

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
609/610 Conference Room, Growth Management Division
2800 N Horseshoe Dr
October 19, 2021 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order**
 Mr. Bonness called the meeting to order at 9:05

2. **Roll Call**
 Ms. Bates called roll and confirmed a quorum

Members Present

Joe Bonness
Alan Musico
Andrea Halman
Patty Huff
Kim Jacob
Claudia Keeler
George Dondanville
Mark Komanecky

Members Absent

Anthony Matonti
Dayna Fendrick
Larry Smith
Dr. Mort Friedman

MPO Staff Present

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director
Scott Philips, Principal Planner
Danielle Bates, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Michael Tisch, GMD, Transportation Planning
Victoria Peters, FDOT, Community Liaison
Tanya Merkle, FDOT, District 1 Liaison
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition
Carey Komorny. public

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

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

4. **Approval of the August 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Halman moved to approve the August 17, 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. Peters: Introduced Tanya Merkle, new District 1 liaison, coming from construction, lots of experience.

Regarding question on Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) from last meeting: confirmed with FDOT that it's completely stopped. The legislature approved three main corridors for infrastructure, internet, utilities, and roads to other regions. Followed SR 29 up to Polk County, it would go through the middle of the state. The purpose was to improve rural economies.

Regarding issues and accidents at Golden Gate Parkway and US 41 mentioned last meeting: spoke to FDOT Traffic Operations and they're doing traffic analysis, the first step on intersection improvements, they'll gather data for a few months. Will let you know, it started a month ago, circle back with more info.

B. **MPO**

Ms. McLaughlin: Handouts on new safety project FDOT sent, it's a request to amend the 22-26 TIP to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) stimulus funding to improve signalization at Rich King Greenway and Davis. The plan is to put in Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Going to TAC and CAC in November and the Board in December.

Mr. Philips: The hybrid beacon is interactive push buttons for trail, the beacons are two red lights and a yellow light, when someone pushes the buttons the yellow turns red and traffic stops, when yellow flashes again the traffic moves.

Ms. Peters: Trying to push ARPA funding super quickly. Received a question at the White Cane Walk: will it also be audible for visually impaired? Good question, will bring it up.

Ms. Halman: Will you update ones already in? There's one in Immokalee at Second and Main Street. **Ms. Peters:** It's a case by cases basis for updating current ones, but all new projects are using the updated standards. Collier got 25% of state's funding from the stimulus package due to good teamwork and collaboration between FDOT and the County.

Ms. McLaughlin: Reminder to please bring a face covering to the Joint Meeting at the Collaboratory.

7. Committee Action

None

8. Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)

8.A. FDOT District 1 Active Transportation Plan

Ms. McLaughlin: Looks like a good plan, Deborah Chesna was excited to present, but couldn't be here today. Will post to GIS and the safety website on the MPO website. Plan on having the presentation in November.

8.B. Preliminary Project Scoring Matrix

Ms. McLaughlin: There's still time to submit more information to bump up the score, Mr. Tisch's presentation will show helpful data. One change is that County has lowered the District 2 total request from \$2 million.

Mr. Tisch: Presented on crash data (attachment 1).

Mr. Musico: An accident is defined when police report is filed, a serious accident is when police report states the person was transported by EMS to medical facility. **Ms. McLaughlin:** This is the typical definition.

Ms. Jacobs: Naples Park has 20 incidents but is only rated a 2 because there are no fatalities. The number of crashes should be considered a red flag for the potential of a fatality.

Ms. McLaughlin: The points are meant to give the highest score to [implementing] a safety project mentioned in a Road Safety Audit, this is the gold standard. It's not always design, its often behavior, so better enforcement would help. Scoring system emphasized serious injuries and fatalities over total crashes. Keep this in mind for possible revision in the next Bike-Ped Master Plan.

Ms. Halman: Education is important. In Immokalee most of the adults and children don't wear bike helmets. **Ms. McLaughlin:** Communities where English is not a first language are disproportionately affected by crashes. Agree that safety education is critical. Need to provide materials in Spanish and Haitian Creole. **Ms. Halman:** Can assist with finding translators.

Ms. Huff: Blue Zones wanted to bring all biking communities together to coordinate. **Ms. McLaughlin:** They had an informal committee, the farthest it got was having agencies and communities posting the same safety messages. Now the focus is on Complete Streets. The County Sherriff also gets involved and does community outreach and enforcement based on need demonstrated by crash statistics, contributing causes.

Ms. Jacob: District 2's submittal is now just Vanderbilt Beach Road (VBR) but that doesn't really include Naples Park anymore. The President of the Naples Park Association did a survey via social media and emailed people in the community; 77% were in favor of sidewalks in Naples Park. Would like a meeting with MPO and County staff to get the priority back to sidewalks in Naples Park.

Mr. Bonness: VBR already has sidewalks on both sides, except one small area, Naples Park has no sidewalks. There was a walkability study done 10 years ago for Naples Park. Try to reference that instead of starting from scratch.

Mr. Musico: The focus should be on sidewalks in communities then connecting those communities.

Mr. Dondanville: Are swales a concern? **Mr. Tisch:** There is room in Naples Park for sidewalks. They are leaving 5 ft of space after the Stormwater-Sewer project.

Members continued the conversation on sidewalks in Naples Park. A meeting between the members of Naples Park, the MPO, Trinity Scott, and Commissioner Solis was recommended. It was also recommended to review the old walkability study for the area.

9. Members Comments

Ms. Keeler: Recently there was a child fatality on Immokalee Road. There's a need for bike lanes on Immokalee. The news reported the County accepted the study for improving Immokalee Rd. The study showed a 2 mile stretch from Livingston Road to Logan Boulevard will have 67% more traffic. Lorraine Lantz (Project Manager) wants more input from the community on this project.

Mr. Bonness: Immokalee Road has 14-foot outside lanes in addition to two standard 12 ft. lanes, the wider lane accommodates bike traffic. There is enough asphalt to restripe the road. Sometimes there are turn lanes as narrow as 8 ft., this helps with traffic calming. **Ms. McLaughlin:** At 45 mph (speed limit for Immokalee Road) FDOT wants 12-foot lanes.

Ms. Peters: FDOT looked at reducing the speed on US 41 and found it would be more dangerous and lead to more rear-end crashes as those who speed would still speed and those who don't would follow the reduced speed limit.

Ms. Halman: Is there more money coming from FDOT for bike projects? **Ms. Peters:** It seems like more money will be put in safety, but not sure when. Florida uses every dollar of safety money, not all states do. The stimulus was good but large-scale funding will not happen often. Deborah Chesna is a good advocate for this community in getting more safety funding.

Ms. Huff: Florida Bicycle Association can arrange for speakers and videos for safety education in communities. Everglades City is hosting a musical festival on November 6. Everglades City bicycle tours have also started.

Mr. Dondanville: Would like to clarify meaning of Vision Zero for the MPO Board.

Ms. McLaughlin: Secretary Nandam gives an excellent presentation every year on Vision Zero when the Board reapproves FDOT's Vision Zero safety targets annually. The next presentation will be soon.

A discussion on safety and improving bike-ped facilities and Complete Streets followed. Members agreed improving facilities helps safety.

10. Distribution Items

none

11. Next Meeting Date

October 26, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. Joint meeting with Lee BPC at the Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson St, Ft. Myers, FL. In-person Only Meeting.

November 16, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. In-Person Only Meeting

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.