's** concern with pedestrian, bicycle safety at same intersection; pavement condition on US 41 south of Golden Gate Parkway (FDOT drainage study has ROW survey programmed in FY23).

B. MPO

McLaughlin: Defer to agenda items in the interest of time.

7. Committee Action

A. Review Project Concept Sheet Submittals

McLaughlin: Presented Executive Summary: 8 project submittals totaling \$7.4 million. All projects meet eligibility criteria in Bike Ped Master Plan (BPMP). Funding availability isn't an issue at this point. Good to have projects identified and sitting on a shelf. Funding requests summarized by design and construction phases. FDOT likes to wait 2 years after design phase to program construction. [Only] Marco Island does design in-house. No submittals from City of Naples this year awaiting completion of Naples Bike Ped Master Plan. At first part of two-part submittal process beginning with concept sheets. Comments and discussion should be valuable to submitting agencies, to answer questions in next step which is submitting [newly distributed] FDOT application form. Form requires submitting agency to report on public involvement; most agencies follow their own public involvement process but can also include text about public involvement in MPO's BPMP.

Mr. Musico: Presented details of City of Marco Island submittal - Bald Eagle project application; described extensive public support documented in application. Committee members asked questions about public outreach process and suggested additional outreach to include regional bike/ped advocacy groups; **Mr. Musico:** Marco Island's Bike Ped Advisory Committee is implementing a master plan that has been in place since 2013 and is formally endorsed by Marco Island City Council.

Ms. Fendrick: Presented details of City of Everglades submittal; part of Everglades City Bike Ped Master Plan, Phase 4, northern area of Everglades City; described surrounding land uses, destinations including elementary school and a commercial area; described current conditions and proposed improvements; highlighted safety for children to walk to school. **Ms. Huff** provided additional remarks. In question-and-answer session that followed, **Ms. Fendrick** clarified that cost estimates include \$73,000 for design, anticipating FDOT would do in-house using state funds. Final submittal will clarify that design is part of the funding request. **Ms. Peters** advised showing request for TA/SU for design rather than state funds.

Mr. Tisch: Worked with Lorraine Lantz and [other County] staff to put together applications for each [Commission] district for Collier County; coordinated with stormwater improvements; presented:

District 1 application first: Naples Manor; area is built out, similar to Naples Park where existing homes lack sidewalks for people to walk safely. Each year we add sidewalks in these neighborhoods, will get there one year at a time. In response to question-and-answer session that followed, clarified that submittals based on Naples Manor Walkable Community Study.

District 2 – Naples Park sidewalks; in addition to sidewalks on interior streets, proposing to widen pathway along Vanderbilt Beach Rd due to high use. In response to question-and-answer session that followed, **Ms. Lantz** agreed with observation that MPO-funded Naples Park Community Walkability Study [2013] was contentious and was put on the shelf [not formally approved by the MPO]; project applications are proposed on streets where County already doing drainage and utility work, much has changed in past 8 years; **Mr. Tisch** explained that drainage and ROW requirements limit what can be done on Vanderbilt Beach Rd east to US 41 and on-street parking imposes limitations on western segment. **Ms. Jacob** expressed support for projects as resident of Naples Park, will take submittals to Naples Park Neighborhood Association President to make sure residents are in favor; regarding question why Naples Park getting the greatest share of County's funding request, **Mr. Tisch** responded targeted spending around \$1million per district; some project costs came in lower than expected; committee can evaluate Naples Park projects separately – don't need to be constructed as a package. **Mr. Matonti:** Vanderbilt Beach Rd is very important.

District 3: Golden Gate City sidewalks – described the gaps being addressed in submittal.

District 4: Bayshore CRA sidewalks - worked with Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) staff to identify priorities.

District 5: Immokalee Sidewalks – worked with CRA staff to identify priorities; noted he is Project Manager for Immokalee TIGER [federal grant-funded] sidewalk improvements. **Ms. Halman** – anything that can be done for Immokalee is needed.

Mr. Musico: Comment on scoring: when we initially laid out the Bike Ped Master Plan, it was envisioned that a project would be a continuous project, then last year we had submissions

where multiple projects were not continuous, and the group decided we would allow that as one project. That introduces problem in scoring because if we had 3 projects and one was safety and one was environmental justice and one was on a master plan, if you score together as one project it becomes additive. Better to score projects individually, one component may have a higher score, if not then average them. My preference is score separately, but if not, come up with way to balance.

Ms. McLaughlin: Understanding from past submittals by County – projects are bundled together by district because they bid them together, separating projects would not be helpful for bid process. Last time some projects were far apart geographically, this year they are more clustered. In better shape [for scoring] this time.

Mr. Musico: Less of an issue for this submission, but something to consider going forward.

Mr. Matonti: Important, seem better clustered, I think the county hears it; don't want to game system. In years past they came in all over and lumped together and that affects scoring

Mr. Tisch: For Naples Park, I didn't think all would get funded, have money to produce plans, so if it's not funded this year, it'll be used next year, idea is to get studies done as required by state application. Naples Park projects are expensive, didn't expect all to be funded, also looking for future years.

Ms. Peters: Goal is to program projects in order they are ranked. But projects can be put on shelf and be programmed when funds become available.

Ms. Fendrick: For ranking, Everglades City won't have crash and safety issues and environmental justice issues, so wondering if we could relook at criteria, add something looking at utilization. In Everglades City these facilities would be used by more than just local population. Could add to ranking system?

Ms. McLaughlin: This would require an amendment to Bike Ped Master Plan. Gearing up for next iteration of BPMP to be completed for inclusion in 2050 LRTP. Entire BPMP will be up for revision; let process work itself out one more time; but if you are very dissatisfied, then convey to the Board you wish to amend. If you look at what got programmed, it was very successful last time everything got programmed except project I'm bringing forward. Comes down to money availability and what can we afford to do, smaller projects often move to foreground no matter the rating.

Ms. Fendrick: Understand living with it and unintended consequences, outcomes are different than expects, I'm fine with waiting until we redo the plan, timing is main issue.

Ms. McLaughlin: I'm preparing report on equity, the BPMP was written to heighten environmental justice because it was mentioned in federal review as something MPO had to focus on. Current TIP is very positive, feeling assured we're meeting federal guidelines. It's less of a problem area to solve, we have more flexibility going forward to look at other criteria. That

and safety; the BPMP is most concerned with the fatalities and severe injuries, prioritized higher than [reporting] the feeling of things being unsafe.

Mr. Matonti: What's the process for amending the plan?

Ms. McLaughlin: Sometimes it can go fast, staff drafts a text amendment, simple and sweet to go quickly, take it to BPAC and ask for comments and endorsement. If we get that we take to TAC and CAC and ask for endorsement, then go to full Board for approval. Process can get bogged down if committee spends lots of time developing new criteria and new scoring system. Is it time well spent?

Ms. McLaughlin: presented Bike-Ped Crossing Safety and Feasibility Study at Golden Gate Parkway between Gordon River Greenway and Freedom Park. Important connection to make a safe and convenient bike ped connection across Golden Gate Parkway to extend Gordon River Greenway to Freedom Park; in the BPMP as a Regional Priority. Reason it's in the plan as a regional priority is it was in the original Gordon River Greenway Master Plan as a pedestrian overpass. Advocacy groups promoted overpass; former City Councilman Reg Buxton and Mayor were prime supporters. City of Naples submitted project; it was endorsed in 2019 as BPAC and Board priority. Problem is some of beginning coordination started to unravel, Golden Gate Parkway is County road so the project manager would have to be Collier County and it wasn't a priority for the County. City was trying to find other sources of funding, including the Legislature but were discouraged and told not to pursue. Election resulted in change-over in Naples City Council. Ped Bridge proposal faces difficulties and even the study will be expensive due to environmental concerns (multiple wetlands and parklands). As a regional connector it's significant. Proposal is simply to expand the project definition to not just look at overpass, because not all public will love it, bicycling community could be half for & half against. We need to look at full range of alternatives, include at least a surface connection. FDOT looked at the study cost and it's similar to cost to study the bridge option. Proposing we reinvigorate this project. In response to question-and-answer session that followed, clarified regional connections to north, east and west including to Livingston FPL easement [SUNTrail]. Center of the hub for Naples Pathways Coalition Paradise Coast Trail Vision. Cost estimate to construct ped bridge was close to \$5 million, but that's probably low, closer to \$10 million due to overhead powerlines, wetland mitigation required. Cost to do underpass instead would likely double.

More public involvement is needed. These [over-pass] projects divide communities, don't want to walk into divided community with a big-ticket item, PD&E provides extensive public involvement.

B. Endorse Lee/Collier MPO Joint Meeting Agenda

Ms. McLaughlin: Presented draft agenda in package. Seeking comments from committee. Committee members suggested adding report on Livingston FPL corridor [Naples Pathways Committee] and update from Office of Greenways and Trails on regional SUNTrail projects.

Mr. Matonti moved to endorse the agenda with the addition of Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and Livingston. Ms. Fendrick seconded. Carried unanimously.

C. Endorse 2022 Meeting Calendar

Ms. McLaughlin: Presented Executive Summary in packet.

Ms. Fendrick moved to endorse, Ms. Halman seconded, carried unanimously.

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

A. Local Roads Safety Plan

McLaughlin: Report on outcome of Local Road Safety Plan. Board approved on May 14, 2021, with following changes: added local best practices to plan - Collier County and City of Naples analyze crashes to determine if design could be a factor or more of a behavior and enforcement issue. Incorporated comments from County Sheriff's Office, added to best practices on outreach and education. High crash corridors and intersections identified in Local Road Safety Plan incorporated in 2045 LRTP project prioritization and Transportation System Performance Report and Action Plan. MPO will issue Call for Safety Projects LRSP encouraged formation of traffic safety coalition same time as Naples Community Traffic Safety Team, now lead by Blue Zones, initiated informal Bike/Ped safety coalition for Naples. Enhanced practices include speed management in high crash areas. FDOT emphasizes need to control speed to lessen severity of crashes. MPO will be more proactive with bike/ped safety education and outreach, giveaways from FDOT and Federal Highway Association (FHWA). MPO will work with FDOT on safety audits,

Ms. Huff: Florida Bicycle Association meeting in July, bicycle motorist safety quiz: fbikesafetyquiz.com sharing it a lot. Eventually will have one for child cyclists in the schools. Brought some newsletters and street-smart pamphlets, can get more if we want more, good for bike safety.

9. Members Comments

Ms. Huff: Last year in Everglades City didn't have the bike ride because of COVID, planning on starting again in October, off or on road tours EvergladesFROGG.org.

10. Distribution Items

none

11. Next Meeting Date

September 21, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
In-Person Only

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.