



March 9, 2015

Lee County Board of Commissioners
2120 SW Main Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Dear Commissioners:

BikeWalkLee wholeheartedly supports the Feb. 12th request by the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) for \$2 million a year for stand-alone bike/ped retrofit projects. (Click here for [BPAC letter to BoCC](#).) We urge you to include this funding level in the upcoming budget and beyond.

As you know, Lee County ranks as one of the most dangerous areas in the country for pedestrians and cyclists. Making our community safer for vulnerable road users is a top priority for agencies and elected officials in Florida, and requires a multi-faceted approach combining education, outreach, enforcement, complete streets, bike/ped master plans, changes in roadway design, and increased funding for bike/ped facilities. One of BWL's priorities for 2015 is for all jurisdictions in Lee County to increase bike/ped funding. Specifically for Lee County, BikeWalkLee is asking County Commissioners to substantially increase funds for stand-alone bike/ped projects (retrofits), to restore funds cut during the recession, and to begin work on the extensive backlog of BPAC-approved and-prioritized projects.

BPAC has done important work on behalf of the Board for years, as it reviews, recommends and prioritizes bike/ped retrofit projects for consideration in each year's CIP budget. Since the Board's adoption of its Complete Streets policy in 2009, the county has made progress in improving the county's bike/ped facilities network, as such facilities are now incorporated into the design of new road projects. However, we have decades of development that did not include bike/ped facilities and must be retrofitted to make our community safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Each year, more community groups and citizens come before BPAC requesting a sidewalk, shared use path, bike lanes or improved crosswalk to make their community safer. The demands keep growing, but the resources keep shrinking. In order to address this growing backlog and meet the demands for safer walking and biking facilities by the citizens of Lee County, increased funding is needed.

With over 85 projects on the list, costing a total of \$68 million, there is serious competition for how the scarce resources are allocated. BPAC uses objective criteria for prioritizing the projects and has taken great care to assure the allocation of resources is equitable throughout Lee County. Because of this careful consideration, BikeWalkLee would like to emphasize the importance of using the priorities

already in place to fund projects if additional funds become available. Attached is the latest BPAC Candidate Projects Prioritized List.

At your March 3rd budget workshop, the Lee DOT Director presented the draft transportation 5-year CIP for the coming year, which recommends \$6.1 million for bike/ped stand-alone projects, with an additional \$3.7 million in the 6-10 year window. This proposal is a good starting point for the Board's consideration. We urge you to fully fund the \$2 million/year request, providing \$10 million for the 5-year window and another \$10 million for the 6-10 year window. The draft CIP adds 4 new projects, meaning that 81 projects remain on the list. We urge you to recommend additional projects from the list to be funded, consistent with BPAC's request.

The \$2 million/year is a modest request, given that the county used to allocate the equivalent to \$3 million/year to these projects (the present value of the 1998 funding level). In 2009, funding was cut in half for these projects due to spending cutbacks during the recession. However, the County has recovered from the recession and it is time to restore this cut and increase its investment in biking and walking facilities.

BikeWalkLee undertook an analysis of the history and trends in funding for these stand-alone projects and was surprised to learn the extent to which the county's investment has declined over time, and how its standing among jurisdictions both within the county and nationally ranks low in terms of per capita investment in these types of projects. ([Click here for BikeWalkLee's report.](#)) We were also surprised to learn that less than 20% of the funds allocated to the BPAC account in the past four years has actually been expended. In addition to increasing the funding for these projects, we urge the board to make completion of these funded projects a higher priority so that the benefits of having bike/ped facilities can be enjoyed by the citizens of our communities. The demand is clear, as was thoroughly reported in last Sunday's News-Press series on bike/ped fatalities. ([Click here for News-Press March 8th feature coverage on biking safety.](#)) In addition, an increased investment in bike/ped safety through better facilities will pay great dividends to the county's residents and visitors.

We urge the Board to fully fund the BPAC request which responds to the community's desire for enhanced walking and biking infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Darla Letourneau
On behalf of
BikeWalkLee

Attachment: Lee County BPAC Candidate Projects for 2015/16-20 CIP Budget Cycle Review (listed by April 2014 BPAC Project Prioritization Criteria Scoring), Oct. 15, 2014

cc: Roger Desjarlais, County Manager
David Loveland, LeeDOT Director
Pete Winton, Budget Director

**LEE COUNTY BPAC CANDIDATE PROJECTS FOR 2015/16-20 CIP BUDGET CYCLE REVIEW
LISTED BY APRIL 2014 BPAC PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA SCORING**

DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2014

PRIORITY	PROJECT NAME	FROM	TO	COMMUNITY	REQUEST	FUNCT	LENGTH	FACILITY	SIDE	COMM	IMP FEE	SCORE	PROJECT COST ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
BPAC	MPO					CLASS	(MILES)	TYPE		DIST	DIST			
	30	Ortiz Avenue	Tice Street	SR 80	Tice	Tice community	0.33	Minor Arterial SUP & BL	both	5	C	64.14	\$244,000	Hold? DES CST CIP20/24, existing SW E side, priority 1b
	30	Ortiz Avenue	Ballard Road	Tice Street	Tice	Tice community	1.24	Minor Arterial SUP & BL	both	5	C	62.54	\$917,000	Hold? DES CST CIP20/24, existing SW E side, priority 1b
	63	ESTERO PARKWAY	US 41	Three Oaks Pkwy	Estero	Estero Community	1.37	Major Collector SUP	both	2/3	SW	60.23	\$868,000	pending community prioritization; exist partial SW; PS both sides
	secondary	Tice Street	Ortiz Avenue	New York Dr/SR 80	Tice	Tice community	0.63	Major Collector SW	E	5	C	55.96	\$333,000	exist SW N side, priority 1a
		Ortiz Avenue	SR 82	Ballard Road	Tice	Tice community	1.03	Minor Arterial SUP & BL	both	5	C	55.34	\$326,000	Hold? 4In DES CST CIP20/24, SW E side, priority 2
	41	CR 867 (MCGREGOR BLVD)	SUMMERLIN RD	SAN CARLOS BLVD/GLADIOLUS DR	Iona	MPO plan high priority gap	2.66	Major Collector BL	both	3	SW	52.05	\$758,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate, exist partial SW S side, N side 0.3 & 2.1 mi gaps
	7	PINE ISLAND ROAD	Stringfellow Rd	Veterans Pkwy	Cape Coral/Pine Island	Pine Island/Matlack	5.47	Minor Arterial SUP	both	1	N	49.34	\$3,463,000	exist PS both sides, regional path network, FDOT PD&E grant application review
		Waverly Avenue	Tice St	SR 80	Tice	Tice community MPO	0.07	Local SW	E	5	C	48.9	\$22,000	SRTS eligible, Partial SW on E side, priority 1a
		SUMMERLIN RD	LAKEWOOD DR	CYPRESS LAKE DR	SFM	Congestion Report	1.1	Minor Arterial SUP	E	2	SW	47.7	\$232,320	exist SUP W side, MPO MM Box funds candidate
	secondary	W MARIANNA AVENUE	Business 41	US 41	NFM	Complete Streets Review	1	Local SW	N	4	N	47	\$981,000	resurfacing in 14/15
		Glenwood Avenue	Ortiz Avenue	Prospect Avenue	Tice	Tice community	0.74	Local Shared Lane	S	5	C	47	\$8,000	exist SW N side, priority 2
		NEW YORK DRIVE	SR 80	Walter Street	Tice	LCS/D/Tice Community MPO plan	0.14	Local SW	TBD	5	C	46.9	\$44,000	SRTS application under review
	87	VETERANS PKWY MISSISSIPPI AVENUE	SW 11TH AVE	SKYLINE BLVD	Cape Coral	Cape Coral priority gap	0.11	Principal Arterial SUP	S	1	N	46.64	\$36,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate, exist SUP N side; SUP & shared SW 25th St S side
			Tice Street	SR 80	Tice	Tice Community	0.07	Local SW	TBD	5	C	45.9	\$22,000	under review
		New York Drive	Glenwood Ave	SR 80	Tice	Tice community	0.25	Local SW	TBD	5	C	45.8	\$79,000	SRTS eligible, Community priority 1a
		Fairfax Drive	Garcia Avenue	Bellair Rd	Tice	Tice community	0.34	Local SW	TBD	5	C	45.8	\$108,000	Community priority 2
		BEN PRATT/6 MILE CYPRESS	S of Winkler ext	Colonial Blvd	Ft. Myers	Complete Streets Review	0.8	Minor Arterial PS	both	2	C	45.57	\$200,000	Resurfacing in 14/15, MPO MM Box funds candidate
		Tice Street	Lexington Ave	Ortiz Avenue	Tice	Tice community	0.57	Major Collector SW	S	5	C	45.04	\$181,000	exist SW N side, priority 2
		Carolina Avenue Prospect Avenue/Palm	Glenwood Avenue	SR 80	Tice	Tice community	0.26	Local Shared Lane	TBD	5	C	45	\$7,000	Community priority 2
		PI/Allan Ave	Woodside Avenue	Birmingham Ave	Tice	Tice community	1	Local SW	TBD	5	C	44.8	\$317,000	RR crossing, priority 2

PRIORITY		PROJECT NAME	FROM	TO	COMMUNITY	REQUEST	FUNCT	LENGTH	FACILITY	SIDE	COMM	IMP FEE	SCORE	PROJECT COST ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
BPAC	MPO						CLASS	(MILES)	TYPE		DIST	DIST			
		Baltimore Avenue	SR 80	Walter Street	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.12	SW	TBD	5	C	42.8	\$38,000	Community priority 2
		Flamingo Circle	SR 80	Fairfax Dr	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.2	SW	TBD	5	C	41.8	\$63,000	Community priority 2
1		COLLEGE PKWY	Summerlin Rd	Winkler Rd	SFM	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.74	SW/BL	both	2	C	41.67	\$6,575,000	resurfacing tentative in 17/18, ROW restriction, CPRG community plan
		Balboa Avenue	Garcia Ave	N of SR 80	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.1	SW	both	5	C	40.8	\$32,000	exist SW both sides 500' gap, priority 2
17	secondary	TICE ST	Lexington Ave	E of I-75	Tice	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	0.64	SW	N	5	C	40.74	\$696,000	coordinate with DO segment to E
2		WINKLER RD	Gladiolus Dr	Cypress Lake Dr	SFM	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	1.75	SW/BL	both	2	SW	40.53	\$8,100,000	2LD reconstruction, MPO 2021-2025
	82	BELL BLVD S	JOEL BLVD	SR 82	Lehigh	MPO plan medium priority gap	Major Collector	4.82	BL	both	5	C	40.41	\$1,377,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate
	97	BUCKINGHAM ROAD TANGLEWOOD PARKWAY/MANC HESTER BOULEVARD	Bird Rd	SR 80	Caloosa hatchee shores	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	1.82	BL	both	5	C	40.38	\$450,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate, resurfacing tentative in 15/16
		LYNNEDA AVENUE	Selby Dr N of Pelham Street entrance	McGregor Blvd Tice Street	SFM	LCSD/residents LCSD/Tice Community	Local	0.75	SW	S	2	C	40.3	\$203,000	exist BL, SRTS application under review by FDOT
		Richmond Avenue	Lexington Ave	SR 80	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.24	SW	TBD	5	C	39.8	\$76,000	Community priority 1b
		NEW YORK DRIVE	Walter Street	Seminole Street	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.05	SW	TBD	5	C	38.8	\$26,000	RR crossing, community priority 2
	61	VETERANS PKWY	SW 3RD PI	SW 2ND AVE	Cape Coral	MPO plan medium priority gap	Principal Arterial	0.3	SUP	both	1	N	38.02	\$187,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate, Parallel shared streets N side, PS both sides
		EDISON LANE	Heronwood Dr	Edison Pkwy	SFM	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.1	SW	W	2	C	37.8	\$32,000	Hold? Coordinate with FSW campus building plans to fill gap
		Alameda Avenue	SR 80	Shaw Blvd N of Del Ray Avenue	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.23	SW	W	5	C	37.8	\$73,000	SRTS eligible, Partial SW on W side, priority 1b
		Kingston Drive (N)	SR 80	Avenue	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.12	SW	both	5	C	37.8	\$38,000	exist SW, gaps both sides, priority 1b
4		PONDELLA RD	Business 41	US 41	NFM	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	0.57	SW	S	4	N	37.21	\$7,365,000	resurfacing tentative, ROW restriction, community plan
		BUCKINGHAM ROAD	Library entrance	SR 80	Caloosa hatchee shores	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.14	SW	E	5	C	36.88	\$70,000	include curb ramps SW corner SR 80 int
		Morse Plaza	SR 80	Shaw Blvd	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.21	SW	E	5	C	36.8	\$67,000	exist SW W side, priority 1b

PRIORITY		PROJECT NAME	FROM	TO	COMMUNITY	REQUEST	FUNCT	LENGTH	FACILITY	SIDE	COMM	IMP FEE	SCORE	PROJECT COST ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
BPAC	MPO						CLASS	(MILES)	TYPE		DIST	DIST			
		Bellair Road	300' S of Flamingo Cir	Flamingo Cir	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.12	SW	both	5	C	36.8	\$38,000	exist SW both sides 600' gap, priority 2
17		TICE ST	E of I-75	Country Lakes Dr	Tice	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	0.27	SW	N	5	C	36.54	\$87,000	active DO responsibility
15	secondary	BROADWAY ST	SR 80	Center St	Alva	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	0.49	SW	TBD	5	N	35.18	\$228,000	exist SW on bridge
		BARRETT ROAD MANCHESTER BOULEVARD	Pondella Rd Tanglewood school	Curve 3/4 mi N of Pondella Rd Tanglewood Pkwy	NFM	CS/BPAC residents	Major Collector	0.47	PS	both	4	N	35.03	\$199,000	resurfacing in 14/15 exist BL, added request to SRTS application
7		HANCOCK BRIDGE PKWY	E of Skyline Dr	Orange Grove Blvd	NFM	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.32	SW	N	4	N	34.84	\$175,000	active DO responsibility
18		HOMESTEAD RD	1/3 mi N of Milwaukee Blvd	Sunrise Blvd	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.81	SW	both	5	C	34.49	\$1,437,000	ROW restriction, Lehigh community plan
		Railroad Ave/Walter St/Lavonne Ave	Royal Palm Park Road	Prospect Ave	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.6	Shared Lane	TBD	5	C	34.4	\$95,000	Community priority 2
	secondary	LEONARD/WESTGATE BLVD	SUNSHINE BLVD	LEE BLVD	Lehigh	MPO Congestion Report	Major Collector	3.35	SW	TBD	5	C	32.76	\$1,061,280	MPO MM Box funds candidate (possible)
		BUCKINGHAM ROAD	S of Portico Blvd	Coral Vine Lane	Caloosa hatchee shores	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.5	SW	E	5	C	31.88	\$200,000	fill gaps N from learning center
		3RD ST W	GICIA path	Park Ave	Boca Grande	Complete Streets Review	local	0.06	SW	N	1	N	31.8	\$25,000	resurfacing in 14/15
	secondary	NORTH RIVER ROAD	Persimmon Ridge Rd	Parkinson Rd	Alva	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	1.2	SUP	TBD	5	N	31.13	\$600,000	
24		WOODARD CT	Beth Stacey Blvd	Broad St E	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.27	SW	N	5	C	30.3	\$72,000	
		Alameda Avenue	Shaw Blvd	N end	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.2	SW	W	5	C	29.8	\$63,000	Community priority 2
17	secondary	TICE ST	Country Lakes Dr	Staley Rd	Tice	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	0.76	SW	N	5	C	29.5	\$710,000	
18		HOMESTEAD RD	1/4 mi S of Milwaukee Blvd	1/3 mi N of Milwaukee Blvd	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.57	SW	both	5	C	29.49	\$1,294,000	ROW restriction, Lehigh community plan
		ALICO ROAD	Quaker Ln	RR xing @ Metro Parkway	San Carlos Park	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.55	SW	N	2	SW	28.84	\$275,000	RR crossing, ROW issues TBD
		Browning Drive	Schneider Drive	Maine Avenue	Tice	Tice community	Local	0.11	SW	TBD	5	C	28.8	\$35,000	Community priority 2

PRIORITY		PROJECT NAME	FROM	TO	COMMUNITY	REQUEST	FUNCT	LENGTH	FACILITY	SIDE	COMM	IMP FEE	SCORE	PROJECT COST ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
BPAC	MPO						CLASS	(MILES)	TYPE		DIST	DIST			
		CAMELOT DRIVE	South Pointe Blvd	McGregor Blvd (SR 876)	SFM	CS/BPAC	Local	0.04	PS	N		2 C	26.5	\$10,800	Connect McGregor Blvd to Paved Shoulder
		ALABAMA RD	SR 82	MILWAUKEE BLVD	Lehigh	CS/BPAC MPO Congestion Report	Minor Arterial	1.88	SW	W		5 C	25.97	\$297,792	MPO MM Box funds candidate
	secondary	PALOMINO LANE	Daniels Pkwy	Penzance Blvd	Daniels	Residents	Major Collector	1.52	SUP	E		2 C	24.73	\$1,625,000	partial road easment, FM interlocal funds, cost includes turn lanes
	secondary	BUCKINGHAM ROAD	River Rd	Bird Rd	Buckingham	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	1.45	BL	both		5 C	23.83	\$350,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate
27		SUNSET RD	Gunnery Rd	Buckingham Rd	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.27	SW	S		5 C	23.8	\$72,000	
		Coral Drive	Maine Avenue	Schneider Drive	Tice	community	Local	0.09	SW	TBD		5 C	23.8	\$29,000	Community priority 2
		Morse Plaza	Shaw Blvd	Coral Dr	Tice	community	Local	0.18	SW	E		5 C	23.8	\$57,000	exist SW W side, priority 2
16	95	JOEL BLVD	Ocean Park Dr	Tuckahoe Rd	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	1.74	SUP	E		5 C	23.54	\$985,000	
		Maine Avenue	Browning Drive	Coral Drive	Tice	community	Local	0.3	SW	TBD		5 C	21.8	\$95,000	Community priority 2
	secondary	NORTH RIVER ROAD	Parkinson Rd	Caloosa Park W boundary	Alva	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	3.1	SUP	TBD		5 N	21.13	\$1,550,000	resurfacing tentative in 14/15
	109	BUCKINGHAM ROAD	Orange River Rd	River Rd	Buckingham	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	0.98	BL	both		5 C	20.63	\$250,000	MPO MM Box funds candidate, resurfacing tentative in 14/15
21		DAVIS DR	McGregor Blvd	Sunrise Dr	SFM	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.5	SW	TBD		2 C	20.5	\$174,000	
	secondary	NORTH RIVER ROAD	Hendry Co line	Persimmon Ridge Rd	Alva	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	2.5	SUP	TBD		5 N	20.14	\$1,250,000	
22		MATTHEWS DR @ SUNRISE DR intersection			SFM	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.05	Acc	TBD		2 C	19.4	\$8,000	curb ramps at intersection
		Schneider Drive/Lake Caloosa Dr	Maine Ave	N end	Tice	community	Local	0.8	SW	TBD		5 C	18.8	\$253,000	Community priority 2
	81	BURNT STORE RD	VAN BUREN PKWY	COUNTY LINE	Cape Coral	MPO plan medium priority gap	Principal Arterial	8.75	SUP	both	1/4	N	15.72	\$5,550,000	Hold? 4In MPO LRTP 2021-30, MPO MM Box funds eligible
18	secondary	HOMESTEAD RD	Jaguar Blvd	1/4 mi S of Milwaukee Blvd	Lehigh San Carlos	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	1.07	SUP	TBD		5 C	15.46	\$665,000	MPO MM Box funds eligible
29		TANGERINE RD	Pineapple Rd	Pomelo Rd	Park	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.06	SW	TBD		2 SW	14.3	\$40,000	

PRIORITY		PROJECT NAME	FROM	TO	COMMUNITY	REQUEST	FUNCT	LENGTH	FACILITY	SIDE	COMM	IMP FEE	SCORE	PROJECT COST ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
BPAC	MPO						CLASS	(MILES)	TYPE		DIST	DIST			
26		38th St	Ruth Ave	Harnes Park Marsh entr	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.1	SW	TBD	5	C	13.6	\$69,000	TBD parks evaluating facility and usage
18	secondary	HOMESTEAD RD	SR 82	Jaguar Blvd	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Minor Arterial	1	SUP	TBD	5	C	13.36	\$534,000	MPO MM Box funds eligible
	secondary	NORTH RIVER ROAD	Caloosa Park	Argo Dr	N Olga	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	3.7	SUP	TBD	5	N	13.27	\$1,850,000	resurfacing tentative in 15/16
	secondary	NORTH RIVER ROAD	Argo Dr	SR 31	N Olga	Complete Streets Review	Major Collector	2.7	SUP	TBD	5	N	12.27	\$1,350,000	
28		PRATHER DR	McGregor Blvd	Adele Ct	SFM	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.06	SW	TBD	2	C	11.5	\$81,000	
25		THOMAS SHERWIN AVE S	Milwaukee Blvd	Theodore Vail St	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.55	Acc	TBD	5	C	9.5	\$5,000	curb ramps at intersection
19		SW 40th St	Sunshine Blvd	Anita Ave	Lehigh	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.95	SW	TBD	5	C	8.9	\$291,000	share the road signs installed
33		ASTORIA AVE	Buckingham Rd	Barkhead St	Buckingham	Complete Streets Review	Local	0.06	SW	E	5	C	4.5	\$48,000	consider with Buckingham Rd greenway
								77.51					\$58,789,192		

LEGEND

PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY PRIORITIZED
ADDED PROJECTS ELIGIBLE THAT MAY MEET FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS FUNDING CRITERIA
ADDED PROJECTS THAT MAY NOT MEET FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS FUNDING CRITERIA
ADDED PROJECTS RECOMMENDED TO GO ON HOLD
PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY PRIORITIZED & CURRENTLY ON HOLD