



City of Fort Myers 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan PAC Meeting Minutes July 9, 2020

Virtual Meeting Format and Information

- Meeting from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.
- Due to COVID-19 the meeting is held in the Zoom online meeting format
- The meeting is being recorded

Team Panelists for Meeting

- Ron Gogoi, AICP – Transportation Planning Administrator, Lee MPO
- Carl Karakos, P.E. – Transportation Engineer, City of Fort Myers
- Trent Ebersole, P.E. – General Manager, FL and VP – McMahon Associates, Inc.
- Natalia Lercari, P.E. – Senior Project Manager – McMahon Associates, Inc.
- Ashlynn K. Super – Assistant Public Information Specialist – Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc.
- Christopher B. Fellerhoff, MLA – Project Designer – Landis Evans + Partners

PAC Members

- Thank You
- Refer Any Questions to the Project Team

Website Presentation

- Show Project Overview presentation from the website
 - Project Team
 - Purpose of the Master Plan
 - Master Plan Process
 - Project Timeline
 - Existing Related Plans
 - Existing Sidewalk Facilities
 - Existing Bicycle and Multimodal Facilities
 - Existing Transit Routes
 - Public Engagement Process
 - Master Plan Vision
 - Master Plan Goals
 - Toolbox for Future Potential Facilities
 - How Can I Learn More?

Public Engagement Process

- Press Release
- Post Cards/Flyers
- NextDoor Application
- E-mails to Key Officials
- Social Media Posts
- Project Website
- Questionnaire Results

- Consistent Comments
 - Dangerous Intersections
 - Too much traffic and high vehicle speeds
 - Sidewalks not connected, too narrow or need maintenance
 - Extend and connect linear park trails
 - No good north-south bicycle routes
 - Intersections poorly designed
 - Need protected bicycle lanes
 - McGregor Boulevard – roads are too narrow, sidewalks are used by many pedestrians, joggers and golf carts

Crash Data

- Pedestrian Historical Crash Data (2015-2019)
 - Critical Locations
- Bicycle Historical Crash Data (2015-2019)
 - Critical Locations

Functional Classification Map – Key Roadways

- Basis of the Master Plan

Discussion

- Short-Term vs. Long-Term Projects
 - Focus on sidewalk projects without drainage issues
 - Focus on Crash Data to provide areas that need improvement the most
 - Focus on intersection improvements specified in the updated Lee Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
- Access
 - No bike access on bridges
 - No pedestrian access except for Edison Avenue
- Specific Roadways to Consider
 - Hanson Street
 - Fowler Street from Hanson Street to the Edison Bridges
 - Lee Boulevard
 - McGregor Boulevard
 - First Street between 41 and Broadway
- Education and Outreach
 - The City should set up an education and outreach budget
 - The School Board needs to be engaged
- Quantifying Unreported Crashes
 - How do we consider crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians that are not reported
- Infrastructure
 - Completion of infrastructure around schools needs to be prioritized
 - Put more sidewalks around parks
- Gated Communities and HOAs
 - Some communities do not use NextDoor to receive information like this
 - Connect with City HOAs directly in Ward 6
 - Email information directly to the communities through their management companies
- Property Owner Right of Way Responsibility
 - What responsibility does a property owner have in the City to upkeep (example - trimming trees) the public right of way on their property line? What if the sidewalk is broken up, who is responsible?

- Suggestions to the City
 - Have an ADA Coordinator on City Staff
 - Have a better functioning BPAB
 - No biking is allowed on sidewalks Downtown – Signage is Needed
 - Recommend a process to monitor that the master plan gets implemented
- Lee Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrians Safety Action Plan
 - The 2013 version is being updated
 - Provides countermeasures to reduce number of crashes
- Interactive Mapping – App Development
 - Maps being generated should be able to be integrated into an interactive app
 - An app could be generated based off these interactive maps for route planning
 - Funds could be made available for this use, so as not to leave responsibility on the City
- Facility Designation
 - Inventory will be taken of current facilities and new facilities will be proposed or identified
- Micromobility
 - Recent law changes are an issue
 - Cities and Municipalities have authority to restrict it
 - Safety concerns
 - Enforcement of rules is an issue
 - Design speeds for sidewalks
- Bike/Scooter Sharing
 - Brought up and researched in the past but no determination was made from the City
 - Some municipalities do not want them because of safety/liability
 - The City needs to hire a consultant or create a task force to investigate this
 - City of Sanibel does not like this in order to preserve the existing rental companies
 - Use the City of Punta Gorda – Bike Share Program as an example
- E-Bikes
 - Higher speed vehicles
 - Would we need to invoke speed registering devices for E-Bikes?
- Policies
 - Bikes not allowed on many trails
 - What is the County versus City policies for Electric vs. Non-electric bikes?
- Streets Restricted to Only Walking and Biking
 - Businesses would not like it, but they are the ones that benefit the most
 - No good opportunities to bike in the River District, this might help
 - Would not solve the issue in its entirety, but it might help
- Lighting for Safety
 - Huge benefit to all users, even vehicular
 - In an urban area, some lighting is disturbing due to no light pollution regulations in the City
- Timing/Schedule
 - The goal is to try to recommend improvements to the Lee MPO to incorporate into the 2045 LRTP. If improvements are recommended after October, they can still be added to the 2045 LRTP

Action Items

- McMahon to coordinate with Lee Tran on future improvements
- MPO to provide McMahon with updates on Lee plans
- CMA to follow up with Ward 6 HOA's