



**JOINT MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY- PUNTA GORDA MPO
BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) AND LEE COUNTY
MPO BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE (BPCC)**

**Burnt Store Presbyterian Church
11330 Burnt Store Rd, Punta Gorda, Florida 33955**

LEE COUNTY BPCC MEETING – 9:45 AM

The joint meeting of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Lee County MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee was preceded by a meeting of the Lee County Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinating Committee that was called to order by Chair Dan Moser at 9:45 am. Dan led a pledge of allegiance of all the attendees which included members from both the committees, MPO staff, consultants and presenters of items as follows:

From the Lee County BPCC

Andy Getch	Lee County Department of Community Development
Carl Karakos	City of Fort Myers
Dan Moser	Injury Prevention Coalition
Dave Wheaton	Member-At-Large
David Wagley	Lee County Department of Community Development
Doug Saxton	Village of Estero
Isobel Hitchcock	Member-At-Large
Jason Lamey	Lee County Parks
John Karcher	CAC Member
Mark Tesoro	Lee Memorial Health System
Nancy MacPhee	Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau
Simone Behr	Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau
Sean Gibbons	City of Bonita Springs
Salli Kirkland	Sanibel
Pim Tan	City of Cape Coral

From the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda BPAC

Karen Freeman	Bicycle Business Representative
Court Nederveld	South Charlotte County Representative
Rick Stark	West Charlotte County Representative
Robert Armstrong	South Charlotte County Representative
K. Steven Carter	Cultural, Historical and Environmental Representative

Others in attendance included Gene Pawlowski, Team Punta Gorda; Ned Baier, Jacobs Engineering; D’Juan Harris, FDOT; Sarah Larson, Lee County Planning; John Baird, Team Punta Gorda; Alexis Crespo, Waldrop Engineering; Gary Nelson, Kittson and Associates; Gary Grossman, Charlotte County Public Works; Gary Harrell and Lakshmi Gurram, Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO; Ron Gogoi and Don Scott with the Lee County MPO; Sarah Larsen with Lee County Planning; Thomas McGlohon and Dawn Huff with Lee County Schools;

Lee County Agenda Item #L1 - Endorsement of School District Priorities for SRTS Projects in Lee County

Ron Gogoi reported that applications for Safe Route to School funds are due on December 31st and that the Lee County School District is submitting 3 applications that call for sidewalks on 25th St West benefitting Harnes Marsh Elementary in Lehigh Acres (Priority #1), sidewalks on Averill Boulevard and Gator Circle benefitting Island Coast High in Cape Coral (Priority #2), and sidewalks on Clifford Street benefitting Edison Park Elementary in Fort Myers (Priority #3). He asked the BPCC to recommend that the MPO endorse the School District priorities.

Sean Gibbons made a motion to endorse the School District Priorities. Carl Karakos seconded the motion. There was no discussion. There were no objections and motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Chair Moser adjourned the BPCC meeting at 9:55, and he stated that the joint meeting will commence after a 5 minute break.

**LEE COUNTY/CHARLOTTE CO. - PUNTA GORDA MPO BPCC/BPAC
MEETING – 10:00 AM**

Agenda Item #1 - Call to Order/Roll Call

The Joint meeting of the Lee County BPCC and the Charlotte County BPAC was called to order by Gary Harrell at 10:00. Roll was taken by sign in sheet. Lee County had a quorum. Charlotte County had a quorum. The same group of people that attended the Lee County BPCC meeting attended the joint BPCC/BPAC meeting.

Agenda Item #2 - Election of a Chairperson

Dan Moser offered the position to Chair to the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO BPAC. K. Stephen Carter thanked Dan for the offer and commenced the meeting.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Agenda

Robert Armstrong made a motion to approve the Agenda. Dan Moser seconded the motion. There was no discussion. There were no objections and motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 - Presentation and Update on the Babcock Development

Ron Gogoi introduced Alexis Crespo, Waldrop Engineering who gave an update on the ongoing and planned development activities related to Babcock Ranch. The update included a status of the roadway expansion studies on SR 31; the initiative of creating a center for the “Perfect Game” which is a center for amateur sports events competing from throughout the nation; the internal trail system envisioned

within the development; and the connections to regional trails outside the development.

Court Nederveld asked if the solar farm would make the proposed development completely energy neutral. Gary Nelson stated the City is connected to the FP&L grid but it would be energy neutral.

Court Nederveld asked how the jurisdiction for roadways would be handled since the parts of the proposed city is in both Lee and Charlotte Counties. Gary Nelson stated the development would mostly be in Charlotte County but because it has a common developer in an independent special district there should not be major issues with roads.

Dan Moser stated that the proposal of the "Perfect Game Center" would add to the sprawl in Lee County. He stated that a good faith effort would be to add shoulders on River Road to Albers which has been a long term need, and may help mitigate the sprawl that the Perfect Game Center would attract. Gary Nelson stated the Perfect Game concept would attract entertainment and restaurants to the area that would also serve Babcock's commercial center as it develops. Lee County already has many Perfect Game contests but they are spread throughout the County. It now accounts for 30% of sports related economic activity in Lee County.

Stephen Carter asked if a golf course is planned. Gary Nelson stated there is not a great interest in a golf course at this point but one is included in the plans if desired by future residents as part of the Development of Regional Impact (DRI).

Mark Tesoro pointed out that a City of the size envisioned of 40-50,000 within 25 years would require a larger medical center than planned.

Gary Nelson stated the vision of Babcock demographics was open to multiple income levels with the cost for housing spread to be affordable to lower and high income households. The city is not gated so it is open to visitors who can visit restaurants and the bicycle-pedestrian trails and parks. The development already has a utilities facility installed.

Agenda Item #5 - SUN Trail Network

Ron Gogoi briefed the Committees on the SUN Trail Network in Lee County. The trail projects in Lee County that was awarded SUN Trail funds were for design and construction phases for a Multi-Use Trail on Van Buren Parkway from Burnt Store Road to El Dorado Parkway, El Dorado Parkway from Van Buren Parkway to Kismet Parkway and Kismet Parkway from El Dorado Parkway to Del Prado Boulevard. Construction funds programmed in FY 2019 would allow the completion of ½ the proposed multi-use trail limits from Burnt Store Road to Nelson Road. John Yarborough Linear Park was funded for a design phase in FY 2017 that will facilitate the extension from its current northern terminus at Colonial Boulevard to Hanson Street.

Gary Harrell briefed the Committees on the background of the Greenways and Trails system that funded the SUN Trail program. He then briefed the Committees on the two individual trail projects in Charlotte County that were awarded SUN Trail funds. Harborwalk Phase 1B Southern Boardwalk Construction phase in FY 2017 completes a project that was constrained by funding until it was awarded by the SUN Trail system. The second project is design and construction phases for the North Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge.

Gary Harrell stated that Lee and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPOs are working to expand the SUN Trail Network in their respective counties so that more projects can qualify for SUN Trail funds in the future. The process requires the addition of new individual trails to the Office of Greenways and Trail's (OGT) Priority Trails Map which could make them eligible for the SUN Trail network.

The Office of Greenways and Trails is currently soliciting input from the MPOs for updating its Priority Trails System Map and the schedule calls for approval of all changes in 2018. Two regional trails that could be pursued for inclusion on an expanded SUN Trail network by both our MPOs are the SR 31 Multi-Use Trail in Lee County, and the Babcock Webb Extension Trail in Charlotte County because of their common link to the Town of Babcock Ranch. Both trails will connect to the proposed multi-use trail system within Babcock Ranch.

Agenda Item #6 - Burnt Store Road Trail and Capacity Improvement Status Report

Don Scott briefed the Committees on Lee County's efforts on Burnt Store Road improvements. The Lee County DOT has segmented the Burnt Store Road project into three different segments from Pine Island Road (SR 78) to Van Buren Parkway using local and Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Funding. The Lee County South segment Burnt Store Road project is from Pine Island Road (SR 78) to Tropicana Parkway. Construction is programmed in the Lee County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY 2019/2020. The Central Burnt Store Road project is from Tropicana Parkway to Diplomat Parkway. Construction is programmed in the Lee County TIP for FY 2017/2018. The North Burnt Store Road project from Diplomat Parkway to Van Buren Parkway is under construction. The remainder of the Burnt Store Road project from Van Buren Parkway to the Charlotte County line is programmed for a Project Development & Environmental Study (PD&E) for FY 2019/2020. He stated that the Joint MPO Boards recommended a look at improving the short segment in Lee County on Burnt Store Road from the entrance of Burnt Store Marina to the completed section at the Charlotte County line.

Ron Gogoi added that all three segments include a multi-use trail on the east side, a sidewalk on the west side and bicycle lanes. For the segment from Van Buren Parkway to Charlotte County line for which the PED&E study is programmed both the Lee MPO 2040 Transportation Plan and the Countywide Bike Ped Master Plan identifies a shared use path/multi use trail.

Gary Grossman briefed the Committees on Charlotte County's efforts on Burnt Store Road improvements. In Charlotte County, capacity improvements on Burnt Store Road include the widening from 2 to 4 lanes from the Lee County line to US 41 and are divided into three phases.

Phases I and III, the four-laning segments of Burnt Store Road are existing from the Lee County Line to a point just north of Zemel Road (Phase III) and from just south of Notre Dame Blvd. to US 41 (Phase I). Both segments include paved shoulders and 6' wide sidewalks. Ninety percent of the design and ROW acquisition is under way for the remaining segment (Phase II) from just north of Zemel Road to just south of Notre Dame Blvd, with construction anticipated to commence by the end of 2017. The current design includes paved shoulders and 6' wide sidewalks. Charlotte County Public Works has now informed MPO staff they will build undesignated bike lanes instead with bicycle keyholes next to right turn lanes. Although the bicycle facilities already in the design do not meet the new standards for the SUN Trails network, Charlotte County does not expect to receive nor ask for SUN Trail funding for this portion since it is already being improved. Construction is expected to commence in October 2017 and last 1.5 to 2 years.

The section of North Jones Loop Road from US 41 to Piper Road is also part of the Corridor Study as it connects the Corridor to I-75 and Piper Road. The six-laning of the North Jones Loop Road section is in the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO's TIP for a PD&E in FY 2019/2020. Multi-Use Trail and bicycle lanes will be considered in the study.

Dave Wheaton stated that the design does not meet the SUN Trail standards for multi-use trails. Gary Harrell stated that the SUN Trail funding became available after the three phases were already designed and the phases I and III were built to standards for a typical road section. They design met the standards required by the County and TRIP funding that was a part of each phase.

Agenda Item #7 - Presentation on the TIGER funded Lee County Complete Streets Initiative

Don Scott briefed the Committees on Lee County MPO TIGER Grant for \$10.4 million in 2014 for undertaking the Lee County Complete Streets Initiative project. He explained the process of applying for the grant, what was helpful and what he would do differently when applying for another TIGER Grant if one becomes available. The project included construction of shared use paths, bike lanes, sidewalks, paved shoulders, bus shelters, and wayfinding signs at various locations within Lee County. These locations are primarily along the Lee County's premier Tour De Parks Route and the University Loop Route. Most of the improvements under this project have now been completed. However, there are still some funds left because some projects were bid under budget and the current effort is to add wayfinding signs to the projects.

Agenda Item #8 - Presentation on City of Punta Gorda's Bike Sharing Program

David Hilston, City of Punta Gorda introduced John Baird, project coordinator of TEAM Punta Gorda's bike loaner project. John gave the history of the program started by Gene Pawlowski as part the TEAM's projects in collaboration with the City of Punta Gorda and other community organizations designed to foster healthy growth and development. The Bicycle loaner program, in partnership with the City of Punta Gorda and supported by local businesses and private individuals, was initiated in 2010. Last year, the service loaned bikes for more than 5,600 riders from 43 states, five provinces of Canada and 14 countries who explored miles of bike paths in and around the City. There are now 47 bikes available at six locations. The program continues to grow and he expects to have more than 6,000 riders as the winter season starts. There is no cost to the person using the bike, which provides helmets and bike locks. John answered several questions including procedures when a breakdown occurs, how information from borrowers is collected, information on Florida bicycle rules and future initiatives.

Agenda Item #9 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report

D'Juan Harris stated that the FDOT Work Program cycle is moving forward and that the next cycle will start with requests for project priorities in January with a revised form. He informed the Committees that FDOT District One has a new Secretary, L.K. Nandam.

Agenda Item #10 - Staff Comments

Gary Harrell reported that the MPOs continue to coordinate regionally and asked if the BPCC and BPAC should make it a goal to meet annually. Dan Moser stated that the Lee County BPCC meets annually with Collier County BPAC and that an annual meeting would be very helpful. The recommendation would be for Staffs to coordinate a meeting time, and November time frame is appropriate as it is after FDOT releases the Draft Tentative Work Program normally in October.

Agenda Item #11 - Members' Comments

There were no member comments.

Agenda Item #12 - Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item #13 - Adjournment of Meeting

The joint meeting was adjourned at 12:00 by Chair K. Stephen Carter.