



Chairwoman Tammy Hall
Lee County Board of County Commissioners
PO Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902

October 8, 2010

Dear Chairwoman Hall,

BikeWalkLee is pleased to learn that LeeTran has been working on a study to determine if designating a trolley lane for beachgoers will increase use, thereby reducing private passenger vehicle congestion. We are very much in favor of this effort. However, based on what was presented to you and your fellow commissioners at the October 4, 2010 Management & Planning meeting, we are concerned that on-road bicycle accommodation, specifically on northbound San Carlos Blvd., may not be included.

Considering Lee County's policy and efforts to develop a network of complete streets – streets that are designed, built, operated, and maintained for safe and convenient travel for all users - BikeWalkLee urges the Board of County Commissioners to request that LeeTran and its consultant develop options that include on-road bike accommodation on San Carlos Blvd, Estero Blvd, and any other road that might be part of the route.

A bit of information that I believe to be very important in this matter could turn out to be an example of promises that were made but not followed through upon. A number of years ago, not long after McGregor Blvd was widened, I and Louis Rossi, a former Lee County resident, cyclist, and retired NYDOT Safety Officer, met with FDOT representatives Mike Rippe and Sarah Clarke (Sarah was employed by FDOT at the time) to discuss the need for on-road bike accommodation on certain state roads. The problem of motorists speeding on those roads because of a particular design feature was also at issue. Specifically, we asked that roads with 14' outside lanes be reconfigured to include 4' shoulders or bike lanes. State roads with that feature include segments of McGregor Blvd and San Carlos Blvd., among others. Mike agreed that so long as the existing roadway width would allow this reconfiguration FDOT would make the requested change upon the next resurfacing. I've made note of this commitment at various meetings many times with FDOT representatives present and don't recall anyone taking issue with it. Because of this agreement and the policy decision by BoCC to build complete streets we are requesting that a bike lane be included in any trolley plan option.

Finally, because any roads chosen for a dedicated trolley lane would include those that are in the jurisdiction of FDOT, Lee County, and Town of Fort Myers Beach, it seems appropriate that this plan, as it's being developed, be run through the MPO and its various advisory committees.

Sincerely,

Dan Moser
On Behalf of BikeWalkLee

CC: Lee County Commissioners
Karen Hawes, County Manager
Mike Horsting, LeeTran
Johnny Limbaugh, FDOT
Don Scott, Lee County MPO