

DJL DRAFT 9/20/12

BikeWalkLee blog report on Lee County's final transportation budget

Lee County's approved 2013 budget includes 5-year plan for multiple complete streets projects and new bike/ped facilities

By Darla Letourneau

Highlight

On Sept. 19, 2012, the Lee BoCC approved the county budget for 2013 (vote of 4-1), which included the transportation budget. The budget includes significant funds for complete streets projects & bike/ped facilities--\$2.6 million for stand-alone projects in 2013-14 and \$19.4 million over the 5 year period. In addition, ALL the planned road expansions over the next 5 years--\$50 million worth--include plans for bike/ped facilities; and \$8 million of that total will be funded in 2013-14. Kudos to the County for increasing complete streets-related investments. These projects will be constructed over the next five years and BikeWalkLee will keep you up to date as the projects move forward.

Background

Last year, as called for in the BoCC-approved Action Plan to implement the 2009 Complete Streets Resolution, the staff developed a revised transportation planning and budgeting process. This year is the first time that the new approach has been used to develop the 5-year transportation funding plan, reflected in the CIP. The staff is to be commended for its interdepartmental team effort in developing this plan. The transportation CIP, as approved by the BoCC on Sept. 19, 2012, is an improvement over previous years and reflects a first step in implementing the new approach. The staff has done an excellent job of ensuring that all planned road projects include bike/ped facilities in their designs. It is our hope that as the collaborative county staff process evolves, road projects will be evaluated in terms of the broader complete streets and sustainability goals and priorities the county has articulated.

With respect to the exclusively complete streets projects, the CIP does not yet include many of the projects that were recommended by the staff complete streets team, CSAC and BPAC over the past 2 years as part of the review of the resurfacing contracts. There are many excellent projects on this list that need to be costed out, prioritized and added to the 5-year CIP. We hope those projects will be incorporated into next year's transportation CIP.

Highlights of complete streets-related projects

BikeWalklee's two highest priority complete streets projects were included in the approved CIP. First, \$7 million is budgeted over the next 5 years for the Estero Blvd. improvement project on Fort Myers Beach, but the \$39 million needed to complete construction is in the 6-10 year window. With the limited ROW on this narrow barrier island, it is essential that the redesign of this area rely heavily on making it pedestrian/bicycle/transit-friendly.

Second, we supported the Lehigh Community's package of complete streets projects (approximately \$2.1 million), several of which were added to the county's proposed budget. Planning funds for two Lehigh activity centers (\$556,800) were added to the planning department budget. The BOCC provided funding for the community's primary CIP request, pulling \$1.5 million from ad valorem CIP funds to pay for the engineering phase for the reconstruction of the one mile stretch of Homestead Rd. in the Downtown Activity Center in FY 12/13 to be compatible with the recommendations included in the downtown design study. This project is to include both the landscaped median and additional streetscape such as covered swales and road construction improvements. The Lehigh roundabout (Beth Stacey Blvd/Business Way Loop), already in the 2012 budget for \$750,000, will come to the Board soon in a blue sheet for vote on implementing.

BikeWalkLee recommended to the Board that several bike/ped/complete streets projects scheduled for later years to be moved up to next year--specifically, the Fiddlesticks Blvd. shared use path project (\$850 K) and the Heritage Palms shared use path gap on the new 6 Mile Cypress widening project (\$150 k). However, the Board did not approve this request, which would have required a shifting of funds around in the CIP to allow for these projects to be moved up. BikeWalkLee also agreed with the recommendations from both the CSAC and BPAC that the Daniels south side path planned for 2016-17 (added for the first time in this draft CIP) be removed from the CIP and replaced with both committees' first priority--the College Parkway (Summerlin to Winkler) complete streets project, which is an excellent example of complete streets corridor planning. Although no change in the outyears were made at this time, we understand that this adjustment can be made by LeeDOT before next year's CIP is presented.

Attachment: *Lee County's Approved Transportation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): 2013-2018* (detailed project funding list) (as approved by the Board 9/19/12)

Lee County's Approved Transportation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): 2013-2018

Approved by BoCC 9/19/12

Project Type	2012-13 cost	5-yr. total	Bike/Ped Facilities	Comments
Complete proj. under constr.:				
<i>Bonita Beach Rd. phase II</i>	\$ 366K	\$ 366 K	Includes bike/ped	Landscaping--pd. w/ad valorem tax
<i>Colonial/Six Mile to SR 82</i>	\$ 829 K	\$ 829 K		" "
<i>Six Mile widening</i>	\$1,500 K	\$1,500 K		" "
<i>Summerlin/BoyScout</i>	\$ 880 K	\$ 880 K		" "
<i>Matlacha bridge replac.</i>	\$5,661 K	\$5,661 K	Includes bike/ped	
Subtotal:	\$9,236 K	\$9,236K		
Improving Existing Rds/bridges:				
<i>Big Carlos Pass bridge replac.</i>	0	\$8,675 K		
<i>Master bridge proj</i>	\$ 530 K	\$1,210 K		
<i>Daniels resurfacing</i>	\$1,700 K	\$1,700 K	Includes bike lanes	
<i>Road resurf.</i>	\$3,500 K	22,000K		
<i>Roadway beautific.</i>	\$ 100K	\$ 500 K		
<i>Kismet/Littleton realign</i>	0	\$ 850 K	Includes bike/ped	
<i>Fiber Ring (CC toll)</i>	0	\$ 350 K		
<i>Toll interop.</i>	0	\$ 850 K		
<i>Toll system replac.</i>	0	\$1,600 K		
<i>Signal system ATMS upgrade</i>	\$ 750 K	\$3,000 K		
<i>Signal mainten. upgrad</i>	\$ 100K	\$ 500 K		
<i>Master signal proj.</i>	\$1,500 K	\$7,500 K		
<i>Intersec. equip replac.</i>	\$ 250 K	\$ 250 K		
Subtotal:	\$8,430 K	\$49,285 K		
Exclusively Complete St.-related:				
<i>Bike/ped existing facil.</i>	\$472 K	\$3,917 K		
<i>Stringfellow/Oleander paved shoulder</i>	\$ 230K	\$ 230 K		
<i>Villas sidewalks</i>	\$ 190K	\$ 429 K		
<i>Summerlin/N.</i>	\$ 17K	\$ 51 K		

<i>Brentwood ped con.</i>				
<i>Three Oaks/Imperial bike lanes</i>	\$ 52 K	\$ 52 K		
<i>Fiddlesticks Blvd SUP</i>	0	\$ 850 K		
<i>Daniels SUP--S side</i>	0	\$2,200K		
<i>6 Mile SUP gap (Heritage Palms)</i>	0	150K		
<i>Briarcliff/Rippe signaliz.</i>	0	\$ 255 K		
<i>Crystal/Plant. roundabout</i>	\$ 125K	\$ 575 K		
<i>Crystal Dr. reconstruct (2L divided)</i>	0	\$1,100 K		
<i>Estero Blvd. improv (FMB)</i>	0	\$7,000		
<i>Homestead Rd. complete streets project (downtown) (engineering phase)</i>	\$1,500 K	\$1,500 K		Added by BoCC on 9/20/12 at Lehigh community request (from ad valorem CIP funds)
<i>Subtotal:</i>	\$2,586 K	\$19,395 K		
<i>Expanding rd. capacity:</i>				
<i>N. Airport Rd. Extens</i>	\$3,745 K	\$3,745 K	Includes bike/ped	Relieves Colonial traffic
<i>N. Airport Rd. reconstr</i>	500 K	\$2,300 K	Includes bike/ped	CS corridor w/above
<i>Alico Rd./Ben Hill</i>	\$1, 590 K	10,710K	Includes bike/ped	
<i>Bonita Beach Rd. Phase III</i>			Includes bike/ped	\$ only in 6-10 yr. window
<i>Burnt Store Rd. (SR 78 to Van Buren)</i>	\$ 500 K	\$15,140 K	Includes bike/ped	
<i>Three Oaks exten N</i>			Includes bike/ped	\$ only in 6-10 yr. window
<i>Homestead 4L (sunrise/Ala.)</i>	\$1,700 K	\$15,050 K	Includes bike/ped	Connected to Lehigh community plan
<i>Luckett Rd--Ortiz to I-75 (to 4 L)</i>			Includes bike/ped	Purchased ROW already \$ only in 6-10 yr. window
<i>Ortiz 4 L/Colonial to MLK</i>	0	0	Includes bike/ped	\$ only in 6-10 yr. window
<i>Ortiz 4L/Luckett to SR 80</i>	0	0	Includes bike/ped	Connected to Palm Beach community plan ROW purchases

				already
<i>Ortiz 4L/MLK-Luckett</i>	0	0	Includes bike/ped	Purchased ROW already
Subtotal:	\$8,035	\$50,435		

GRAND TOTAL:	\$28,287 K	\$128,351 K		

