



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY-PUNTA GORDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)
JUNE 15, 2023
DRAFT Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held in a hybrid format on June 15, 2023, utilizing Microsoft Teams® for virtual participation and in person at the Charlotte County Administration Center 18500 Murdock Circle Room B106, Port Charlotte, Florida

MEMBERS ATTENDING EITHER IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

Pauline Klein, (Chair) Bicycle Club
Robert Logan, Mid-County Representative
Ben Turner, West County Representative
Betty Staugler, Historical/Cultural/Environmental Representative (Virtual)

ABSENT

Michael Tomaso, Bicycle Business Representative (excused)
James Wernicke, (Vice Chair) West County Representative
Wendy Zurstadt, South County Representative (excused)

ADVISORY AND OTHERS ATTENDING EITHER IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY

D’Juan Harris, MPO Director (Virtual)
Bekie Leslie, MPO (Virtual)
Laks Gurram, MPO
Betty-Ann Sherer, MPO
Tony Conte, Charlotte County Schools Transportation Operations Director
April Santos, Charlotte County Public Works (Virtual)
Joshua Hudson, Charlotte County Economic Development
Tanya Merkle, FDOT Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, District One
Phil Pfaeffli, Pedelec e-Bikes

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Pauline Klein called the hybrid meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.; a quorum was not present.

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments received.

3. Chairs Report

BPAC Chair had nothing to report.

4. Consent Agenda

a. [Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2023](#)

Due to the lack of a quorum, no vote was taken. These minutes will be carried to the October meeting for approval.

5. [Sheriffs' Office Report - Public Safety](#)

Deputy Miller was not present; there was no Sheriff's report.

6. [FDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Report – \(Tanya Merkle\)](#)

Tanya Merkle informed that the approval of Senate Bill 106 would potentially increase SUN Trail funding. MPOs can submit applications for the SUN Trail funding through the GAP system.

7. [E-BIKE PRESENTATION - Philipp Pfaeffli Owner, Pedelec SQB Electric Bikes](#)

Mr. Pfaeffli provided a power point presentation on E-Bikes. The presentation demonstrated various levels of the capabilities of e-bikes. Mr. Pfaeffli provided a summary of frequently asked questions about modern e-bikes and how they are changing mobility in everyday life.

8. [2023 Project Priorities- Discussion – Laks Gurram](#)

Laks Gurram reviewed the [Final list of 2023 Project priorities](#) and informed that the MPO is required to annually develop a List of Project Priorities (LOPP) as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. He also informed that the MPO Board approved the Project Priorities at their May 15, 2023 meeting.

Laks summarized the key highlights of the Project Priorities presented and indicated the changes are based on the Draft Tentative Work Program (FY 2024 to FY 2028) that was released by FDOT in December 2022.

These projects were demonstrated by using a mapping tool developed by MPO Staff. Once finalized, this link will be shared with Committee members.

9. SUN Trails – Discussion- Laks Gurram

The Shared Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Program is a statewide network of paved multi-use trails to support multi-modal transportation options for residents and visitors. The statewide SUN Trail Network is comprised of the paved Priority Land Trails identified in the Florida Greenways and Trails Master Plan.

Maps were provided demonstrating Priority Trails, Opportunity Trails, Completed projects as well as Proposed changes to the SUN Trail Alignment.

The projects below are currently listed in the FY 2024 through FY 2028 Draft Tentative Work Program with the following programmed funding:

- Cape Haze Pioneer Trail (SR 776) from US 41 to Gillot Blvd; *Design-* \$468,000 (FY 2024)
- Cape Haze Pioneer Trail (SR 776) from Gillot Blvd to Myakka State Forrest; Design \$189,019 (FY 2024)
- US 41 (SR 45) at South Fork Alligator Creek; Deisgn\$290,000 (FY 2025)

There was a brief discussion on pedestrian bridge built on N. Alligator Creek and questioned if the south Alligator Creek would be built in the similar design standards. MPO Staff indicated that the bridge is built to protect from disasters like Hurricane Ian and from floodings.

Ms. Merkle noted all aspects of resiliency are considered when designing these facilities.

10. City of Punta Gorda Report

City Staff was not available to present an update

11. Charlotte County Report

April Santos did not have anything to report. She informed the committee that she would be happy to get back to the committee if there were any specific questions pertaining to Charlotte County projects.

12. Public Comments

None.

13. Staff Comments

Director Harris participating virtually via Microsoft TEAMS noted at times the meeting audio was not audible. He encouraged committee members to attend the BPAC in person.

Betty-Ann Sherer noted that on April 15, 2023, D’Juan Harris and herself participated at a Gear Up for Youth Bike Safety event at the Port Charlotte High School. Many children won bikes and were fitted for new helmets. She also pointed out various resources available to committee members to assist bicyclists with navigation.

Bekie Leslie noted that the MPO currently has a BPAC South County Representative vacancy, contact the MPO for more information.

14. Member Comments

Tony Conte noted Charlotte County Schools has a Bicycle Safety Trailer/ Educational Program supported by FDOT. The trailer moves every two weeks from school to school. Mr. Pfaeffli noted he has saddles he would like to donate to the school's safety trailer. Pauline Klein noted the Harbor Heights Civic Association is having a July 4th event – where they will give away bikes and helmets to children in need.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BPAC is October 5, 2023, both virtually and in-person at the:

**Charlotte County Transit Facility
545 Theresa Boulevard
Port Charlotte, Florida**