



**Lee County**  
**BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



February 12, 2015

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Lee County Board of County Commissioners  
Brian Hamman, Chairman, District 4  
Frank Mann, Vice Chairman, District 5  
John Manning, District 1  
Cecil L Pendergrass, District 2  
Larry Kiker, District 3  
2120 Main Street  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

RE: The BPAC requests additional funding for facility retrofits

Honorable Commissioners;

As you are aware, 2014 has been a deadly year for cyclists and pedestrians in Lee County with 19 deaths within incorporated and unincorporated areas in Lee County, making us one of the highest counties in Florida for fatalities.

One of the BPAC responsibilities is to prioritize and recommend retrofit projects to the BoCC. Currently, we have 85 projects at an estimated cost of about 65 million dollars on our waiting list. Most of these projects were initiated by citizen's requests or by BPAC members to fill gaps in our system. We typically receive about six new requests per year. Currently, we have good projects that have been on our list for over 20 years that have not been scheduled for construction.

With the rate of new requests and our current backlog, it would take well over 50 years to complete the project list. It is disconcerting to citizens who take the time to speak at committee meetings, to find out that by the time the sidewalk they are requesting for their children to walk to school is completed, their children will have already graduated from high school. Bicycle and pedestrian retrofit facilities are funded through gas tax, impact fees and grants.

With recent changes in the LDC and adoption of Complete Streets by the BoCC in 2009, new development and roads are designed and built to include the appropriate bicycle and pedestrian facilities. We have many years of legacy development which were originally built to the standard of the day, but do not meet current construction standards.

Our goal is to be the best bicycle-pedestrian-friendly county in Florida. We respectfully request the BoCC to increase the budget for bicycle and pedestrian retrofits to \$2,000,000 per year. Please consider increasing existing sources and/or research alternative funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities retrofits.

Sincerely,

  
Don Mayne, Chair  
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

cc: Roger Desjarlais, David Loveland