

**MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Town Hall
2525 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Goggin.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mike Childs, Ron Fleming, John Goggin, Tom Gressman (left early), Heidi Jungwirth, Jim Knickle and Ed Scott.
Staff: Public Works Manager Chelsea O'Riley.
Council Liaison: Bruce Butcher.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 17, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Gressman moved to approve the minutes; second by Ms. Jungwirth.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. REORGANIZATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

MOTION: Ms. Jungwirth nominated John Goggin for chair; second by Mr. Fleming.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Fleming nominated Tom Gressman for vice-chair; second by Ms. Jungwirth.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. BEACH ALTERNATIVE 5 AT ESTERO BOULEVARD

Chair Goggin explained why they were reviewing the Lee County Alternative 5R plan for the base of the bridge. Town Manager Hernstadt noted that the 5R plan was the County's attempt to combine the Seafarers Alternative and the Town's Alternative 5 design. He recommended that they work off one of the plans rather than bounce between the three.

Chair Goggin questioned why there was a right turn off Estero onto Fifth Street. He would look at making it a one-way street off the Island. He questioned why they would install sidewalks on the South end of the bridge. Town Manager stated that Lee County was going to cantilever a sidewalk off the bridge in all three plans. He remarked that they wanted to look at one continuous lane off the island. He suggested that they focus on moving vehicles and pedestrians as efficiently

as possible. Chair Goggin questioned whether other decisions had been made that PSC should be aware of before moving forward. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that the County was governed by the traffic manual. Chair Goggin questioned whether they proposed to install overhead lights at the intersection to change traffic patterns. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that there would be a traffic signal of some type at the base of the bridge. Chair Goggin questioned whether the County would maintain the green space. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that there were options available.

Mr. Gressman questioned the purpose of the light at the foot of the bridge in the southbound lane. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that they would have to install a signal if the crosswalk remained, but he noted that it could be green 99% of the time. Mr. Gressman questioned why they removed the southbound bike lane. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that he would not focus on the yellow comments by the County until after they were done reviewing the plans.

Mr. Fleming appreciated the shrubs to help deter jaywalking, but he questioned maintenance responsibilities. He questioned whether they needed the current bus stop in Times Square if they were going to build a new one close to the existing stop. He questioned the need for multiple traffic signals within a small area.

Mr. Scott discussed installing a left turn lane onto Fifth to allow people on the island. He noted that they could not synchronize pedestrians.

Mr. Knickle supported eliminating the bus stop at Times Square; he preferred one by Crescent St. where the road was straighter. He felt there were too many crosswalks in the main intersection in the 5R version. He agreed with creating a left-hand turn lane onto Fifth St. for access to Margaritaville. Town Manager Hernstadt indicated that Margaritaville would not have a surplus of onsite parking.

Mr. Childs suggested adding the Margaritaville entrance to the maps.

Ms. Jungwirth questioned a roundabout at the base. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that it could be another alternative, although roundabouts were used to calm traffic, not to expedite the flow of traffic. He stated that it depended on priorities.

Chair Goggin stated that they would work off Alternative 5.

Mr. Gressman noted it had fewer crosswalks and did not have one at the base of the bridge going onto the island. He supported the crosswalk going north on Estero because it was mid-block rather than at the corner. He noted there were no bicycle sharrows (shared lane markings) at the intersection. He preferred shrubbery in the medians.

Mr. Fleming questioned the light controlling traffic instead of a person. He agreed that shrubbery would help with the flow of pedestrians.

Mr. Scott reiterated his idea for Fifth St. and Ms. Jungwirth restated her support for a roundabout. She also agreed with including a bike lane.

Mr. Knickle questioned whether a roundabout would help. He noted that all the crosswalks on one of the plans would slow everything down. He expressed interest in seeing what a roundabout would look like. He supported moving the crosswalk further down Estero.

Mr. Childs supported shrubbery, but he questioned public safety. He mentioned installing a decorative fence to keep pedestrians and bicyclists visible. He questioned whether an officer would still direct traffic at the intersection. He noted that if an officer was not going to direct traffic, they could not have a button on the traffic signal; otherwise, pedestrians could impede traffic flow.

Chair Goggin would like to remove the sidewalk on the bay side of Estero at the tram stop and around the bend to eliminate a crosswalk. He suggested adding railings around Estero towards

north Estero and around the Sandal Shop to prevent people from crossing. They would cross at Crescent to the Gulf side and walk to Times Square. In the event someone had to go back home to get something they forgot, they could make a left-hand turn on North San Carlos, go down to Third St., turn around and come back up on Crescent St. at the light. He stated they could make it a one-way street off the island. If they put a barrier at the foot of the sidewalk on the south side of the bridge and move them to mid-block on Fifth St. and add a crosswalk, pedestrians would be taken out of the busy intersection. He agreed that both tram stops needed to pull off and the trolley stop shelter at Times Square should be moved to Crescent St.

Manager O'Riley summarized pros and cons of Alternative 5. There was no support for RRFBs. Mr. Childs suggested that they move the crosswalk on Estero and Crescent to the south side of Crescent due to visibility issues. Chair Goggin mentioned that the traffic light and crossover might dictate the intersection, but he would add it to the list.

Chair Goggin commented that Manager O'Riley would send comments to members for their input. Mr. Gressman stated that he had to leave the meeting. He noted that FDOT and Lee County did not agree concerning driver fatigue and RRFBs. Chair Goggin suggested adding an agenda item to include Mr. Gressman's summary of the MPO meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Fort Myers Beach Fire Marshall Ron Martin suggested that they consider installing an Opticom system that equipped various agency vehicles with the ability to control the signals to allow emergency vehicles to move through the intersection safely.

VIII. LIGHTING STUDY PRESENTATION BY CPWG (BEGIN AT 3:00 PM)

David Green, consultant for CPWG, utilized PowerPoint to present the data, but the slides were not shown on the video. Mr. Green described the criteria used in the analysis, FDOT standards and green book, sampling methods, test points, light level variances, obstacles to lighting, eye confusion, old style light sources, maximum and minimum ratios and uniformity in ratios (4:1). Mr. Green stated that they provided three plans and alternatives for implementation. Manager O'Riley commented that Council approved using LED lights on all Town-owned and maintained side streets. Mr. Green recommended that the entire corridor from Crescent Beach Park to Estrellita Blvd. be re-illuminated with standardized LED fixtures and replace 113 fixtures and supplement them with 87 additional fixtures. He discussed dark skies compliance, turtle light compliance, lighting alternatives, funding options, maintenance and up-front costs.

Mr. Childs questioned whether the LED lights cascaded together. Mr. Green replied affirmatively and directed him to Attachment 3 in the presentation information. He indicated that the new lights would not be turned off and were adjustable by FP&L for turtle season. Mr. Green noted that they proposed that the new lights that were not replacement lights would be installed on existing poles. At the time of the report, 83 poles were in place and 4 were still being shifted around. He noted that all lights were installed at 30 feet.

Council Member Butcher questioned whether pedestrians would be visible in the crosswalks. Mr. Green replied that an even light throughout the corridor would create more of a safety situation. He noted that aiming the light directly at pedestrians would create a hot spot.

Chair Goggin brought up supplemental lighting at some crosswalks. Mr. Green replied that the County was addressing supplemental lighting. Chair Goggin clarified that constant lighting in crosswalks helped to prevent hot spots and was easier on the eyes.

Chair Goggin questioned the total cost. Mr. Green replied that Page 17 and the lighting justification in Attachment 4 contained relevant information. Council Member Butcher questioned the timeline. Manager O'Riley replied that it took FP&L approximately three months to install about 200 lights on the side streets.

Chair Goggin suggested that everyone send comments on the report to Manager O'Riley and she will combine comments/questions. Council would review their questions/comments and provide answers if appropriate. PSC will vote on a recommended course of action. Manager O'Riley will copy and distribute Mr. Green's presentation.

IX. MEMBER'S ITEMS

Mr. Fleming suggested that they look into training on the Sunshine Law. He noted that a four-hour class was available online. Chair Goggin suggested bringing it up to Council.

Ms. Jungwirth questioned whether a larger sign concerning the bike lane would be installed at Red Coconut. Manager O'Riley forwarded the response from Lee County.

Chair Goggin questioned Manager O'Riley concerning putting markings on shared sidewalks. She will follow up.

Manager O'Riley emailed the 60% plan for sidewalks downtown and she was setting meetings with impacted business owners.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joanne Shamp, resident, questioned state and County lighting requirements and questioned why the Town would pay for County lights. Mr. Green replied that the green book was the lighting standard, but there was no requirement for lighting at all. Manager O'Riley will speak with Eric from the County regarding what they will pay.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA – TBD

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Jungwirth moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Knickle.

VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Adopted 2-18-20 with/without changes. Motion by GOGGIN
(DATE)

Vote: _____ Signature: 

• End of document