



BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING AGENDA

March 18, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.
310 Court Street, 1st Floor Conf. Room
Clearwater, FL 33756

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS** (8:30 – 8:35)
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *Please limit comments to 3 minutes* (8:35 – 8:40)
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 25, 2019** (8:35 – 8:40)
4. **FORWARD PINELLAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – March 13, 2019** (8:40 – 8:45)
5. **102nd AVENUE N/BRYAN DAIRY ROAD/CR 296 BICYCLE LANES** (8:45 – 9:00)
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS** (9:00 – 9:15)
7. **ADVANTAGE PINELLAS BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN** (9:15 – 9:40)
8. **SPOTlight EMPHASIS AREAS UPDATE** (9:40 – 9:45)
 - A Vision for U.S. Highway 19 Corridor
 - Gateway Area Master Plan
 - Enhancing Beach Community Access
9. **BPAC BUSINESS** (9:45 – 10:00)
 - A. Pinellas Trail User Survey 2019
 - B. Bike Your City 2019 – Largo
 - C. Florida Bicycle Association (FBA)
 - D. Pinellas Trails, Inc.
10. **AGENCY REPORTS** (10:00 – 10:10)
11. **OTHER BUSINESS** (10:10 – 10:30)
 - A. Membership
 - B. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest
 - C. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics
 - D. Other
12. **ADJOURNMENT** (10:30)

NEXT BPAC MEETING – APRIL 15, 2019

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Suite 300, Clearwater, Florida 33756; [(727) 464-4062 (V/TDD)] at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Appeals: Certain public meetings result in actions taken by the public board, commission or agency that may be appealed; in such case persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at a public meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – March 18, 2019



3. Approval of Minutes

SUMMARY

The meeting summary for the February 25, 2019 meeting is attached for review and approval.

ATTACHMENT(S): BPAC Meeting Summary – February 25, 2019

ACTION: Approval of Meeting Summary

**FORWARD PINELLAS
BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

The following is a summary of the Forward Pinellas Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) held on February 25, 2019, in the Pinellas County Planning Department Conference Room, First Floor, 310 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

BPAC Members Present

Brian Smith, Chairman	At Large Citizen Representative
Daniel Alejandro	Largo Citizen Representative
Julie Bond	CUTR
Dr. Lynn Bosco	At Large Citizen Representative
Stephanie Carrier	Pinellas County School System Representative
Kimberly Cooper	St. Petersburg Citizen Representative
Lucas Cruse	St. Petersburg Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator
Scott Daniels	Pinellas Trails, Inc.
Win Dermody	Clearwater Citizen Representative
Lyle Fowler	PC Parks & Conservation Resources (PCR)
Ric Hartman	City of Clearwater
Gina Harvey	Pinellas County Public Works – Traffic (Alt.)
Chip Haynes	Clearwater Citizen Representative
Byron Hall	Pinellas Park Citizen Representative
Edward Hawkes	At Large Citizen Representative
Charlie Johnson	St. Petersburg Citizen Representative
Steve Lasky	At Large Citizen Representative
Charles Martin	Dunedin Citizen Representative
Mike Milvain	St. Petersburg Citizen Representative
Ron Rasmussen	Pinellas Park Citizen Representative
Annette Sala	At Large Citizen Representative
Michael Siebel	At Large Citizen Representative
Bert Valery	North Beaches Citizen Representative
Georgia Wildrick	Largo Citizen Representative

BPAC Members Absent

Becky Afonso, Vice Chair	North County Citizen Representative, Oldsmar
Felicia Donnelly	City of Oldsmar
David Feller	North County Citizen Representative, Oldsmar
Deputy Eric Gibson	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Alan Johnson	South Beaches Citizen Representative
Paul Kurtz	At Large Citizen Representative
Jacob Labutka	PSTA
Katrina Lunan-Gordon	City of Largo
Dr. Jan Hirschfield	Pinellas Trails, Inc.
Rachelle Webb	Safe Routes to School
Jim Wedlake	Seminole Citizen Representative
Robert Yunk	At Large Citizen Representative

Others Present

Alex Henry	FDOT
Sharisse Kenney	HDR
Jamie Krzeminski	HDR
Stefanie McQueen	HDR
Casey Morse	Pinellas County Public Works – Traffic
Diane Friel	City of Largo
Bob Henion	Citizen of Dunedin
Diane Flagg	IRB Resident City Council Candidate
Whit Blanton	Forward Pinellas Executive Director
Jared Austin	Forward Pinellas Staff

Rodney Chatman
Susan Miller
Maria Kelly

Forward Pinellas Staff
Forward Pinellas Staff
Forward Pinellas Staff

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Brian Smith, At Large Citizen Representative, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and the attendees introduced themselves.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The summary from January 28, 2019 BPAC meeting was approved as provided with no corrections.

4. FORWARD PINELLAS ACTIONS

Mr. Rodney Chatman, Forward Pinellas Planning Division Manager, reviewed the highlights from the Forward Pinellas Board February 13, 2019 meeting. The Board received a presentation on the Alternate US 19 Corridor Study from Florida Department Transportation (FDOT) and the project consultant. The board members' subsequent discussion focused on the Downtown Dunedin and Curlew Road alternatives. The Board also approved a legislative policy statement drafted by the legislative committee of the board to include language on stopping distracted driving and changes to current legislative bills which would regulate the use of e-scooters and allow more local flexibility in regulation. The Board approve the safety performance measures and target for 2019 and emphasized the need for education and innovative thinking to get the public involved in safety efforts. Information was shared regarding follow-up activities from January's Transportation Funding Workshop and the Board of County Commissioners is looking to hold a funding workshop later this year.

5. BIKE YOUR CITY 2019

Ms. Susan Miller, Forward Pinellas staff, addressed the committee regarding this year's third annual Bike Your City event, being held in conjunction with Florida Bike Month. This year's event will be hosted by the City of Largo on March 8th, which is also Bike to Work Day. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at Largo Central Park, with a "meet and greet" and light refreshments, followed by the 8 mile ride through the City of Largo, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Discussion followed where questions were taken and appropriately answered.

6. ADVANTAGE PINELLAS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Chatman addressed the committee regarding the new Bicycle / Pedestrian Master Plan for Pinellas County currently being developed in conjunction with the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). HDR, Inc. has been engaged as the consultant putting together the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan. The focus is to put together a prioritized set of projects that are feasibly constructed over an eight to ten year period. At this time, Mr. Chatman introduced Jamie Krzeminski and Stefanie McQueen with HDR, Inc. HDR has begun collecting information and data regarding key destinations, existing and planned facilities and preliminary information on the Level of Traffic Stress experienced by bicyclists in Pinellas County. In beginning the public involvement phase, HDR, Inc. has unveiled an online mapping tool to gather citizen bike/ped travel common destinations, places of interest and comments, for the Active Transportation Plan. The BPAC and the TCC will receive a live demonstration of the online mapping tool and be asked to provide direct input and to coordinate with our municipal partners for their input. Mr. Jared Austin, Forward Pinellas staff, conducted the learning session for this new online mapping tool to ensure members that their comments and suggestions would be included in the Active Transportation Plan. Follow up and available statistics will be shared at the next meeting. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

7. PINELLAS COUNTY TRAIL MOT POLICY

Ms. Gina Harvey, Pinellas County Public Works Transportation, addressed the committee regarding their request that standards be developed to provide bicyclists and trail users adequate safe passage around all roadway and other types of infrastructure construction projects. Currently, there are no set policies on Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) for bike lanes and side-paths or trails. In their commitment to safety and consistency across Pinellas County, the County's Public Works Department is in the process of developing a policy that will require the identification and MOT for all transportation facility closures affecting all modes of transportation. This includes private contractors providing the same, that are hired for construction jobs at or near the trails. Public Works has brought the draft of Public Works Maintenance of Traffic for Pinellas Trail Loop and Network to the BPAC for review and comments. This draft will also go before the TCC for the city's Transportation Engineering staff comments and review. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

8. PINELLAS TRAIL AUTOMATIC COUNTER SUMMARY FOR 2018

Ms. Miller addressed the committee regarding trail counter data collected through 2018. Trail counters provide essential data used to summarize trail usage by bicyclists and pedestrians. This information is used in various ways from planning processes to evidence of economic growth. In 2013, three trail counters were installed along the trail to more accurately count trail user trips and to distinguish between user modes (pedestrians or bicyclists). In 2016, additional funding became available, and Forward Pinellas was able to procure five additional counters and install them at intervals that complemented the previous installations. The 2018 Year End Summary included in the agenda packet shows the total user trips at the different stations, monthly usage, user mode and weekday vs weekend profiles. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

9. SPOTLIGHT EMPHASIS AREAS UPDATE

Mr. Chatman provided a brief update on SPOTlight areas. With regards to the Vision for US Highway 19 Corridor, there is an Open House for the 34th Street S. lane repurposing project being done by the City of St. Petersburg and FDOT, scheduled on March 4th at 6:00 pm at the St. Pete College All State Center. The corridor being reviewed is 34th Street S. and 22nd Avenue to 54th Avenue S. With regards to Enhancing Beach Access, staff met with Indian Rocks Beach City Commission on February 12th for a work session on the Gulf Boulevard safety enhancements. The City Commission will have another session in April and that information will be brought to the BPAC.

10. BPAC BUSINESS

A. Florida Bicycle Association (FBA)

Vice-Chair Becky Afonso, was unable to attend. No update was given.

B. Pinellas Trails Inc.

Mr. Scott Daniels, Pinellas Trails, Inc., shared an update with the committee. The annual Auxiliary Ranger Appreciation picnic and spring meeting will be held at Taylor Park in Largo on March 9, 2019 at 11:00 am. Please Save the Date of Saturday, December 5, 2020, as this is the 30th Anniversary for the Pinellas Trail. Pinellas Trails Inc., will be looking for volunteers and sponsors over the next year for a very large celebration.

11. AGENCY REPORTS

• Pinellas Trail Loop/Duke Energy Trail (North & South Gaps)

Ms. Harvey updated the committee announcing that the Orange Street overpass is complete and being used. The North section of the Pinellas Trail Loop from Sunset Point Road to Northeast Coachman should begin construction in June 2019. Sixty percent plans are in for the section of Enterprise Road to John Chesnut Sr. Park and anticipated to be under construction sometime this year.

• Clearwater Bicycle Pedestrian Program

Mr. Ric Hartman, City of Clearwater, updated the committee on the Druid Trail and thanked Public Works for their meeting with HOA's sharing the positive side of the trail. The utility poles are coming down along the Druid Trail and construction is moving along with hopes to be completed by March. The City of Clearwater is working on updating its bicycle/pedestrian master plan.

• Largo Bicycle Pedestrian Program

Ms. Diane Friel, City of Largo was unable to stay, due to illness. No update given.

• St. Petersburg Bicycle Pedestrian Program

Mr. Lucas Cruse, St. Petersburg Transportation, provided a brief update on the Complete Streets Implementation Plan. The draft document is nearly completed and should be ready for committee review at www.stpete.org/completestreets. Plans for U.S. 19 S. include a lane reallocation in the southern section. The City is looking to add both wide sidewalks and trails on both sides and right turns, with better pedestrian crossings. The Central Avenue BRT is in full design to connect downtown to the beaches. Currently, door to door outreach is being done to get public opinion about station platforms, pedestrian access, lane configurations and bike lanes vs parking on both sides. Bike lanes are coming off 1st Avenue, and west of 34th Street, bike lanes will be added to Central Avenue. Several other lane repurposing projects continuing in coordination with the County.

• FDOT District 7 Updates

Mr. Alex Henry, FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator, shared an update for FDOT projects. The Starkey Gap Trail as it connects to the Coast to Coast is under construction with a mid-July completion date. The Howard Frankland Bridge Replacement Project should be going out for bid.

- **Pinellas Trail Security Task Force (PTSTF)**

The next meeting will be held on April 9, 2019.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Membership

There were no comments regarding this item.

B. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest

There were no comments regarding this item.

C. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

There were no suggestions offered at this time.

C. Other

Mr. Daniel Alejandro wanted to recognize Barry Westmark, Robert Hatton and Megan Dion with the City of Largo, as well as Joan Rice and Gina Harvey with Pinellas County Public Works Traffic, for their work on the traffic signal at the intersection of Highland and Rosery. Ms. Kimberly Cooper wanted to recognize Julie Bond with CUTR for her work on educating the public for bike/pedestrian safety. Her website is www.bikewalktampabay.org.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am. The next BPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2019.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – March 18, 2019

4. Forward Pinellas Executive Summary – March 13, 2019



SUMMARY

The March 13, 2019 Executive Summary will be provided for your information. A staff member will review actions taken by the Forward Pinellas Board at that meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S): Executive Summary for March 13, 2019 – to be distributed at the meeting.

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – March 18, 2019

5. 102nd Avenue N / Bryan Dairy Road / CR 296 Bicycle Lanes



SUMMARY

County Road 296 has a few different names as it provides an additional east-west corridor across Pinellas County. From the west, 102nd Avenue connects to Walsingham Park, to the Pinellas Trail, and continues eastward as Bryan Dairy Road and then 118th Avenue. Long awaited road construction has linked this roadway to Roosevelt Boulevard and I-275.

102nd Avenue / Bryan Dairy Road / CR 296 was recently resurfaced between Seminole Blvd / Alt US 19 and 66th St N. Portions of bicycle lanes were striped along the corridor. The County is requesting BPAC review and recommendations for several locations:

- Installation of “Bike Lane” signs, “Begin Right Turn Lane Yield to Bikes” signs and bicycle lane pavement markings throughout corridor
- Westbound 102nd Avenue east of Seminole Blvd at right turn lane
- Eastbound 102nd Avenue west of 97th St N bollards blocking bicycle lane
- Westbound 102nd Avenue east of 97th St N bicycle lane right of the right turn lane
- Bridge west of 109th Ave N no bicycle lanes
- Westbound east of 69th St N merging of bike lane to left of right turn lane

County staff will present a PowerPoint presentation with photos and aerials of proposed changes for the BPAC to consider.

ATTACHMENTS: None

ACTION: BPAC to Provide Comments on Bicycle Lane Plans

6. Public Participation Plan Amendments

SUMMARY

As meaningful citizen participation is essential to the effective implementation of a publicly funded plan or project, the Forward Pinellas Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a core element of the agency's planning program. Moreover, as the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Forward Pinellas is federally required to administer a public involvement plan.

The PPP guides Forward Pinellas' public involvement activities, practices and procedures and sets forth objectives and strategies aimed at educating and engaging citizens in the development of its transportation plans and programs. The Plan is reviewed and amended occasionally to reflect or initiate changes in the program resulting from periodic evaluations, federal certification recommendations and procedural adjustments.

The PPP was most recently amended in December, 2017. Attached is a strike through underline version of the PPP with proposed amendments responding to the recent update of the Forward Pinellas Title VI Plan and changes associated with adjustments to various outreach strategies in Appendix A. Additional revisions are included in the narrative sections of the Plan for clarification purposes. Allowing for a 45-day public comment period, as called for in the PPP, the proposed amendments are scheduled for Board action at their May meeting.

ATTACHMENT: http://forwardpinellas.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PPP2017_amds_0219.pdf

ACTION: Approve proposed PPP amendments

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – March 18, 2019

7. Advantage Pinellas Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Visioning



SUMMARY

The Forward Pinellas Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan is in the process of being updated, revised and repackaged as the Advantage Pinellas Active Transportation Plan. It is being developed in conjunction with the Forward Pinellas Advantage Pinellas Long Range Transportation Plan. HDR, Inc. has been compiling data from a variety of resources, including the County's Crash Data Management System, existing and proposed bicycle facilities, and socioeconomic equity.

Staff worked closely with county programmers to develop the Bicycle Pedestrian Mater Plan Data Viewer, an online mapping tool. The Data Viewer includes maps with the locations of bicycle pedestrian crashes from 2013 to 2017, the locations of activity centers and cultural facilities, and the equity analysis. Existing and proposed bicycle lanes are also included, as are sidewalks and the Pinellas Trail Loop. The Crowd Sourcing Tool that was demonstrated to the BPAC and the TCC (Technical Coordinating Committee) at their February meetings, has been available to the general public since that time.

The public involvement phase continues with additional citizen outreach for bike/ped travel comments, common destinations, places of interest, infrastructure needs and/or hazards. Ongoing coordination with our municipal partners will ensure the Advantage Pinellas BPMP identifies priority projects for local governments as well as countywide.

Please visit www.menti.com (use code: 69 31 09) and answer the questions to assist us with the visioning process. We also ask that you continue to visit the Bicycle Pedestrian Mater Plan Data Viewer <https://egis.pinellascounty.org/apps/BikePedMasterPlan> to input your favorite destinations, locations you currently walk or bike to, and any other comments you might have.

ATTACHMENTS: None

ACTION: BPAC to Provide Comments on Advantage Pinellas BPMP

8. SPOTLight Emphasis Areas Update

SUMMARY

Forward Pinellas staff will provide a brief update on the status of activities related to the three SPOTlight emphasis areas.

- Vision for U.S. Highway 19 Corridor
- Gateway Area Master Plan
- Enhancing Beach Access

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required; Informational Item Only

9. A.-D. BPAC Business

A. Pinellas Trail User Survey 2019

In 1989, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) began to convert an abandoned rail corridor into a multi-use trail facility that has since expanded to approximately 56 miles around the Pinellas. Before the beginning of automatic trail counter program in 2013, manual counts were taken by county staff and averaged approximately 600,000 persons per year. By 2018, eight automatic counters record trail user activity 24 hours, 7 days per week.

To better understand how people use the Trail, the metropolitan planning organization conducted the first Trail Survey in 1999. Another Pinellas Trail Survey was conducted in 2014 designed to continue the collection, evaluation and documentation of relevant user information. This information is used to support future federal and state transportation funding, as well as to more accurately gauge the public's desire for additional non-motorized infrastructure and related amenities.

Five years have passed since the last survey, and Forward Pinellas has scheduled a Trail User Survey for Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27. Please review the draft survey questions as the survey instrument is being developed.

Attachment: Draft Trail User Survey Questions

Action: Discussion and Comment on the Survey Questions

B. Bike Your City 2019 – Largo

Our third annual Bike Your City event was a great success. We had nearly 40 bicyclists riding through the City of Largo, escorted by deputies from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. The City provided goodies and brought an electric vehicle. Orangetheory Fitness brought a table with goodies, Bike Walk Tampa Bay provided t-shirts, safety tips, and helped with helmets. Largo Police Department also brought a table with information, and light refreshments were provided by Forward Pinellas staff. Everyone had a good cycling experience, and many asked where the event would be held next year.

Attachment: Bike Your City 2019 Group Photo

Action: None Required; Informational Item Only

C. Florida Bicycle Association (FBA)

The Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) was created in 1997 as an advocacy organization focused on protecting and improving the bicycling environment and policies in Florida. The FBA actively supports legislative efforts in Tallahassee that improve policies for cyclists, and partners with FDOT and many other agencies with safety education for all roadway users. For more information, see the website, floridabicycle.org. Vice Chair Becky Afonso, who is also the FBA Executive Director, will provide an update regarding FBA for the BPAC.

D. Pinellas Trails, Inc.

A representative from Pinellas Trails, Inc. may take this opportunity to provide updated information for the BPAC.

PINELLAS TRAIL USERS SURVEY

Draft Questions

1. **How did you get to the Trail today?**
(walk) (bike) (car) (other)
2. **How far did you travel to get to the Trail?**
(2 miles or less) (2-10 miles) (10 miles or more)
3. **Why do you usually use the Trail?** *(circle one)*
(to work) (to school) (shopping) (exercise) (socialize) (recreation) (to restaurant) (to park/beach)
4. **What other uses?** *(circle all that apply)*
(to work) (to school) (shopping) (exercise) (socialize) (recreation) (to restaurant) (to park/beach)
5. **On the Trail, you usually....**
(walk) (jog/run) (bike) (skate)
6. **How many days per week do you usually use the Trail?**
(1 day or less) (2 days) (3-4 days) (5-7 days)
7. **How far (one-way) do you usually travel?**
(2 miles or less) (2-10 miles) (10 miles or more)
8. **Would you use more trails countywide?** *(Yes) (No)*
9. **Overall, do you feel safe on the Trail?** *(Yes) (No)*
10. **What do you like about the Trail?**
11. **What do you dislike about the Trail?**
12. **Are you a year-round resident?** *(Yes) (No) (Zip Code)*
Are you a tourist/seasonal resident? *(Yes) (No) (Zip Code)*
13. **Age group:** *(18 or younger) (19-34) (35-49) (50-64) (64+)*
14. **Gender:** *(Female) (Male)*



10. Agency Reports

The BPAC is tasked with reviewing and advising Forward Pinellas on bicycle and pedestrian-related system development, and related issues and priorities. The Committee also may assist communities with development of bikeway and pedestrian facilities, recommend safer bicycling and walking provisions, and promote a safer roadway environment.

Updated information on the following programs or projects of interest to the BPAC will be provided at the meeting.

- Pinellas Trail Loop/Duke Energy Trail (North & South Gaps)
- Clearwater Bicycle Pedestrian Program
- Largo Bicycle Pedestrian Program
- St. Petersburg Bicycle Pedestrian Program
- FDOT District 7
- Pinellas Trail Security Task Force (PTSTF)

The PTSTF is a collaborative of law enforcement agencies responsible for patrolling sections of the Pinellas Trail. The PTSTF meets quarterly to coordinate effective strategies to improve the safety and security of Trail users.

The next meeting of the PTSTF is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee – March 18, 2019



11. A.-D. Other Business

A. Membership

There are currently no vacancies on the BPAC membership list.

ATTACHMENT: BPAC Membership List

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

B. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest

Adventure Cyclist – Falling for Florida – February 2019

Pinellas County Fatalities Report – February 2019

Pinellas Trail Usage Report – February 2019 – to be distributed

C. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

This item is provided to allow Committee members to suggest topics for future BPAC agendas.

D. Other

If any member has other business to discuss, they may address it under this item.

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST**Voting****St. Petersburg Area (St. Pete/Gulfport/So Pasadena/Tierra Verde)**

1. Mike Milvain (06/13/18)
2. Kimberly Cooper (10/13/99) (reappointed 5/9/18)
3. Charles Johnson (06/14/17)

Clearwater Area

4. Chip Haynes (04/13/11)
5. Robert Yunk (02/09/05)
6. Win Dermody (03/12/14)

Dunedin Area

7. Charles Martin (04/08/09)

Pinellas Park and Mid-County

8. Ronald Rasmussen (12/13/06)
9. Byron Virgil Hall, Jr., (12/13/06)

Largo Area

10. Daniel Alejandro (10/12/16)
11. Georgia Wildrick (08/16/06)

North County Area (Tarpon Springs/Palm Harbor/Ozona/Oldsmar/Safety Harbor)

12. David Feller (07/11/18)
13. Becky Afonso (Vice Chair) (10/08/14)

At Large Area

14. Paul Kurtz (12/11/13)
15. Mike Siebel (03/14/12)
16. Brian Smith (Chairman) (12/12/12)
17. Lynn Bosco (11/14/12)
18. Steve Lasky (11/14/12)
19. Ed Hawkes (11/18/98)
20. Annette Sala (03/12/14)

Seminole Area

21. Jim Wedlake (05/12/10)

Beach Communities

22. Bert Valery (10/1983-10/1998) (reappointed 07/10/02)
23. Alan Johnson (05/09/18)

Technical Support

1. County Traffic Department (Joan Rice – representative; Gina Harvey and Casey Morse – alternates)
2. Pinellas County Planning Department (Caroline Lanford – representative)
3. PSTA (Jacob Labutka – representative; Heather Sobush and Kristina Tranel – alternates)
4. City of Clearwater (Ric Hartman - representative)
5. City of St. Petersburg (Lucas Cruse – representative; Cheryl Stacks - alternate)
6. City of Largo (Diane Friel – representative; Katrina Lunan-Gordon - alternate)
7. City of Oldsmar (Felicia Donnelly – representative)
8. City of Pinellas Park (Vacant – representative)
9. Pinellas County School System (Stephanie Carrier - representative)
10. Pinellas County Health Department (vacant – representative; vacant - alternate)
11. Pinellas Trails, Inc. (Scott Daniels – representative)
12. CUTR (Julie Bond - representative)
13. Safe Routes to School (Tiffany Sabiel – representative)

Sheriff's Office /Police/Law Enforcement Representatives

1. Pinellas Park Police Dept.
2. St Petersburg Police Dept.
3. Largo Police Dept.
4. Sheriff's Office – Deputy Eric Gibson
5. Clearwater Police Dept.

Non-Voting Technical Support

14. FDOT (Alex Henry - representative)
15. County Parks and Conservation Resources (Lyle Fowler – representative; Spencer Curtis – alternate)

*Dates signify appointment

Falling for Florida

STORY BY ELLEE THALHEIMER
PHOTOS BY TOM ROBERTSON

Jan Walker pedaled up one of the only hills in the Florida Keys, a short incline on the Seven Mile Bridge — a strip of concrete (of eponymous length) stilted over the ocean. It was tank top and shorts weather in January. Stopping for a second, Walker looked over the side. A school of dolphins shot through the aquamarine waters. In the past, she had taken a break on the same bridge to see sharks below.

As a triathlon and ultra-distance coach who splits her time between Knoxville, Tennessee, and Jupiter, Florida, Walker regularly bike tours in the Keys. This archipelago off the southern tip of Florida is made up of over 1,700 (mostly tiny and unpopulated) islands — exposed portions of an ancient coral reef. The weather averages in the 70s during the depths of winter and is ideal for cycling.

“The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail is easy,” said Walker, who has embraced off-road, fully loaded bike touring in the

past four years. “It’s pancake flat, you don’t hardly need a map, and it’s well maintained. Plus, there’s a real Caribbean I’ll-get-there-when-I-get-there vibe. Especially in Key West. They’re in their own little world.”

Along a 106-mile corridor of islands from Key Largo south to Key West, the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail includes 90 miles of paved trail that parallels U.S. Highway 1. Much of the trail utilizes the old railway that Florida entrepreneur and innovator Henry Flagler built in 1912. It was an unprecedented feat.

Following the trail, you pedal over 42 bridges and past access points to Everglades National Park, Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary, the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge, and Crocodile Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, to name a few possible stops. The trail cruises by 10 state parks and a number of camping options. The sky’s the limit for credit card touring.

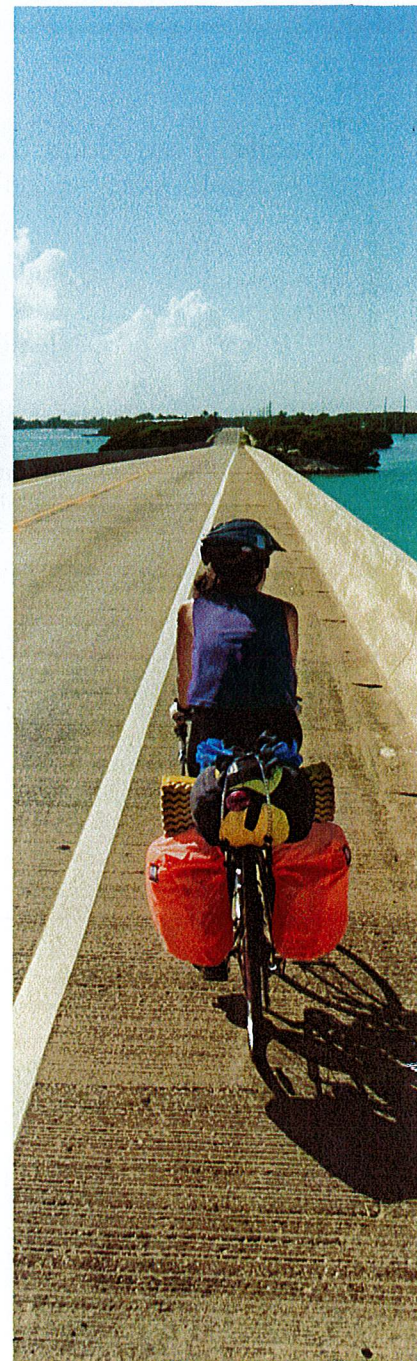
A trip to the Keys sounds dreamy for a winter bike travel getaway, especially to those for whom February brings pelting sleet, layers of wool, and dripping jackets. Yet Florida is not generally known as a cycling destination in the national zeitgeist. It’s gotten some bad press.

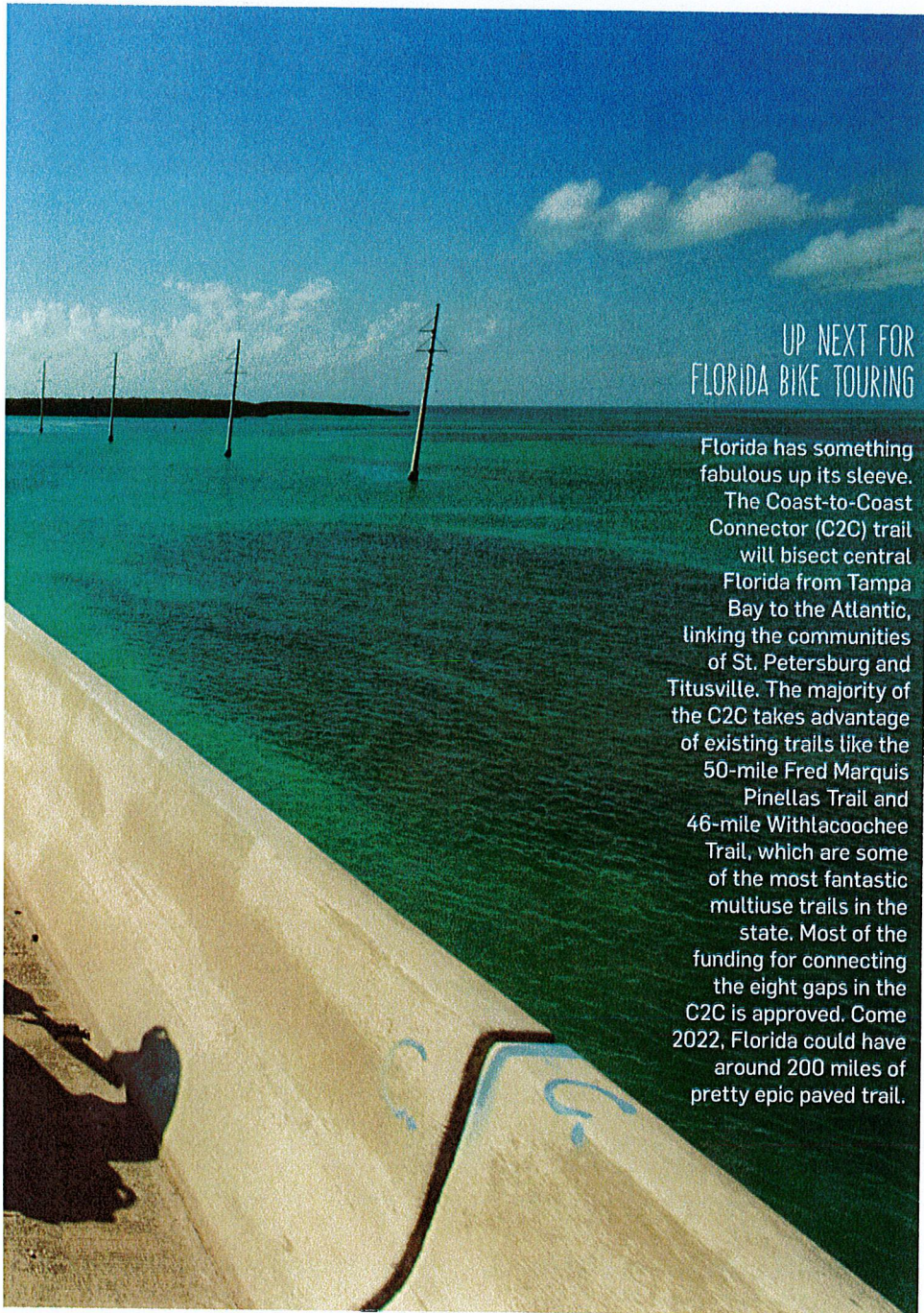
In September 2018, a *Wall Street Journal* article titled “The Most Dangerous Place to Bicycle in America” highlighted Pinellas County in the Tampa metro area and explored some less than ideal statistics about the state. Florida was the deadliest state for cyclists in 2016 with a fatality rate of 6.7 per 1 million people. That is double the national rate of 2.6 per million, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

There are myriad causes that could be responsible for the high fatality rate, from car-centric urban development and distracted driving to lack of infrastructure and a

barrage of tourists driving unfamiliar roads.

“A lot of factors go into creating these statistics,” said Joy Haddock, the executive director of Bike Florida, a bike touring outfit whose mission is to improve Florida communities through the economic impact of bike tourism. “We are getting better and better and are not as dangerous as people like to make us out to be. We’ve had decreased fatalities





UP NEXT FOR FLORIDA BIKE TOURING

Florida has something fabulous up its sleeve. The Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C) trail will bisect central Florida from Tampa Bay to the Atlantic, linking the communities of St. Petersburg and Titusville. The majority of the C2C takes advantage of existing trails like the 50-mile Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail and 46-mile Withlacoochee Trail, which are some of the most fantastic multiuse trails in the state. Most of the funding for connecting the eight gaps in the C2C is approved. Come 2022, Florida could have around 200 miles of pretty epic paved trail.

and an improved League of American Bicyclists state ranking (currently at 15th from 24th)."

In any case, the Keys aren't a hot spot for crashes, and bike tourists usually stick to the trail — though heads up that some busy roads connect trail sections. And Seven Mile Bridge leaves people hot, like Walker, or cold.

"Seven Mile Bridge is scary," said Floridian Charlie Kemp, an avid bike tourist who helped create the off-road Florida Divide route (see sidebar) through the Keys. "It's the most anxious part of the whole route with a five-foot

shoulder. Though I've ridden it dozens of times without incident."

When people talk about the cycling in the Keys, they tend to mention the Seven Mile Bridge. But more often they like to tell of their favorite tiki bar along the way for a margarita break, an under-the-radar key that has a perfect swim spot, or advice on the best snorkeling. Something to think about when shoveling snow or putting toe warmers in your cycling shoes. **AG**

Ellee Thalheimer is a freelance writer and author from Portland, Oregon.

WORTHY SIDE TRIPS OFF THE OVERSEAS HERITAGE TRAIL

SUGARLOAF KEY: 18 MILES NORTH OF KEY WEST

You can add 15–20 miles of riding by cruising around Sugarloaf's bike trails. Alternatively, you could explore lonely dirt paths that existed before the railroad was built when the islands were connected by ferry. There's a sweet channel for a refreshing dip at the end of Sugarloaf Boulevard and Old State Road 4A. It's blocked to cars, but bikes can go through.

BIG PINE KEY: 30 MILES NORTH OF KEY WEST

Imagine a tiny island that hosts an endangered species of tiny deer, the smallest subspecies of the North American white-tailed deer. Because of illegal feeding by humans, the waist-high deer will sometimes just walk up to people. On Big Pine Key, the 9,200-acre National Key Deer Refuge protects the Key deer who were nearly poached to extinction. Visitors can explore it by foot, bike, or kayak.

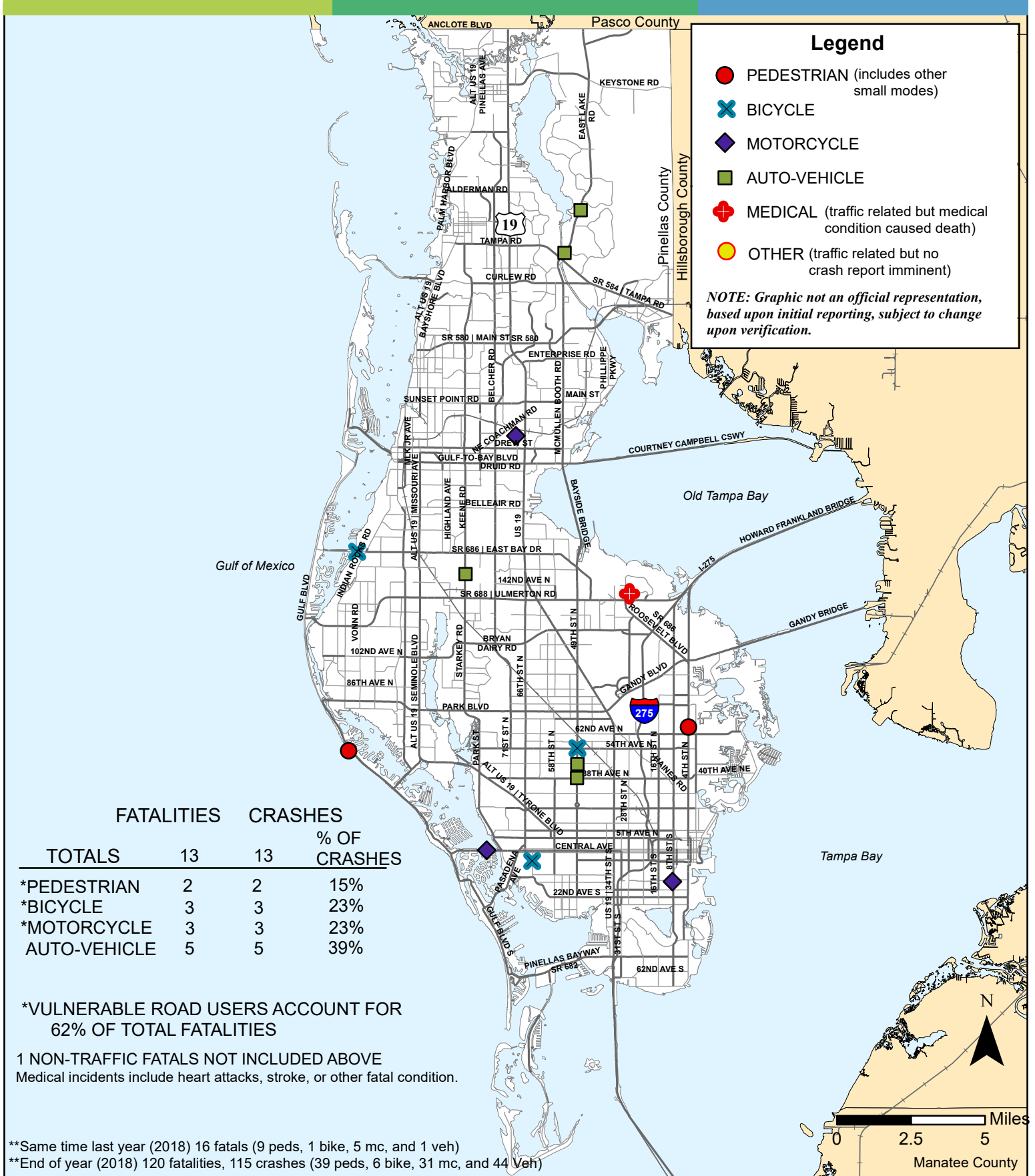
NO NAME KEY: JUST OFF BIG PINE KEY

They have their fair share of Key deer here, and they also have quiet backroads to explore. A bridge connects No Name Key to Big Pine Key, and just on the Big Pine side you'll find No Name Pub where you can drink beer and eat fried clams or coconut shrimp.

DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK: 70 MILES WEST OF KEY WEST BY FERRY

Your southbound bike journey ends at Key West. If you stay at Not Your Average Hotel (yes, that's the name) in Key West, which is akin to an upscale hostel, you can usually stash your bikes there while you visit Dry Tortugas. A high-speed catamaran takes you to the 100-square-mile park, which is mostly open water with seven small islands. Fort Jefferson, one of the nation's largest 19th century forts, presides over an island and provides a bit of historical perspective to go with the outstanding snorkeling and powdery white beaches with crystal blue water. Visitors can do day trips or camp in a primitive campground for an overnight stay.

Locations of Reported Traffic Fatalities



Data Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, 2016. Map Produced: February 27, 2019.

\\pinellascounty-fl.gov\pcg\Plan_Dept\USERS\Autocadd\AppsSandra_MPO & PLN_afatalmapunofficial\2019fatalsmapfile.mxd

