

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2016 AT THE
CULTURAL CENTER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, 2280 AARON STREET, PORT CHARLOTTE,
FLORIDA

MEMBERS ATTENDING

K. Stephen Carter (Chair) Historical/Cultural/
Environmental Representative
Court Nederveld, South County Representative
Robert Armstrong, South County Representative
Richard Stark, West County Representative
Karen Freeman, Bicycle Business
Representative
Charlie Halasz, Bicycle Club Representative
David L. Allen, Mid-County Representative

ADVISORY AND OTHERS PRESENT

Debrah Forester, CC Economic Development
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
Andrew Mitchell, CC Public Schools
Venkat Vattikuti, CC Public Works
Gary Grossman, CC Public Works
Lori Carlton, FDOT
Gary Harrell, CC-PG MPO

MEMBERS ABSENT

Peter Dowling, West County Representative
(Excused)
Robert Logan, Mid-County Representative
(Excused)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

K. Stephen Carter, BPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken using a sign-in sheet.

2. Public Comments of Agenda Items

None.

3. Chair’s Report

None.

4. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 16, 2016 BPAC Meeting

Stephen Carter asked the Committee to review and approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2016 BPAC Meeting.

*A Motion was made by **Robert Armstrong** to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2016 Meeting with corrections. **Richard Stark** seconded the Motion, and it was approved unanimously.*

5. FDOT Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2017/2018 - FY 2021/2022

Lori Carlton, FDOT briefed the Committee on FDOT's Draft Tentative Work Program, which includes the new fifth year (FY 2020/2021) of project programming based upon State and MPO priorities. The Draft Tentative Work Program will form the basis for the MPO's next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is scheduled to be adopted by the MPO Board in May 2017 and submitted to FDOT. She then distributed a press release regarding an ePublic Hearing presenting the Draft Tentative Five Year Work Program that ends October 24, 2016. She encouraged members to make any comments they may have on this format. She also stressed that she would take any comments from members.

Lori Carlton then summarized the significant changes to the currently Adopted Work Program and which project priorities had been funded noting the top eligible Highway projects had moved forward as well as the top three eligible Transportation alternative projects.

Court Nederveld commented that the several resurfacing projects need to emphasize dedicated bike lanes as well as on the road widenings. He stated the completed portions on the US 17 widening project in the Counties north of Charlotte County were excellent and he looked forward to completion of the whole project. He then stated the bike lanes and shoulders on the US 17 bridges over Shell Creek are deteriorating and that bridge joints are separating making it dangerous for bicycles. Riders need to enter the travel lanes to avoid the poor bike lane conditions. He also stated portions of the US 17 roadway near the Washington Loop intersections were deteriorating directly affecting the bicycle lanes with roadway debris. Discussion by County staff noted that a portion of the roadway was traveled by heavy trucks serving the mines in the area.

6. Charlotte County Report

Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Economic Development briefed the Committee that the Florida Greenways and Trails SUN Trail Network application for the US 41 Gateway Phase 1B project was approved for funding in this current fiscal year. The SUN Trail portion will be a raised walkway connection under both US 41 bridges. Charlotte County Economic Development will bring the project for approval to go forward to the Board of County Commissioners by the end of the month. The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to soon give their final approval, then the construction can commence. She thanked the BPAC for its letter of support as an important part of the application demonstrating community support for this project.

Gary Grossman, Charlotte County Bicycle Pedestrian Representative reported that he is currently working on a County policy for the use of sharrows. It will parallel FDOT guidelines.

Court Nederveld stated that the shoulders on Kings Highway are not marked as bike lanes. Venkat Vattikuti stated he will look at the feasibility of marking the lanes that are at least five feet wide.

Gary Harrell, MPO Staff reported that Charlotte County Community Services provided a Draft Scope of Services for their Greenways and Trails Master Plan. He will report further as the plan moves forward in selecting a consultant for implementation of the Plan.

7. City of Punta Gorda Report

Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda Urban Design Group reported on City projects.

He stated that Florida Greenways and Trails SUN Trail Network application for the pedestrian bridge over the North Branch of Alligator Creek was approved for Design. The City is working with FDOT to determine if the project will include a construction phase once the Design is completed.

The Gilchrist Park project is out to bid with projected construction to start before the end of the year.

The Harborwalk under the US 41 southbound bridge is soon to be widened and the walkway curve smoothed for a better bicycle/ pedestrian treatment.

City Council has directed staff to submit a Florida Recreational Assistance Program grant for a proposed Shreve St. Trailhead to be located immediately adjacent to History Park.

City Council has approved four bicycle pilot projects to move forward. City staff will present a plan for public input and conceptual design for these four projects including: W. Olympia Ave. from Berry St. to US 41; Nesbit St from E. Virginia Ave. to Laishley Park; Elizabeth St. from Virginia St. to US 41; and Berry St. from Shreve St. to Harborwalk. The public meetings will be scheduled during the winter.

8. FDOT Report

Lori Carlton stated that District One is in the process of hiring a new Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator as the previous FDOT BPAC Coordinator, Providance Nagy has moved out of State.

9. Staff Report

Gary Harrell displayed to the Committee the Plaque authorized at the previous meeting for former BPAC member Earl Lang. Stephen Carter asked that the Plaque be presented to Earl at the ACME Bicycle Shop sometime next week. Karen Freeman stated she would coordinate with Earl and the BPAC Chair for an appropriate time for the presentation and that a picture could be taken at that time.

Gary Harrell stated that the Lee County BPAC proposed a joint meeting with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda BPAC. BPAC members gave a consensus they would favor a joint meeting with the Lee County BPAC. Agenda items discussed could include connections on Burnt Store Road and Babcock Ranch development.

10. Member Comments

Members discussed new technology for driverless vehicles and how good that technology was in detecting bicycles and pedestrians.

11. Citizen Comments

Nothing to report.

12. Adjournment

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.