



DRAFT: May 27, 2011

City of Fort Myers Planning Board Members  
Council Chambers, Oscar M. Corbin Jr  
City Hall  
2200 Second Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Dear Planning Board Members:

BikeWalkLee is a community coalition raising public awareness and advocating for complete streets within Fort Myers and all of Lee County--streets that are designed, built, operated and maintained for safe and convenient travel for all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. We want to make known our endorsement of the City of Fort Myers' Complete Streets Resolution which comes before you on June 1<sup>st</sup>. As an advocacy group allied with a broad array of stakeholders, we offer our full support for this resolution and its future implementation.

This resolution is a significant step forward for the city. It is comprehensive in its vision, practical in applicable detail and wholly oriented towards a healthier, safer, economically vibrant and socially sustainable future for Fort Myers. The adoption and implementation of a Complete Streets Resolution will provide the basis of a comprehensive linkage and continuity tying together the various city land use and transportation policies. It is a natural extension of the elegant New Urban street design now completed in downtown which aims at multi-user access within the ROW, with on-street parking, wide sidewalks, and street trees, contributing to a vibrant commercial district - although we'd like to point out that bike racks are still needed.

As such, it positions the city, in alliance with Lee County and the recently adopted MPO Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan, as a leading community within southwest Florida, forging new territory in developing the kind of region sought by people from across the nation and the world. Its adoption lays the groundwork for a new level of collaboration between city departments, the county and the MPO, each with their own areas of knowledge and expertise, bringing together parts to make a far greater whole.

We applaud its priority emphasis on safety and acknowledgment that, unintentional as it may be, some existing transportation policies and procedures are detrimental to safety and well-being. This Resolution advocates for a twenty first century transportation system that first...does not injure and kill its own citizens. As a relocation destination Florida cannot afford its persistent and growing reputation as the most dangerous state for pedestrians and cyclists. It is not by chance that the

AARP is one of the main signatories to the Complete Streets Coalition - an aging population needs a multimodal transportation system that is accessible, interconnected and above all safe.

Complete Streets will engender in Fort Myers, a uniqueness and economic strength spurred by investment in mixed-use, transit oriented development, supporting the diversity of business required for a sustained return to viability. Our citizens, given a rich range of choices, will have the personal freedom to select the best transportation mode to meet their personal physical and economic needs. They will be able to make healthy choices in mode of travel without sacrificing safety or convenience, and when the entirety of daily choices and activities are no longer dependent upon automobiles, will be able to engage in their community with a level of comfort one only remembers from the past.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ann Pierce  
On behalf of  
BikeWalkLee