

LACPC

June 23, 2005

Meeting Minutes

Roads, Transportation, Sidewalks, Infrastructure Committee

7:10 PM (Approx) Meeting convened

Present At Meeting: Charles W. DiFelice - Chairman

Robert Andersen

Linda Carter

Gary Maier – Lee County Health Department

Willard Baker – Co Chairman

Jim Fleming

Items Discussed at Meeting

- 1) The proposed North South Corridor Along Sunshine Blvd from State Road 80 to Alico Road Extension (N Mallard Road), was discussed. Sunshine Blvd and Green Meadow Road would be the North South Corridor connecting State Road 80 and Alico Road. The group expressed the need for this road and the Consensus was not whether this road is needed, but how essential it is. This important road would help alleviate some of the traffic congestion on Lee Blvd, Colonial Blvd and State Road 82. It would also provide a needed hurricane evacuation route
- 2) The group discussed the FGUA planned expansion. They are planning three areas of expansion at considerable expense. The exact costs for effected homes that will be assessed have not been finalized as bids are not in. Robert Anderson mentioned the costs are expected to be around \$13,000.00 for a home to hook up to water and sewer. DiFelice mentioned he had initially proposed to try to get Lee County Utilities to take the infrastructure over. DiFelice reiterated that Lee County Utilities is a well managed organization which is being run efficiently. DiFelice also mentioned any projects that Lee County Utilities may have to bond, would benefit from the excellent credit Lee

County Government has. The group agreed they should try to attend seminars being put on by FGUA.

- 3) Chuck Hodde or Charles Quindry were not present at the meeting. Chuck and Charles are looking into Lee Tran and other public transportation needs. It was discussed how Lee Tran Director present at the May meeting admitted services are at 1995 levels. Services to Lehigh had been cut in 2000 and never restored. Important areas of service being looked at are the need for the restoration of the early morning express routes to the Fort Myers downtown area, along with afternoon express trips from downtown Ft Myers to Lehigh. This express route assisted many people working downtown and were filled when in service.

The need for transportation busses or trolley's in Lehigh providing continuous service to residents especially with our aged population, should be looked into.

- 4) Willard Baker gave an update on the sidewalks and bike paths being proposed and constructed by Lee County. Having Willard on this county committee is a real asset for our community and this groups planning process. Willard also informed the group on how the new Lehigh High School located at the old K-Mart will not have side walks. Willard stated the school board stated they would not put in side walks. Several people present at the meeting had concerns over the school boards decision not to build sidewalks in this area.
- 5) Several members of the group expressed concerns over land zoned AG-2 being rezoned to RPD for residential development. The group consensus on this issue was that any such rezoning should be deferred by the Board of County Commissioner until after the planning process is complete or there will be no room left to fulfill the commercial needs of the community in the future.

Meeting ended at approx 8:30PM

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