

**MINUTES  
FORT MYERS BEACH  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Town Hall  
2525 Estero Boulevard  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Goggin. Members present: Pete Crumpacker, Ron Fleming, John Goggin, Tom Gressman, Heidi Jungwirth, Joe LaDuca and Ed Scott.  
Staff: Jason Freeman  
Council liaison: Bruce Butcher

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 19, 2019**

Minutes not available.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment**

**V. UPDATE TOWN MEETING ATTORNEY- RFP SAFETY BROCHURE**

No update.

**VI. CROSSWALKS – INVITE LEE COUNTY**

Rob Phelan from Lee County DOT introduced Dave Murphy, Deputy Director of Lee County DOT. Mr. LaDuca noted that there were only seven crosswalks between Crescent St. and the Shamrock Irish Pub. He felt that the crosswalks should be wider. Mr. Phelan responded that the standard width was six feet and they provided ten-foot crosswalks. The locations of crosswalks were generally placed between trolley stops so people would walk behind the trolley. He noted that in the center of the island, crosswalks were spaced approximately 660 feet apart depending on driveways. Mr. Phelan stated that they were open to suggestions for the placement of crosswalks. He indicated that he provided Manager O'Riley with an aerial view of existing crosswalks. He clarified the difference between crosswalks and marked crosswalks; an intersection was technically a crosswalk. He discussed working with LeeTran regarding the placement of trolley stops. He indicated that trolley stop spacing was increased to 1,420 feet in the residential section. Mr. Scott suggested that all beach accesses have crosswalks. Mr. Phelan responded that some beach accesses were close together and they had crosswalks at many of the beach accesses. He noted that they did not space crosswalk locations based on deeded beach accesses. Mr. Fleming felt that all beach accesses should have crosswalks unless they were very close together. Mr. Phelan pulled up the aerial for the deeded beach access at Red Coconut and noted that a crosswalk

was located at Lover's Lane, which tied into the pedestrian access at Seaview and the trolley stops. He described other beach accesses, crosswalks and trolley stops. Mr. Crumpacker would like to see timed crosswalks to improve traffic flow. Chair Goggin explained that Council hired temporary code enforcement officers to perform as traffic lights to control the flow of pedestrians. Town Manager Hernstadt stated that three officers were hired for different locations and they were told to move pedestrians every five minutes. He indicated that they were working with Lee County to put a signal in at Old San Carlos and Crescent at Estero and to improve the traffic flow between Crescent and the foot of the bridge. He explained that the crosswalk treatment at each crosswalk did not have to be the same. He suggested that members share ideas for crosswalks with the County. Mr. Phelan agreed and added that changes to Segment 1 would be difficult because the section was complete. Discussion was held regarding the traffic study by the Lee County MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization).

Mr. Phelan suggested that they identify crosswalk locations in Segments 5 and 6, which included Albatross to Estrellita and he noted that they provided plans to the Town for all segments. Chair Goggin questioned why they did not mark crosswalks at all intersections. Mr. Phelan discussed sign fatigue, sign clutter, road striping and closely spaced intersections. He remarked that they removed approximately 125 signs in 2013 to declutter Estero. Ms. Jungwirth questioned adding signs on side streets, such as Jefferson, so people knew where the crosswalks were located on Estero. Mr. Phelan pulled up the location and noted that there were many driveways to contend with. He explained the intent behind selecting crosswalk locations in that area and the effectiveness debate of way-finding signs. He stated that they did not have objections to placing way-finding signs outside of the right-of-way. Ms. Jungwirth indicated that similar signs were posted on side streets when the cement barriers were installed for the construction.

Town Manager Hernstadt stated that the area between Crescent and the foot of the bridge might be reconfigured, which would provide opportunities to revisit current crosswalks. Chair Goggin felt their focus should be to identify crosswalk locations first. Council liaison Butcher suggested that they discuss the type of crosswalk for each location as well.

Mr. Gressman questioned how they determined which crosswalks needed flashing lights, or rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB). Mr. Phelan explained that the PSC presented concerns regarding pedestrian crashes at that intersection. He explained that the configuration at Lenell was a challenge and they were continuing to evaluate the location.

Mr. Gressman did not support the pedestrian refuges and he questioned why they were installed where they were. Mr. Phelan stated that they were done as a demonstration project to help identify the crossing location. Council liaison Butcher indicated that there was a large volume of people in the area and it was very dark at night. Mr. Phelan stated that pedestrian refuges were proven to counter measure crashes. Chair Goggin noted that once crosswalk locations were identified they would discuss the types of crosswalk lighting for each location. Mr. Phelan commented that an RRFB was planned for the Red Coconut location and others could be installed in that segment.

Chair Goggin suggested that they utilize the aerial to identify crosswalk locations, what they should look like and what warning devices would be used. He proposed that they present their ideas at the joint Council meeting on May 13, 2019. Mr. Phelan recommended that they work on Segments 5 and 6 first. He added that they had some ability to modify Segments 3 and 4. Chair Goggin discussed the importance of documenting the reasons behind why something was or was not done for the public and future developments.

Mr. Murphy discussed bus stops in Lee County. He noted there was a new LeeTran Director and they should contact the Director's office regarding bus and trolley stops. Mr. Phelan discussed ADA requirements for bus stops.

Chair Goggin questioned how they would mark the bicycle boulevard. Mr. Phelan replied that they provided on road bike lanes in Segment 2 and they would be marked with a standard arrow and bicycle symbol. Chair Goggin questioned painting the lanes a different color. Mr. Phelan responded that FDOT focused on conflict locations, not painting the entire lane location. He noted that sand posed a challenge to the paint and long-term maintenance was an issue. Chair Goggin commented that they would like to explore options and he described adding markings to the sidewalks to indicate to pedestrians which side the bikes were travelling. He discussed advanced stop bars in less dense areas to give pedestrians more time to cross the road. Mr. Phelan indicated that there were mixed reviews on the effectiveness of advanced stop bars.

Discussion was held regarding eliminating the center lane at Lani Kai and increasing the bike lanes on the curb side. Mr. Phelan described meetings in 2008 to reconfigure the corridor and the consensus was to have a center turn lane. He stated that changes were planned for the corridor.

Chair Goggin questioned whether traffic lights were under Lee County jurisdiction. Mr. Phelan replied affirmatively. Mr. Murphy noted that one traffic light cost approximately \$500,000.00, a special taxing district would have to be created and it would have to meet the traffic warrants. Mr. Phelan discussed traffic control devices. Mr. Murphy added that FDOT funded a signal at Crescent, the state was looking at installing a light at the base of the bridge and the Town was looking at installing one at Old San Carlos.

Chair Goggin questioned installing railings to direct people to crosswalks. Discussion was held regarding how law enforcement directed the traffic/pedestrian flow, timed signals and educating the public. Mr. Phelan replied to Chair Goggin and stated that the County was not opposed to effective devices that were placed appropriately. He noted that railings were difficult to install due to the number of driveways. Mr. Phelan shared a video looking from Times Square towards Crescent St. to illustrate the movement of pedestrians.

Chair Goggin mentioned reducing the speed limit on Estero. Mr. Phelan responded that a speed limit sign would not control how fast people drive. Mr. Murphy indicated that they were open to suggestions and Mr. Phelan commented that they had to follow the statute regarding minimum speed limits. Chair Goggin stated that they would contact the Town Attorney for the statute. Mr. Phelan discussed slowing traffic down by design.

Chair Goggin questioned where Lee County stood regarding planting low, native vegetation to replace the weeds in the strip between the curb and sidewalk in Segment 2. Mr. Phelan replied that they followed a core level of landscaping in medians but the guidelines did not cover the edge of the roadway. He described municipalities paying for enhanced landscaping and maintenance. Mr. Murphy noted that the Town was working with Lee County regarding landscaping plans and he indicated that they could create an interlocal agreement for the purchase and maintenance of enhanced landscaping. Mr. Phelan stated that they were open to suggestions regarding barriers and landscaping and he suggested that they submit comments within one month. He indicated that he was always available to answer questions.

Mr. Freeman will send digital copies of the aerial and discussions regarding the base of the bridge to PSC members.

## **VII. LIGHTING STUDY**

Not available.

**VIII. MEMBER'S ITEMS**

Chair Goggin noted that the minutes were distributed and they will be voted on at the next meeting.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment**

**X. SET NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA – April 16, 2019**

Mr. Gressman commented that he was unable to make the next meeting. Chair Goggin suggested changing the meeting to April 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Consensus was reached.

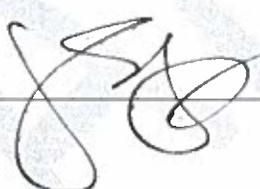
**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Gressman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Fleming.

**VOTE:** Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Adopted 2-18-20 with/without changes. Motion by GOGGIN  
(DATE)

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: 

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