

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the
COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
609/610 Conference Room, Growth Management Division
2800 Horseshoe Dr. N, Naples, FL, 34104**

**August 16, 2022 - 9:00 A.M.
Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order**
Mr. Matonti called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Mr. Philips called roll and confirmed a quorum.

Members Present

Anthony Matonti, Chair
Joe Bonness
Andrea Halman
Kim Jacob
Patty Huff
Dayna Fendrick
George Dondanville

Members Absent

Mark Komanecky
Claudia Keeler
Alan Musico

MPO Staff Present

Anne McLaughlin, Executive Director (Attended via Zoom)
Brandy Otero, Principal Planner
Scott Philips, Principal Planner

Others Present

Victoria Peters, FDOT
Roxann Lake, FDOT D-1 Planning Studio
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning
Michael Tisch, Collier County Transportation Engineering
Nelson Galeano, Collier County Transportation Planning
Michelle Avola-Brown, Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC)
Megan Greer, Blue Zones
Alison Bickett, City of Naples

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Bonness moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Halman. Carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of the May 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Bonness moved to approve the May 17, 2022 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:** District is hiring a new Bike/Ped Coordinator; Shared Use Network (“SUN”) Trail Application Period begins September 29, 2022, and closes on December 15, 2022.

B. **MPO:** None.

7. **Committee Action**

None.

8. **Reports & Presentations (May Require Committee Action)**

A. **MPO Report and Discussion Items**

i. **Joint BPAC Meeting**

Ms. McLaughlin requested BPAC Chairs to attend each other’s BPAC meetings to discuss shared interests and indicated that Collier MPO is working with Lee MPO to coordinate; inquired as to what the committee would like to share with Lee MPO BPAC and turned the floor over to Chairman Matonti. **Mr. Matonti** inquired whether the committee is agreeable to him representing BPAC at the Lee BPAC meeting and committee members indicated their consent. **Ms. Halman** and **Ms. Huff** inquired whether there will be a recording and an opportunity to attend virtually. **Mr. Philips** the meeting will be recorded, he will inquire whether there is an option to attend the meeting virtually. **Mr. Matonti** requested the committee’s input on topics to discuss with Lee MPO. **Ms. Huff** suggested Paradise Coast Trail (PCT), USBR 15 (U.S. Bike Route), and a progress update on the Old 41 Study. **Mr. Bonness** suggested Gulf Coast Trail to see how the connections fit together. **Ms. Halman** suggested SR 82, inquiring about sidewalk widths and indicating that many bikers come from the Fort Myers area on SR 82. **Ms. Peters** indicated she would investigate what is going on at SR 82. **Mr. Bonness** contended that Bonita

Beach Road needs bike facilities. **Ms. Fendrick** and **Mr. Bonness** discussed the applicability of the Livingston/FPL easement. **Mr. Matonti** requested that Ms. Peters check if there are any joint SUN Trail applications. **Ms. Huff** indicated that the St. John's Alliance involves four or five counties working together. Proposed the following topics to consider for meeting with Lee MPO BPAC: Pacific Coast Trail (PCT); US Bike Route 15; Old 41 Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study; Gulf Coast Trail; SR 82; Bonita Beach Road enhancements, PCT/Livingston Road easement and 2022 Bicycle & Pedestrian Priorities.

ii. 2022 Bicycle & Pedestrian Priorities

Ms. McLaughlin provided an update on the MPO Board's discussion on two priority projects - Naples Park sidewalk projects and the Bike/Ped Trail Crossing at Golden Gate Parkway, Gordon River and Freedom Park:

a. Naples Park Sidewalks

Ms. McLaughlin explained that the MPO Board voted to keep Naples Park sidewalks on the priority list but Board members raised concerns about the dissenting members of the public and whether traffic calming efforts were considered. Board members observed that the county should continue to communicate with Naples Park Area Association and the community. **Ms. Fendrick** inquired whether the MPO Board wants a Naples Park survey. **Ms. McLaughlin** explained that: those in opposition to the sidewalks wanted the MPO to conduct a survey, which is outside of the MPO's responsibility. **Ms. Halman** noted similar concerns expressed about the Immokalee sidewalk project. **Mr. Matonti** indicated that with Commissioner Solis retiring, Commissioners want to hold off on providing input until the new District 2 (D-2) Commissioner is seated. **Ms. Jacob** discussed opposition to sidewalks and inquired as to next steps in that regard. **Ms. McLaughlin** suggested that a discussion with the Commissioners who voted against the sidewalks is the appropriate first step, indicating that opinions were expressed in June and there will be a new Commissioner elected in D-2. **Mr. Matonti** inquired whether the three Naples Park sidewalk projects are being done together or stand-alone and **Mr. Tisch** advised that the projects are stand-alone.

b. Bike/Ped Trail Crossing at Golden Gate Parkway

Ms. McLaughlin explained that the MPO Board voted to delete the project from the list after MPO Board Chair Perry raised concerns about the project, stating that the current Naples City Council does not support the pedestrian bridge proposal. **Mr. Dondanville** the MPO Board removed the project due to concerns about study cost and not having an at-grade option.

FDOT is studying the Golden Gate Pkwy/Goodlette-Frank intersection – it could be expanded to include an at-grade crossing at Freedom Park. **Ms. McLaughlin** no studies are currently underway – intersection improvements are identified as an unfunded need in the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan. In discussions with County staff, there is potential support for improving the Golden Gate Parkway/Goodlette-Frank crosswalks. **Mr. Dondanville** recommended adding the project back to the priority list with an at-grade option to study at-grade options similar to crosswalks installed on east US 41. **Ms. Huff** inquired whether a motion was necessary in order to add the project to a priority list. **Mr. Matonti** noted that the project was removed by the Board and asked Ms. McLaughlin about next steps to add it to the priority list. **Ms. McLaughlin** there may be some misunderstanding by the Board about the proposed study included an at-grade option; however, the next opportunity to add to priority list is the next call for projects; Board is concerned about the study cost (\$750,000); and it is too high for looking at just an at-grade solution. She could coordinate with County to see if there's support to do a planning level study to determine whether an at-grade solution is feasible. The County's interest in the project needs to be determined. **Mr. Bonness** and **Ms. Fendrick** expressed interest in pursuing a study for an at-grade crossing.

Ms. McLaughlin exited the meeting.

iii. Outlook for SU Funding

Item not addressed due to time constraints.

B. Lee MPO Rail-Trail Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Philips gave a brief presentation based on the attachment included in the agenda packet. **Mr. Bonness** indicated that there is no willing seller. **Ms. Huff** inquired whether the rail line is in use and **Mr. Philips** advised that it is not and further indicated that the community supports the project, the ROW (right-of-way) is not being kept up, and the TPL (Trust for Public Land) is working with stakeholders. The next Lee MPO community meeting is planned for November. He will share meeting information with the committee as it becomes available.

C. City of Naples Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan 2022 Update

Ms. Bickett presented an update on the Naples Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. A discussion regarding roundabouts ensued. **Ms. Peters** inquired whether roundabouts are in place or needing construction. **Ms. Bickett** indicated the City Council requested that roundabouts be removed from the plan list and that she will have additional conversations with the City Council and the community. The city conducted a survey and over 70% approved of certain roundabouts. **Mr. Matonti** inquired as to who opposes roundabouts and **Ms. Bickett** indicated that the opposition is

general because staff went door-to-door at each location to speak with neighboring property owners. **Ms. Peters** offered to forward FDOT roundabout videos to help educate the community. **Ms. Bickett** advised that the city has a website with roundabout information. **Ms. Halman** commented that the Immokalee roundabouts are working well, after some initial opposition. **Ms. Halman** and **Ms. Bickett** discussed the width of Fleishmann sidewalks (8 ft. narrowing to 6 ft.).

D. Gulf Coast Trail Update

Mr. Philips gave the presentation included in the agenda packet. **Mr. Matonti** commented that: the map is several years old; he led the GCT (Gulf Coast Trail) efforts when he worked for Tampa Bay Regional Transit; GCT was highly supported by the community, political leaders, citizens and businesses at a 2017 meeting; there is a focus on Sarasota/Manatee area right now; and GCT is ranked in the top three on the State’s trail priority list.

9. Member Comments

Ms. Huff indicated that many bicyclists are coming to Everglades City and informed the committee that brochures titled “Three Days in the Everglades” and “Bicycling Adventures in the Everglades” provide suggestions for things to do outdoors in the Everglades City area. She encouraged Naples to apply to be a Trail Town.

9. Member Comments

None.

10. Distribution Items

None.

11. Next Meeting Date

September 20, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. In-Person Only Meeting.

12. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.