

**JOINT LEE MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND
COLLIER MPO PATHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Bonita Springs City Hall Council Chambers
9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, Florida

9:30 a.m.

October 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Donald Scott, Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Tamika Seaton, Collier MPO, called the roll for the Collier Pathways Advisory Committee (PAC) and Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee (BPCC). A quorum was not present for the Collier PAC. A quorum was not present for the Lee County BPCC, but was attained at 9:40 a.m. Those in attendance were as follows:

COLLIER PAC MEMBERS

Patricia Spencer – Present
Gary Shirk – Present
Joe Adams – Absent
Joe Bonness – Chairman- Absent
Alan Musico – Absent
Dr. Mort Friedman – Absent
Jack Mischung – Vice-Chairman -Absent
James Guerrero- Absent

COLLIER MPO STAFF

Phil Tindall, MPO Director
Lorraine Lantz, Principal Planner
Brandy Otero, Planner
Tamika Seaton, Planning Technician

LEE COUNTY BPCC MEMBERS

Barbara Barnes-Buchanan – Present
Xinguo “Joe” Jiang, PHD, EIT – Present
Dan Moser – Present
Andy Getch – Chair- Present
Sarita Taylor _ Present
Wayne Gaither – Present
Dawn Gordon – Present
Fred Johnson - Absent
Steve Jansen – Vice-Chairman- Absent
Arthur Godar – Absent
Lauren Mead- Absent

LEE COUNTY MPO STAFF

Don Scott, MPO Director
Ron Gogoi, Deputy Director

OTHERS

Russ Muller, Collier County CDES
David Buchheit, Collier County Transportation
Claudine Auclair, Collier County Transportation
Janet Martin, Bonita Springs City Council
Maureen Bonness, Naples Pathways Coalition
Lucy Pongetti, City of Bonita Springs
Dave Smith, Private Citizen

2. Election of a Chairperson

Mr. Scott stated that the Collier PAC's chairman was absent, and asked Mr. Getch, Lee County BPC Chair, if he would like to chair the meeting. Mr. Getch accepted the offer and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda

No public comments were received.

4. Action Items

- A. Changes to the Regional Pathway Map

Mr. Scott reported on the following:

- Last month, the Collier MPO passed a resolution in support of the proposed River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) concept;
- The proposed pathway would parallel US 41 traversing a variety of parks and natural areas and is planned to be 12 to 14 feet wide;
- To connect this proposed pathway with the rest of the regional network, staff recommends adding the planned or partially completed pathway down CR 951 from south of Pine Ridge Road down to US 41, adding the planned US 41 pathway from CR 951 out to the Collier Seminole State Park where the proposed River of Grass Greenway would start.

Mr. Scott concluded by asking the joint committee to recommend approval to add the ROGG Pathway and a connection from it to the existing Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway Network.

Discussion ensued regarding the regional pathway map. Ms. Barnes-Buchanan presented an overview of the projects that the City of Bonita Spring was currently working on and stated that over the past several years, the City has been working on a walkway system along the Imperial River, and the City is in the process of assembling different properties and have just negotiated a lease with the state of Florida. She concluded by requesting that the proposed walkway along the Imperial River be added on to the regional pathway map. She also stated that the City would like to connect the Imperial River walkway further to the east to the Collier County line. Mr. Scott stated that new facilities that are added to the map have to be regional facilities, and must connect to Collier County to be considered for the map. He stated that the proposed Imperial River walkway can be discussed under Agenda Item 5 C (Discussion About the Development of a Countywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan in Lee County) because the walkway would be located in Lee County. Mr. Moser recommended that Ms. Barnes-Buchanan coordinate with Mr. Fred Johnson, Lee County Parks and Recreation, to get the proposed Imperial River walkway incorporated into Lee County's Trail and Greenways Master Plan. Ms. Barnes-Buchanan stated that the proposed Imperial River walkway was not incorporated into the Bonita Springs Comprehensive Plan as the proposal is going currently through the evaluation appraisal process.

Mr. Jiang arrived at 9:40 a.m., and Lee County BPCC attained a quorum.

Mr. Moser: I move to approve the changes to the Regional Pathways Map.

Ms. Barnes-Buchanan: I second the motion.

APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS.

- B. Continuation of Designated Bike Lanes on US 41 and Imperial/Livingston Road at the Lee-Collier County Line

Mr. Gogoi presented an overview of the feasibility of retrofitting the existing paved shoulders on US 41 to designated bike lanes at the Lee-Collier County line and existing paved shoulders on Imperial Parkway, as well as other County managed roadways to designated bike lanes.

Discussion ensued regarding the continuation of designated bike lanes on US 41 and Imperial/Livingston Road at the Lee-Collier County line. Mr. Moser suggested that the City of Bonita Springs make a recommendation within its jurisdiction regarding which areas should be marked for designated bike lanes.

Ms. Barnes-Buchanan: I move to take the proposal of designated bike lanes back to the Bonita Springs City Council for a recommendation.

Mr. Moser: I second the motion.

APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS.

5. Reports and Presentations

A. River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) Presentation

Ms. Bonness reported on the following:

- The ROGG is a proposed 12-14 foot wide corridor that is separated from the highway;
- The pathway will run parallel to the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) for non-motorized transportation;
- The goal of the ROGG is to extend from Collier-Seminole State Park to Krome Avenue;
- The ROGG has lots of recreational benefits;
- Currently, there are no accommodations for non-motorized transportation on the stretch of U.S. 41;
- The pathway will transverse a variety of parks and natural areas; and
- An advisory board composed of individuals from greenway organizations, environmental groups, local communities, and government agencies are currently working on stakeholder involvement and corridor planning.

Ms. Bonness concluded by asking Lee County MPO and the City of Bonita Springs for their support of the ROGG by way of resolutions.

Discussion ensued regarding the ROGG.

B. Discussion of the Northeast Collier County Trail Feasibility Study

Ms. Auclair presented an overview of the Northeast Collier County Trail Feasibility Study and reported on the following:

- Purpose of the study;
- Original trail study map area;
- Vision of the trail;
- Preliminary design approach;
- Public involvement;
- Alternative analysis;
- Implementation measures;
- The consultant has recently completed the final report;
- A copy of the final report was submitted to FDOT for comments;
- After the comments from the report are received from FDOT, it will be taken to the Collier PAC and Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC); and
- The final report will be incorporated in the Collier County Comprehensive Pathways Plan, Growth Management Plan, as well as other relevant county plans.

Ms. Auclair concluded by stating that the final report contains two volumes (maps and information on environmental impacts/proposed conceptual designs), and the report will be uploaded to the Collier County Corridor Study section on the County's web site, as well as the Collier MPO's web site.

Discussion ensued regarding the Northeast Collier County Trail Feasibility Study.

C. Discussion About the Development of a Countywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan in Lee County

Mr. Scott reported on the following:

- At the last Lee County MPO Board meeting, the board provided direction to staff to develop a scope of services to undertake a Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan that covers the entire county;
- The current bicycle/pedestrian element of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is limited to identifying the bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements that are needed along state roads and prioritizing those needed improvements to be funded;
- The Board discussed conducting a Master Plan for the entire county to get an overall coordinated plan of facilities and to identify how they will be implemented;
- Staff would like to discuss the general items that they deem should be addressed as part of the proposed Master Plan including the regional element that will assist in capturing potential future regional trail funding; and
- Staff seeks suggestions from the joint committee on issues and items that will aid in developing the study.

Discussion ensued regarding the development of Lee County's Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan. Ms. Spencer suggested that the county push for a penny sales tax to fund the project. Mr. Scott stated that suggestions were made to approach the Transit Authority to push for a one percent sales tax increase to fund the project or perhaps piggy back on transit improvements in the county. Mr. Scott stated that he reviewed the Collier County Comprehensive Pathways Plan and he wanted Lee County's Plan to go in a different direction as Collier's Plan LOS analysis was complicated. Mr. Buchheit commented on Collier County Plan's Level of Service (LOS) assessment, and stated that the plan would be a better plan if it included quantitative measures. Mr. Muller recommended that Lee County assign their own criteria when developing their plan. Mr. Gaither suggested that the county include Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) components in the plan as it would benefit the transit system as well.

Discussion ensued regarding implementing Countdown Pedestrian Signals. Ms. Taylor stated that FDOT is going county-by-county to encourage the implementation of Countdown Pedestrian Signals. Ms. Taylor stated that the department found that some counties do not want the signals. She strongly emphasized that countdown signals were beneficial because all children understand the concept. She concluded by stating that in FY 2010, the department will be including an information component with the signals that include: billboard advertisements, flyers, etc.

6. FDOT Report

Ms. Taylor reported on the following:

- Lee and Collier Counties will be happy in November regarding their Safe Route to Schools (SRTS) projects;
- The department appreciates all of the work that both counties are doing for Walk to School Day;
- The department is still working statewide on Chapter 8 of the Plans Preparation Manual (PPM) trying to get the document revised, and the document was sent to both counties;
 - The department is working on getting new design standards to show bike facilities and how to build them;
- The department has been pushing hard on ADA issues; FDOT's design consultant has gone out to do a pre-scoping process which includes ADA (repair curb ramps, sidewalks, etc.). A written report will be completed on every project before it is programmed; and
- If anyone needs a bike lane designated, send Ms. Taylor an official letter requesting the specific corridors, and explaining why there is a need and that the bike lane is a part of the county's plan.

Ms. Caudill-Scott announced that Mr. Johnny Limbaugh of FDOT District One office was in the hospital and he was doing well. She stated that the department would continue to provide updates on Mr. Limbaugh.

Mr. Moser announced that the Pro Bike/Pro Walk Conference will be held on October 20-23. Mr. Moser stated that there will be numerous opportunities for SRTS education providers at the conference. He concluded by encouraging providers of SRTS to make every effort to attend the conference.

7. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

8. Member's Comments

Mr. Gogoi asked LeeTran if the agency keeps track of the number of riders who utilize the bike racks on the bus.

Mr. Gaither stated that there is a way to tag how many times someone uses LeeTrans' bike racks, and the agency was keeping track. Mr. Gaither stated that recently LeeTran had provided data to Commuter Services and they could provide data at the next joint meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding bike racks on buses. Mr. Gaither stated that LeeTran was looking into buying bike racks that would hold three bikes. Ms. Otero stated that at the Collier PAC meeting, Collier Area Transit (CAT) discussed moving away from purchasing bike racks that hold three bikes because they protruded too far out in front of the bus and the driver had sight distance concerns.

9. Information Items

No information items were distributed.

10. Adjournment of Joint BPCC/PAC Meeting

Having no further business, the Joint Lee/Collier PAC adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.