



## Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council Meeting

FDOT Auditorium, Tallahassee  
May 31, 2017 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

<i>Council Member, Organization</i>	<i>Designee (if applicable)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carmen Monroy (Chair), Florida Department of Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Avery, Florida Department of Elder Affairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angeliqye Witmer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Afonso, Florida Bicycle Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betsy Barfield, Florida Association of Counties	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Bacot, Florida Public Transportation Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Elise Batchelor, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Takka D. Fields
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scot Benton, Bicycle House	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Biblo, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennie Leigh Copps
<input type="checkbox"/> Monesia Brown, Walmart	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Samantha Browne, Florida Department of Environmental Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Brunelle, Florida Highway Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Bryan, Rails to Trails Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Amanda Day, Pedestrian Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Herb Hiller, St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Holmes, Transportation Disadvantaged Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerrie Lindsey, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Loewen, Cycling Savvy	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Carl Mikyska, Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmon Payne, Citizen Cycling Advocate	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Perkins, Gulf Winds Track Club	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shamarial Roberson, Florida Department of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ernie Bradley
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Luke Barnhill
<input type="checkbox"/> Tracy Suber, Florida Department of Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Gil Ziffer, Florida League of Cities	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Other Attendees

Sheri Coven, Marlin Engineering; Hans van Tol, Capital City Cyclists.

## FDOT Support Staff

Lora Hollingsworth (FDOT Safety Office); Mary O'Brien (FDOT Roadway Design Office); Samantha Parks (FDOT Office of Policy Planning); Paula San Gregorio (FDOT Office of Policy Planning); Richard Shine (FDOT General Council); Andrea Zang (FDOT Systems Planning Office); Vanessa Christiansen (Cambridge Systematics); Sarah Walker (Cambridge Systematics).

## Meeting Highlights

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Please refer to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council page on the FDOT website, <http://www.FDOTBikePed.org>, for all meeting materials, including agenda, and summary documentation.

### Welcome & Debrief on Cycling Savvy and Site Visit

Carmen Monroy welcomed the Council members and thanked them for their participation. Carmen led the members through introductions, provided an overview of the FDOT test bed site, and debriefed the site visit with the members. Key points from members attending the site visit included:

- The Marlin Engineering team at the Springhill Road office looks at traffic data as it comes in from the field and supports the site.
- To make data driven decisions it is important to evaluate our progress, especially in regards to safety. It was a good opportunity to see the bicycle and pedestrian counters. I'm excited to see FDOT moving forward in this area.
- When choosing which counter to use, context will be a factor. Layering data that has been collected is useful.
- I look forward to mobile applications, to be able to use the data produced as a performance measure.
- Is there a list we can access of FDOT approved applications? If so, is that available to the public?
  - *The products in the test bed site have not been approved but testing will be completed early fall 2017. FDOT will follow the process as it moves along and provide the Council with updates.*
- We started doing counts in March in Pinellas County and are seeing numbers upward of 40,000 users a month. In certain places we are seeing more pedestrians than cyclists, such as by the Veterans Hospital.
- Pinellas County started using some of these counters in spring 2017. It was useful to see proven technology as we've had a lack of data over the years. These tools provide a way to have valid data in order to balance projects in a region; using a valid way to measure and compare the data from different modes.
- As a former transit employee, one can see the value of having data like this to make decisions. In transit agencies the most difficult challenge is a lack of data. The only data available is often

auto centric. This is innovative technology and it's enlightening to see technology changing based on data needs.

- I've always been a champion of infrastructure that provides a way for people to bicycle to work. Hopefully these counters will produce data to encourage this.
- Counters, like we saw at the test site, are great but there are other ways to perform counts that are more affordable, like using the free GoCounter app.
- Counters are good on trails. It would be useful to capture the origin and destination for the cyclists. When will the data be public? This will be useful in many ways including as exhibits for addressing commissions.
- We use the trail counters and while they are not perfect, they provide an adequate picture of use.
- I liked seeing the different technology. I'm interested in how we create cities and communities that accommodate people not just cars. Ultimately as policy makers, we need data to make good decisions. As technology evolves, we continually see how we can provide more data for decisions.
- These counts can be used as a reference for applications like Strava.

### **Florida Bicycle Association Awards**

Becky Afonso announced that the Florida Bicycle Association is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Becky presented two awards from the Florida Bicycle Association, to recognize those who have made contributions to Florida on behalf of bicyclists and pedestrians:

- Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Hans van Tol of the Capital City Cyclists.
- Special Recognition to Kurt Eichin, who passed away last summer, as a legislative proponent for cycling in Florida. His wife Mary accepted on his behalf.

### **Complete Streets Overview**

DeWayne gave an update on the Complete Streets Handbook. The Handbook is being updated to incorporate comments received during the public comment period. Other pertinent materials are being revised accordingly to assist in outreach efforts. To access the slides, visit the Council's [website](#).

Member questions and comments:

- How will we know the context classification?
  - *When a local government makes a change to a road they have to communicate with FDOT for the context classification.*
- There might be other considerations on resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation projects (3R), because of what they are meant to do.

- *The focus is on the right street in the right place which sometimes provides an opportunity to create a right place and sometimes it provides the opportunity for a transition.*
- *There is a hard line between classifications, but even when it changes, there will be a transition section.*
- What are the specific standards for lighting?
  - *We are looking at color temperature and how it affects human health. This will be addressed in the Florida Design Manual (FDM).*
- How are features like fencing on Tennessee Street evaluated?
  - *Each street has to be evaluated according to the context.*
- How do I access the Florida Design Manual? Is it still open for comments?
  - *The closing date for comments will be July 2017. To access visit: <http://www.fdot.gov/roadway/FDM/Default.shtm>*
- Do you have guidance on measurable project outcomes?
  - *There are a series of project level measurements, if planners want to use them, to determine which option is better. This is about tradeoffs so we try to provide planners and designers with measurements to help make the best decisions, especially with balancing the modes. Additionally, there are optional measurements to be used on the project level.*
- For features like a mid-block crossing, does the data show improvement in crashes?
  - *It's too early to tell if the intervention is successful in reducing collision rates. It is too new so it is still up to teams to make decisions on mid-block crossings.*
- When implementing Complete Streets you have to have everyone at the table to have a broad discussion. The concept is about tradeoffs. It's about having the right people at the table so you have the full picture.
  - *Cities in Florida can use Chapter 19 of the [Florida Green Book](#), without the Complete Streets structure, to do this kind of work.*
- We have used this in South Florida to make sure the local governments followed the context classification system. DEO thought this would restrict local governments, but when using a combination of the Florida Green Book's Chapter 19 and context classification this is not the case. We are still trying to communicate this to the local governments.
  - *FDOT decided to leave the arterial, collector, etc. nomenclature system in place to not have unintended consequences but decided to work within this system when drafting the Complete Streets framework.*

## Transportation Choices Study Update

Carmen Monroy provided a status of the work on the Transportation Choices Study. This study will identify recommendations for the implementation of the Florida Transportation Plan goal area for More Transportation Choices. Key points included:

- Cambridge Systematics and Toole Design are researching national, state, and local (MPO) plans and practices related to bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and general transportation choices. Research and recommendations will be available this summer.
- The FTP Implementation Committee met a few weeks ago and the champions for each goal area discussed their ideas for moving forward including a discussion of the Transportation Choices Study. More information on the implementation of the More Transportation Choices goal area can be found on the FTP Implementation Element, posted at: [www.floridatransportationplan.com/implementation](http://www.floridatransportationplan.com/implementation).

No member questions or comments.

## Roundtable

Carmen Monroy provided the Council with a reminder to register and attend TransPlex on August 8-10, in Ponte Vedra. For more information and to register: [TransPlex/Focus on Community Registration](#).

Carmen asked the Council members to provide an update or any relevant information related to their agency/organization.

### Florida Highway Administration, Karen Brunnelle

Key points:

- The federal budget proposal is out. Congress will review and a final budget will be available at a later time.
- Several research programs are in the works, like the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP). FDOT has been involved in this program, in the safety data efforts and has been awarded \$250,000 dollars for additional research on safety at signalized intersections.

### Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (R2T), Ken Bryan

Key points:

- R2T has free counting applications available in a continuing effort to offer tools comparable to those used for motor vehicles, in order to justify bicycle and pedestrian counting measures. These applications are available on our website and are multifunctional (including functionality for volunteer management). Website traffic is high and we are aiming for higher. We have a partnership with Google for integration with trails through [Trail Link](#).
  - Are these tools for off-road or on-road trails?

- *Predominately off-road; any type of trail, connector trails are listed.*
- I use your tools, in particular, the Google Trail Link. Is there anything that connects bike share stations to [Trail Link](#)? If this information is available, others could use it who don't have access to bicycles.
  - *Not at this time. While some bicycle share models are solving problems, others are creating them (Bike share in China example).*

Florida Association of Counties, Betsy Barfield

Key points:

- Rumble strips installations and raised pavement markers (RPM) have been useful but disruptive. Jefferson County has a test strip from Jefferson to Baum Rd to analyze the best technology to use. Feedback from FDOT on that would be appreciated. Working with District liaison, Suzanne Lex, on these efforts.
- Capital City Trail funding is almost finished and we need to decide where the next trail will be and where the next pot of funding will go.
- We would like to prioritize SUNTrail as there are very few trail that go through North Florida from east to west. These trails could be used for economic development in small towns.
  - *Mary O'Brien will connect to help advance these efforts.*

Bicycle House, Scott Benton

Key points:

- Would like to create a Bicycle House in Jefferson County to provide bicycles to individuals who need them and for a safe place for cyclists touring through the area. Would like to continue to work with the community to find ways to further the cycling lifestyle.
- Bicycle House provides a space for cycle tourists. 300 cyclists touring through Tallahassee staying at Bicycle House.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Samantha Browne

Key points:

- DEP is undergoing a greenways and trails system update, an opportunity corridors system update, and accompanying text update. DEP received input from agency partners for the last update and will be reaching out for input again. DEP is working to identify and create a trail at the Old Spanish Trail, Highway 90.
- We are also working on developing a Trail Towns program in Florida. This program would provide bicycle friendly cities and towns when cycle tourists come through and to tie it with existing programs for integration.

- *We are working on a Florida specific designation.*
- *This is an opportunity for places to become more bicycle-friendly. Everybody just revels about the paved shoulders in Florida. If you're a motorist and you pull into the bicycle lane, the RPM activates and the perceived safety from this interaction prompts individuals to try cycling.*
- Was the River of Grass Greenway moved?
  - *It was removed because there were stakeholders not involved in the decision-making process, we need to have adequate public involvement processes for these projects.*
- Are you working with Herb Hiller?
  - *Yes and he will be in attendance for the June 14-15 council meeting.*

Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Adam Biblo

Key points:

- For the past five years, DEO has provided Technical Assistance Planning Grants. In 2016, we had about 46 funded from about 150 applications. We are looking for planning documents that will be used and have some transferability. 2017 is the first year we have been able to articulate criteria. Several different options for projects can be submitted including transportation corridors, comprehensive plans, economic diversification strategy related to tourism, recreation plan, and others.

Department of Health (DOH), Ernie Bradley

Key points:

- DOH recently completed a pilot of Active Transportation week, in Tallahassee, to promote active transit as a viable form of transportation. We worked with Commissioner Gil Ziffer on 'Take a Trip on Transit Day' and had a walkability community assessment in Historic Frenchtown to bring together elected officials and community members. We are looking to expand the program statewide in 2018.
- We are currently in the process of revamping Healthy Weight Community Champions so we are looking to create more policy-oriented partnerships. We will send out our criteria to the Council for feedback, as an interagency effort.
- We are looking at ways to promote partner's programs, recognitions, and relevant information to show the linkage between DOH and partners.
  - *The BPPC website could be used to link opportunities from other agencies.*

Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), Jerrie Lindsey

Key points:

- We are conducting a study on engagement with nature, looking at Americans engagement in the natural world as an important component of physical and mental health. Time outdoors needs to be a habit, it binds families together and is needed for happiness within the built environment. We need to remove barriers that make it difficult.
- We will be having a workshop with researchers soon. If you are interested in attending contact Jerrie. More information available online: <https://natureofamericans.org/>

Florida Bicycle Association, Becky Afonso

Key Points:

- The 'Safety' baton made the rounds throughout the state for Florida Bicycle Month. It will be the headline in the newsletter this summer and be featured on the website. We will also host workshops later this year. For more information on any of these, visit: <http://floridabicycle.org/>
- No new bills on cyclists and pedestrians during this past legislative session. Next session begins early in 2018.

#### **Public comment**

No public comments were offered.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Action items**

- Send out link for Complete Streets webpage for review:  
<http://www.fdot.gov/roadway/csi/default.shtm>
- Commissioner Gil Ziffer offered to host the next Council meeting in Myers Park. Stay tuned for further details.

Council members will forward relevant information from the Roundtable to Carmen Monroy or Samantha Parks, who will disseminate to the Council or include on the Council's [website](#).