

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPACC) MEETING

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

Tel: (941) 883-3535

AGENDA

2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 2019

Cultural Center of Charlotte County

2280 Aaron Street

Port Charlotte, Florida

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- 2. Election of 2019 Officers**
- 3. Public Comments on Agenda Items**
- 4. Chair's Report**
- 5. Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2018 Meeting**
 - B. Approval of Minutes: February 28, 2019 Meeting**
- 6. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update**
- 7. Sheriff's Office Report-Public Safety**
- 8. FDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Report**
- 9. Charlotte County Report**
- 10. City of Punta Gorda Report**
- 11. Citizen Input**
- 12. Staff Comments**

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, June 13, 2019

13. Member Comments

14. Adjournment The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BPAC is October 17, 2019 at 2 p.m.

No stenographic record by a certified court reporter is made of these meetings. Accordingly, anyone seeking to appeal any decisions involving the matters herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the meeting/testimony and evidence upon which any appeal is to be based. (F.S. 286.0105)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND CHAPTER 286.26 FLORIDA STATUTES, PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. CALL (941) 883-3535 BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

The MPO's planning process is conducted in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Any person or beneficiary who believes he or she has been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or familial status may file a complaint with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Title VI Coordinator Wendy W. Scott at (941) 883-3535 or by writing her at 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980-2503 Telephone: (941) 883-3535 Fax: (941) 883-3534

JUNE 13, 2019
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 1
CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Purpose: To provide for the Chair to call the meeting to order through a verbal or sign-in roll call

Agenda Item Presented by: BPAC Chair, K. Stephen Carter

Discussion: To be determined

Recommendation: None

Attachment: None

JUNE 13, 2019
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 2
ELECTION OF 2019 OFFICERS

Purpose: To provide for the election of BPAC Officers for 2019

Agenda Item Presented by: MPO Staff

Discussion:

Due to the lack of a quorum (5 members present) at the February 28, 2019 meeting, the election of Officers for 2019 will be established during the June 13, 2019 meeting.

The BPAC Bylaws require that a Chair and a Vice Chair of the Committee shall be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of each calendar year for a term of one year and shall hold the offices until their successors are elected. All voting BPAC members may nominate any regular member, including him or herself, as Chair or Vice Chair. All elections shall require a quorum of the BPAC to be present, and be by the majority vote of members present. The Chair shall preside at all meetings and shall be responsible for the conduct of all meetings. The Chair shall also serve as a liaison between the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Board.

The Vice Chair shall, during the absence of the Chair or the Chair's inability to serve, have and exercise all of the duties and powers of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent from a meeting, the meeting shall be chaired by the Executive Director, or MPO staff designee, who shall not vote.

Recommendation: Motion to nominate and elect the BPAC Chair and BPAC Vice-Chair for 2019.

JUNE 13, 2019
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 3
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Purpose: To receive and record citizen comments in attendance at the meeting

Agenda Item Presented by: BPAC Chair

Discussion: To be determined

Recommendation: None

Attachment: None

AGENDA ITEM # 4
CHAIR'S REPORT

Purpose: To provide the BPAC Chair the opportunity to report on issues of interest

Agenda Item Presented by: BPAC Chair

Discussion: To be determined

Recommendation: None

Attachment: None

JUNE 13, 2019
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM # 5-A
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 6, 2018 MEETING

Purpose: To review and approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 BPAC meeting.

Agenda Item Presented by: BPAC Chair

Discussion: Due to a lack of a quorum at the February 28, 2019 meeting, the draft meeting minutes from the December 6, 2018 can now be considered for adoption.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 BPAC Meeting.

Attachment: Draft minutes of a BPAC Meeting held on December 6, 2018 at Cultural Center of Charlotte County 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte, Florida

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

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 2018 AT THE
CULTURAL CENTER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, PRESIDENTS ROOM, 2280 AARON STREET,
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

MEMBERS ATTENDING

K. Stephen Carter (Chair) Historical/Cultural
Court Nederveld, South County Representative
Betty Staugler, South County Representative
Richard Starck, West County Representative
Peter Dowling, West County Representative
Robert Logan, Mid-County Representative
David L. Allen, Mid-County Representative
Karen Freeman, Bike Business Representative

MEMBER ABSENT

There were no absent members.

ADVISORY AND OTHERS PRESENT

Tony Conte, School Transportation Board
Ravi Kamarajugadda, Charlotte County Public
David Dryer, Charlotte County Public Works
Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda
David Agacinski, FDOT
Michael Tisch, FDOT
Trista Zimmerman, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Maggie Stewart, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Gene Pawlowski, Citizen
Gary Harrell, MPO Director
Lakshmi Gurram, MPO Principal Planner
Gene Klara, Planner

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Stephen Carter called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments expressed under the Agenda Item

3. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's Report.

4. Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2018 Meeting

Chair Carter asked the Committee to review and approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2018 Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting.

A Motion was made by Richard Stark to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting. David Allen seconded the Motion, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One Draft Tentative Work Program FY 2019/2020-FGY 2023/2024

Gary Harrell introduced Michael Tisch as the new FDOT Community Liaison for Charlotte and Lee Counties. He also thanked members for their attendance at this meeting, as the release of FDOT's Draft Tentative Work Program necessitated rescheduling the meeting for a week later in time.

Mr. Harrell began his discussion of the FDOT District One Draft Tentative Work Program by reminding members that the MPO's Project Priority List discussed at the BPAC June 14, 2018 meeting essentially formed the basis for the FDOT review and the selection of projects to be included in the FY 2019/2020-FY 2023/2024 Draft Tentative Work Program.

Mr. Harrell then introduced FDOT's District One Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Mr. David Agacinski who reviewed the projects funded in the current year beginning July 1, 2018. He also described projects that were advanced (funding moved up a year) or were deferred (funding moved back a year), as well as funding for projects that were merged and/or integrated with other, larger projects and shown in the Program as deletions. He noted that all projects listed in the Program are subject to minor funding "tweaking" but are essentially in final form. Mr. Agacinski also stated that FDOT continues to experience recurring funding challenges throughout the State. This is a factor in Work Plan development and final project completion dates.

Of note, Mr. Agacinski stated that Charlotte County has been awarded a \$110,000 Feasibility Study for construction of a 12-foot asphalt trail along the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail and the Murdock Village CRA Corridors by FDOT's District One Office. He noted that the Study is programmed for the 2019-2020 time period. The Study will focus on the SUN Trail segment between US 41 and SR 776 intersection in Murdock to the Myakka State Forest west of Jennings Blvd. Gary Harrell noted that the MPO and the Economic Development Office prepared this grant application and were pleased that the Study is funded for the current FDOT program beginning on July 1, 2019. Mr. Harrell noted that this Study segues with the development Plans envisioned for the Murdock Village area and the MPO Board's recent adoption (October 29, 2018) of the Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan.

Mr. Agacinski also highlighted that the Work Program identifies major funding for obtaining Right of Way and the construction of a dual rest area along I-75 in Charlotte County near the Lee County Line.

Discussion continued with members inquiring about different design widths that are constructed when building new or improving sidewalk, multi-use trails and bike paths. FDOT and County staff responded by stating that these bicycle and pedestrian focused projects are reviewed for their urban versus rural character, the agencies responsible for their construction and maintenance (State, County, City) and the predominate use and existing condition of these sites are all aspects considered when determining optimal path and sidewalk widths.

At this time, Rick Braun inquired if Federal, State and local agencies responsible for designing and constructing sidewalks, paths and roadways are following established American Disability Act (ADA) guidelines. Responses from FDOT and County staff centered on requirements that materials used to construct and maintain surfaces must be from an approved product list. They are selected based on current conditions and engineering principles and are ADA-approved. Other members interjected that Mr. Braun's line of inquiry had merit, as some repairs and construction efforts on sidewalks and paths have shown rapid deterioration. This deterioration has led to uneven surfaces and safety concerns experienced by cyclists and pedestrians. It was suggested that FDOT consider performing additional surface determinant field trips or provide users with a method similar to Charlotte County's interactive "Click and Fix" application. It has proven to be effective in identifying roadway issues and a rapid response to their repair or improvement on County roadways.

6. FDOT Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator Report

David Agacinski introduced new FDOT Community Liaison Michael Tisch, who gave a brief review of his experience and work history. Mr. Tisch noted he is familiar with Charlotte County, noting that he previously held a position in Charlotte County's Public Works Department for over 10 years. Mr. Agacinski also noted that the proposed FY 2019/2020-FY 2023/2024 Draft Tentative Work Program is accepting comments and opinions until December 28, 2018. He encouraged attendees to visit FDOT's District One website and consider commenting on the Draft Program.

7. Charlotte County Report

Ravi Kamarajugadda stated that the County is currently researching and developing designs for a crosswalk signalization improvement project. The improvement is located at Gasparilla Island, south of Gulf Shore Drive at North Beach Road. He noted that the County is continuing a review of these projects, as issues related to the Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) serving the area and construction and signalization options will be discussed at a future Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting.

Mr. Kamarajugadda also stated that the plans and bidding have been completed for the construction of traffic light mast arms at the intersections of Peachland and Loveland Boulevards and at Winchester Blvd. and the Avenue of the Americas. He noted both projects will begin construction in 2019.

8. City of Punta Gorda Report

Mitchell Austin stated that the design criteria for a pedestrian bridge for Alligator Creek along US 41 has been approved. Construction plans have been approved with a call for bids for later this month. Mitchell Austin stated that the construction of new restroom facilities at Gilchrist Park have been approved and have gone to bid. Construction will begin in March 2019.

Mitchell Austin also stated that the City of Punta Gorda has begun development of a Citywide Master Plan. The Plan is being prepared by Dover, Kohl and Partners of Coral Gables, Florida. He stated that a charrette process that will bring citizens, designers and others together to collaborate on a vision for the City's development is scheduled for March 2019.

9. Citizen Input

Rick Braun raised the issue of the contract FDOT has with DBI Services to provide transportation infrastructure maintenance and cleanup on FDOT managed roadways. Rick Braun noted that technology has provided FDOT and DBI with opportunities to create and review large databases to aid in scheduling roadway maintenance. He stated the goal should be maintenance performed in an efficient and cost effective manner, with emergency or "hot spot" maintenance and roadway clearance issues handled quickly and efficiently. FDOT's David Agacinski responded that FDOT is reviewing roadway maintenance issues performed by DBI. Gary Harrell noted that citizens may contact the FDOT's "511" program by phone, downloading the application (app) or online and report roadways where maintenance and other issues are of immediate concern.

10. Staff Comments

Gary Harrell wished all attendees Happy Holidays and thanked them for their help and effort with the first Charlotte Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan that was adopted by the MPO Board on October 29, 2018. He noted that the fourteen month effort in developing the Master Plan will culminate with the Plan being presented to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the first meeting in January 2019 for possible adoption.

Gene Klara noted that the MPO held a 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Strategy session on November 7, 2017. Representatives from FDOT, Lee County, the City of North Port, Charlotte County Public Works, Community Development, Charlotte County Transit, the City of Punta Gorda, the Charlotte County Airport Authority, Charlotte County School Transportation and Economic Development were in attendance. He stated this LRTP would begin during the 1st half of 2019 and will be completed by October 2020. He noted that BPAC members will be informed of opportunities for public participation and input as events and opportunities are scheduled.

Gene Klara recognized West County Representative Richard Stark who would finish his appointment to the BPAC at the adjournment of the meeting. Gene Klara thanked Richard Stark for his many years of service on the BPAC and for his many contributions to the Committee. In turn, Mr. Stark thanked the MPO and BPAC members for the opportunity his BPAC membership gave him to learn and understand bicycle/pedestrian issues and community efforts in serving the cycling and pedestrian community

11. Member Comments

Court Nederveld noted that he has become increasingly more concerned with the number of cycling and pedestrian accidents with motor vehicles. He related that data analysis indicates nearly 25% of motorists involved in accidents with cyclists and pedestrians do not carry automobile insurance. Further, he stated that the insurance carried by upwards of 40% of Florida's population is not adequate to pay health and rehabilitation claims to victims of these accidents. He asked Charlotte County Deputy Stewart and Deputy Zimmerman what can be done to reduce uninsured and underinsured motorists, unlicensed

motorists, and what enforcement initiatives are underway to curtail these irresponsible drivers. Deputy Stewart responded that insurance verification is noted when vehicles are stopped for infractions. Motorists are cited when there is reason to believe that they do not have current insurance coverage. Deputy Stewart stated that the issue centers on the long length of time required to research whether a motorist has auto insurance if questions arise. She stated that this is an issue that is best addressed by the State Legislature. The Deputies stated they would discuss this issue with their Traffic Unit for the potential of increased enforcement of proof of insurance requirements.

Chair Stephen Carter, who owns an insurance firm, stated that this insurance issue has a complexity not easily discernable. He noted that some motorists cancel their insurance after receiving their annual State auto registration and sticker. If cited after cancelling their insurance, some obtain insurance again while waiting for their case to be adjudicated. This time gap between having and not having insurance can take months to resolve, with victims waiting for hospital and doctor insurance payments and the offending motorist continuing to drive with a “new” insurance policy in effect. He agreed that the issues posed by Mr. Nederveld and discussed by the Deputies is in need of review by the State Legislature.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Carter at 4:27 p.m.

(Next Meeting February 28, 2019-beginning at 2 p.m.)

JUNE 13, 2019
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM # 5-B
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 28, 2019 MEETING

Purpose: To review and approve the Minutes of the previous BPAC meeting

Agenda Item Presented by: BPAC Chair

Discussion: To be determined.

Recommendation: Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2019 BPAC Meeting.

Attachment: Draft minutes of a BPAC Meeting held on February 28, 2019 at Cultural Center of Charlotte County 2280 Aaron St., Port Charlotte, Florida

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

BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019 AT THE
CULTURAL CENTER OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, PRESIDENTS ROOM, 2280 AARON STREET,
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA

MEMBERS ATTENDING

K. Stephen Carter (Chair) Historical/Cultural
Court Nederveld, South County Representative
Peter Dowling, West County Representative
Karen Freeman, Bike Business Representative

MEMBER ABSENT

Pauline Kline, Bicycle Club-*excused*
Betty Staugler, South County Representative-*excused*
Robert Logan, Mid-County Representative-*excused*
David L. Allen, Mid-County Representative

ADVISORY AND OTHERS PRESENT

David Dryer, Charlotte County Public Works
David Agacinski, FDOT
William Miller, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Joshua Hudson, Economic Development
Mike Koenig, Parks and Recreation Department
Gene Pawlowski, Citizen
Rick Braun-Citizen
Liz Hardaway-*Charlotte Sun*
Patrick Bateman, FDOT
Henri Belrose, WGI (Wantman Group Inc.)
Lakshmi Gurram, MPO Principal Planner
Gene Klara, Planner

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Stephen Carter called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Election of 2019 Officers

As the lack of a quorum at this meeting precluded the election of Officers, the election of Officers will be fulfilled at the June 13, 2019 meeting,

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Rick Braun mentioned his appreciation of efforts by FDOT in preparing the contract for construction of sidewalks from Midway Blvd. to Paulson Drive.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Stephen Carter thanked DFC William Miller of the Sheriff's Department for his attendance at the meeting and noted his efforts at BPAC meetings throughout the years are well appreciated.

5. Approval of Minutes: December 6, 2018 Meeting

Chair Carter asked the Committee to review and approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting.

A Motion was made by Court Nederveld to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2019 meeting. Peter Dowling seconded the Motion, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

6. 2019 Project Priorities-Discussion

Lakshmi Gurram stated that the MPO is required to annually develop a list of Project Priorities included as an aspect of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He noted that this list was requested by FDOT by February 1, 2019 to aid in their review process. Mr. Gurram stated the priorities will be used by FDOT to program funds for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) scheduled to be adopted in May 2019.

Mr. Gurram then discussed the Five-year project Project Priorities 2018/2019-2022/2023 spreadsheet noted that they are color coded with green representing highway projects, blue representing Transportation System Management (TSM)/Congestion Mitigation and yellow representing Transportation Alternatives Local/Regional Projects (TAP).

Mr. Gurram noted that Highway Project Number 6-decorative lighting on the Charlotte Harbor Bridge has been deleted, as FDOT has indicated that decorative lighting will not be funded. Mr. Gurram also noted that the TSM Project Number 4 has also been deleted related to State and County funding concerns. Mr. Gurram noted that at the January 16, 2019 TAC/CAC members and MPO Staff recommended to consider adding the following projects for future consideration:

- Kings Highway from Sandhill Blvd. to the DeSoto County Line
- Prineville from Paulson Drive to Hillsborough Blvd.
- Edgewater Drive/Flamingo Blvd. Extension from Midway Blvd. to US 41
- US 41 at Cornelius Blvd. and Hillsborough Blvd.
- Bronco Rd between CR 74 (Bermont Road) and Washington Loop, and

-Alfred Road between CR 74 and Jones Loop

Peter Dowling and Court Nederveld inquired of MPO staff if there will be public participation opportunities for construction and improvement projects as these projects on this priority list move closer to the construction phase. Mr. Dowling noted that public input as it relates to roadway speed limits and rider/pedestrian protection and separation from motorist designs must be considered and where appropriate design changes instituted during the planning process. Mr. Gurrum and County staff noted that public involvement is a significant component of the Project Development and Environmental Study (PD & E) phase. Public participation events to solicit opinion and ideas are scheduled as projects move towards the construction phase.

7. Taylor Road Shared Use Path PD&E Study

Patrick Bateman, Project Engineer in FDOT's District 1 Office of Environmental Management Engineering began his Power Point presentation noting the purpose of the PD & E Study is to provide a safe, viable non-motorized travel option along Taylor Road in Punta Gorda.

Mr. Bateman stated the Taylor Road Project is the MPO's number one Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project. He stated the project has been programmed in two segments because of the complexity of the roadway. The first segment, Taylor Road from Jones Loop Road to Airport Road is programmed for Design in 2022. The second segment, Taylor Road from US 41 (South) to Jones Loop Road is not yet programmed past this PD&E Study.

Henri Belrose, FDOT Consultant WGI, Inc, noted that the project includes considerations for wetlands, available right-of-way, crossings over Alligator Creek and its North Fork, Seminole Gulf trail line crossings and will include future public participation events and opportunities scheduled for later in 2019.

Questions by BPAC members included the potential for the construction of a raised sidewalk in the area adjacent to an industrial park along the roadway and the options to consider when drainage designs are prepared. Messers Bateman and Belrose responded to these comments by noting that design and construction costs will have an impact on the final adopted project alternative.

8. FDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Report

Mr. Agacinski noted that the deadline for accepting comments and opinions for the FY 2019/2020-FY 2023/2024 Draft Tentative Work Program expired on December 28, 2018. He noted that additions to the Work Program include the Sun Trail Feasibility Study to commence on July 1, 2019. Mr. Agacinski also noted that Work Plan Advancements include Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Construction on US 41 from Midway Blvd. to Paulson Drive advancing two years from FY2022 to FY2020. Deferrals to the Work Program Mr. Agacinski mentioned included the Preliminary Engineering (PE) work for a sidewalk on Taylor Road from North Jones Loop Road to Airport Road deferred from FY 2022 to FY 2024; Harborwalk Phase II multi use recreational trail construction from FY 2021 to FY 2022 and two (2) US 41 sidewalk (PE) projects from FY 2022 to FY 2023.

Mr. Agacinski also noted that March is designated as Florida Bike month, with events scheduled throughout the State highlighting bicycle use and safety.

9. Charlotte County Report

Mike Koenig stated that the Parks and Recreation Department continue to develop and refine their goals as it relates to the Sun Trail Feasibility Study for construction of a 12-foot asphalt trail along the Cape Haze Pioneer Trail and the Murdock Village CRA Corridors by FDOT's District One Office. He noted that the Study is programmed for the 2019-2020-time period, beginning July 1, 2019. He stated the Study will focus on the SUN Trail segment between the Myakka State Forest west of Jennings Blvd. to the US 41 and SR 776 intersection in Murdock and mentioned that easement and right of way issues are the focus of recent efforts.

Mr. Koenig noted that there are efforts to convene a Board of County Commissioners Workshop to explore the use of sales tax revenues for preliminary ranking and funding of recommendations based on the recently adopted Charlotte County Regional Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan. He noted that coordination with the County's Public Works Department have been ongoing to determine best use of resources in constructing future bicycle and pedestrian related improvements.

10. City of Punta Gorda Report

While there was no City of Punta Gorda representative in attendance at the meeting, Gene Klara noted that attendees may register for a series of Charrettes that will be held the week of March 11, 2019. Mr. Klara noted that the charrettes will be held at the First United Methodist Church on West Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda and will begin at 9 a.m. with another scheduled for 6 p.m. for those who work during the day. He also noted that a summary of the Monday charrette meetings called "Work in Progress" will be held on Friday March 15, 2019 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Mr. Klara asked attendees to consider attending these City of Punta Gorda public anticipation opportunities.

11. Citizen Input

Rick Braun handed out a prepared document entitled "Maintenance Equals Safety". The document and Mr. Braun's discussion focused on the continued deficiency shown in the maintenance of roadways by FDOT contractors. Mr. Braun suggested in his document that FDOT consider modifying its contract with the maintenance contractor to include a two-tier standard based on historical records of where road maintenance is most needed, as well as, a second "tier" to address less frequent occurrences of roadway maintenance issues. He noted that the contract with the current (DBI) maintenance contractor ends in 2020.

12. Staff Comments

Lakshmi Gurram informed attendees that the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) review committee met on February 14, 2019. After reviewing proposals by the three (3) MPO General Planning Consultants the firm of Tindale-Oliver of Tampa, Florida was selected to prepare a Scope of Services. Mr. Gurram anticipates that after MPO review of the Scope of Services, the MPO Board at their May 6, 2019 meeting will consider approval of Tindale-Oliver to prepare the 2045 LRTP.

Gene Klara discussed an editorial written in the January 19, 2019 edition of the Wall Street Journal entitled "Vision Zero, a Road Diet Fad, is Proving to be deadly. He defined the concept of Vision Zero as a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe head injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility

for all. Mr. Klara noted that this concept originated in Sweden in the mid- 1990's and has been gaining momentum in America over the last decade. However, the editorial Mr. Klara discussed describes incidents and situations across America where Vision Zero concepts such as "traffic calming" and "road diets" have led to some reductions in pedestrian death's; deaths of bicycle riders have ticked up. Mr. Klara noted the editorial states that around the country Vision Zero projects have been approved and constructed on short notice without considering potential emergency vehicle bottlenecks or neighborhood evacuations (fire/gas leaks). Mr. Klara noted that this and other progressive concepts will be included and discussed during the development of the MPOs 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mr. Klara noted a February 28, 2019 feature article, again published in the Wall Street Journal noting that pedestrian deaths in the U.S. have reached a 30 year high in 2018. Mr. Klara noted that this increase can be traced to a growing shift away from passenger cars to SUVs which cause greater injury to walkers than cars at the same speed; distractions caused by smartphones; an increase in pedestrian fatalities after dark and the overall aging of the population and that nearly half of all fatalities involve alcohol impairment by driver, pedestrian or both.

13. Member Comments

Court Nederveld noted that there is a changing mindset and movement that recognizes that bicycles are not primarily used for recreation as in the past, but serve as transportation to people getting to work, attending social events, meeting medical appointments and for shopping trips. He noted that plans being prepared need to address continual changes to multi-modal forms of transportation.

Peter Dowling related a somewhat recent fatality in the Boca Grande area (in Charlotte County) where a cyclist fell at the end a section of a roadway shoulder where the pavement ended. A motorist then struck the cyclist at this location resulting in a bike fatality. After this incident, Mr. Dowling met with Charlotte County Public Works staff to assess and develop a plan to improve or extend paving the shoulder where the accident occurred. Mr. Dowling noted that to date no improvements at the crash site have occurred and asked County staff to continue to pursue a solution to this roadway shoulder issue.

DFC Miller was asked his opinion of the most dangerous places in Charlotte County to cycle. He mentioned that US 41, Midway Blvd., Olean Blvd, and Rampart Blvd. are all locations where bicycle/motorists accidents occur frequently. Officer Miller was asked if bumper stickers now being used on Police Vehicles stating that motorist must give bicycle riders at least three feet of distance between their vehicle and the bike could be purchased by a bike club or organization. DFC Miller noted approximately 300 stickers would be required and he would place these stickers on all Sheriff vehicles. Discussion continued with Officer Miller stating that bicycle theft is a major problem throughout the County and noted that the Sheriff's office does have a registration program, where a tag with a number is placed on the bike to aid Officers in determining bike ownership and returning the bike to the proper owner.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Carter at 3:52 p.m.

(Next Meeting June 13, 2019)

AGENDA ITEM # 6
2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE

Purpose: To update BPAC members on the current status of the 2045 LRTP update

Agenda Item Presented by: MPO Staff

Discussion:

The MPO's 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will include Bicycle and Pedestrian planning efforts. Bicycle and pedestrian elements are vital to a multimodal system. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are important parts of a multimodal transportation system. Facilities such as bike ways and sidewalks designate space for these travel modes and augment the travel options available. In addition, using alternative modes helps promote social benefits such as improved air quality, public health, and overall mobility. As the focus of the region's transportation planning shifts toward a multimodal approach, the need for facilities that enhance bicycling and walking is also becoming more apparent. Throughout 2019 and 2020 BPAC members will play an integral part of the in the development of the 2045 LRTP.

At the March 25, 2019 MPO Board Meeting, the Board members approved Tindale - Oliver & Associates as the firm to undertake the MPO's 2045 LRTP Update and authorized the MPO Chair to sign the Work Assignment Order. Since that action was taken, the MPO staff has been working with the LRTP Review Committee, FDOT and Tindale-Oliver & Associates to develop a Scope of Services to accomplish the MPO's 2045 LRTP Update. The Draft Scope of Services (attachment 2) have been reviewed by the LRTP Review Committee comprised of representatives from the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Charlotte County Airport Authority and FDOT. The TAC/CAC endorsed the Draft 2045 LRTP Scope of Services with the selected consultant; and recommended the MPO Chair sign the Work Assignment Order. MPO staff met with Tindale-Oliver staff on June 7, 2019 to discuss and clarify 2045 work efforts and timetables.

Recommendation: Informational item

AGENDA ITEM # 7
SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT-PUBLIC SAFETY

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office representative to report on initiatives and efforts that are pertinent to bicycle and pedestrian safety issues in Charlotte County

Agenda Item Presented by: DFC. William Miller-Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Discussion: To be determined

Recommendation: None.

AGENDA ITEM # 8
FDOT BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR REPORT

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for the FDOT Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator to report on FDOT Department projects and concerns that are pertinent to bicycle and pedestrian issues in Charlotte County

Agenda Item Presented by: David Agacinski, FDOT District One Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator

Discussion: To be determined

Recommendation: None.

AGENDA ITEM # 9
CHARLOTTE COUNTY REPORT

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for Charlotte County to update the Committee on Bicycle-Pedestrian Projects in the County

Agenda Item Presented by: Charlotte County Community Development, Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Staff (Joshua Hudson, Tommy Scott, Mike Koenig)

Discussion: Charlotte County Staff will update the Committee on bicycle-pedestrian initiatives and projects in Charlotte County.

Recommendation: None

AGENDA ITEM # 10
CITY OF PUNTA GORDA REPORT

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for the City of Punta Gorda Urban Design Group to update the Committee on Bicycle-Pedestrian Projects in the City

Agenda Item Presented by: Mitchell Austin, City of Punta Gorda

Discussion: City Staff will update the Committee on bicycle-pedestrian initiatives and projects in the City of Punta Gorda.

Recommendation: None.

Attachment: None

AGENDA ITEM # 11
CITIZEN INPUT

Agenda Item Presented by: BPAC Chair

Discussion: To be determined.

Recommendation: None.

Attachment: None.

AGENDA ITEM # 12
STAFF COMMENTS

Purpose: To provide an opportunity to the MPO Staff to report on matters that are pertinent to BPAC issues.

Agenda Item Presented by: MPO Staff-Gary Harrell/Gene Klara

Discussion: Gary/Laks/Gene remarks

Recommendation: None.

Attachment: None.

AGENDA ITEM # 13
MEMBERS COMMENTS

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for members to comment on Bicycle-Pedestrian Projects and issues in the City and County

Agenda Item Presented by:

Discussion: To be Determined.

Recommendation: None.

JUNE 13, 2019
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

AGENDA ITEM # 14
ADJOURNMENT

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BPAC WILL BE HELD
ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019.