



Darla Letourneau/BikeWalkLee

Talking Points: FGCU Master Plan

April 15, 2011

- BikeWalkLee, a coalition to complete the streets in Lee County, works for a more balanced transportation system.
- Lee County, through the MPO and the BoCC, has made progress over the past 2 years on putting in place long-term plans and policies that promote sustainability, better land use & transportation planning, with a focus on multi-modal transportation, complete streets & more livable Lee County.
- Our expectation:
 - The university would not only develop a master plan consistent with these county plans & vision, but
 - FGCU would be a recognized leader in sustainability, transportation, and livability within Lee County and the Southwest Florida region.
- FGCU draft Master Plan is major disappointment and needs to be amended.

Following are specific comments & recommendations:

1. ***Consistency with Lee County Comprehensive Plan (Lee Plan)***

- ***Background:*** The Lee County Evaluation and Appraisal Review, adopted March 1, 2011, focused on five issues that were identified as primary drivers of needed changes to the land use plan. The relevant sections of the plan were to: Take Care of Lee County (e.g., quality of life and economic development) and Connect People to Places (reinforce complete streets and integrate all aspects of transportation form and function).
- ***Recommendation:*** The FGCU Campus Master Plan should be consistent with this focus and provide incentives and disincentives for connectivity and alternative transportation. Universities have more leverage & tools than any other employer or organization to make this happen. FGCU needs to LEAD (like many other universities around the country have done, with great success—Davis, CA, Boulder, CO, etc.)

2. ***Consistency with MPO countywide bike/ped master plan***

- ***Background:*** The MPO LRTP, to be adopted on May 20th, will include adoption of a major countywide bike/ped master plan which includes 3 demonstration projects, one of which is bike lanes & signage on a University Loop, that will promote bicycling by students & others both to university & to errands—shopping, errands, social life—off campus. Critical that FGCU be a partner in this effort.
- ***Recommendation:*** The FGCU Master Plan should connect to these facilities (University Loop) by installing bike lanes on existing campus entrances.

- Not to do so sends a strong signal of disconnect from county plans & a terrible message to students & community re: not being bike-friendly campus.
- Bike lanes can be put in easily on FGCU Blvd. through a road diet, i.e., narrowing the car lanes by restriping to add bike lanes.
- *Recommendation:* Apply for a League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Campus. This would enhance the status of FGCU as a sustainable university and provide important tools for marketing a sustainable, livable, and walkable community to potential students.
- *Recommendation: Address Safety Issues.* Between 2005 and 2010 the number of accidents on campus increased from 27 to 94 – a 348% increase. As the ADT (Average Daily Trips) of students and campus users increases, safety for all users (bicyclists, pedestrians, skateboarders, and automobiles) needs to be addressed. Improving safety is an important part of the MPO bike/ped master plan. Strategies to increase safety should be addressed in the GOPs, particularly in the Transportation Element.

3. *Transportation Demand Management Strategies*

- *Recommendations:* Transportation demand management strategies should be better integrated across the Master Plan. The data and analysis and goals, objectives, and policies should reflect an integrated approach to affecting the incentives and disincentives to use of the single-occupancy vehicle. Specifically:
 - Use the opportunity presented by congestion at sporting events as a disincentive to travel to and around campus by car.
 - Provide incentives for car pooling (including park & ride lots) and public transit (internal and external to campus).
 - Allow FGCU students to also take advantage of a free bus pass program.
 - Need to recognize the new Collier/Lee County LeeTran bus line that should assist FGCU students in reaching campus by transit & promote its use.
 - Need to have data re: local address of students on GIS maps & readily available to the public so that transportation patterns and potential solutions can be developed.
 - Transit & alternative transportation modes must be mechanism for handling projected increase in student population—not building more road capacity.
 - Recognize that the Lee County Office of Sustainability and the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization as well as other county departments play a vital role in moving toward the switch to a campus that supports multi-modal trips to campus.
 - **Specifically, the following sections and GOPs should be addressed:**
 - Vol. 1; Section 3.2 Existing Campus Environment: North Lake Village
 - Policy 1103.2.1 (f)
 - Policy 1103.2.3

4. *Parking*

Providing convenient parking reduces individual incentives to use alternative means of transportation. Therefore, the goals of the campus should be to create incentives for alternative transportation and disincentives for the use of automobiles.

- Eliminate descriptors that place a high value on convenient parking.
- Recognize that parking as an objective should be balanced with other campus needs, such as future academic buildings and the natural environment.

- Use the price of parking as a disincentive to drive to campus.
- Making parking convenient and within a close walking distance creates incentives to drive. While distribution of parking spaces around campus is a good idea, the sole purpose should not be to minimize walking time for users.
- Allow for parking facilities to not only increase, but to decrease as well. This would give the campus more flexibility as transportation demand management programs begin to work.
- **Specifically, the following sections and GOPs should be addressed:**
- Vol. 1; Section 3.2 Existing Campus Environment
- GOAL 1101 - Provision of On-Campus Parking Spaces; Objective 1101.1
- Policy 1101.1.6

5. ***Recognize Sustainability and Transportation Programs within Lee and Collier County***

- Recognize the Lee County Office of Sustainability, the MPO Complete Streets Resolution, and the Lee County Complete Streets Resolution and Program, and the Lee County Transit Task Force as programs that enhance the quality of life.
- **Specifically, the following sections and COPs should be addressed:**
 - Vol. 1. 4.5.4: Quality of Life:

6. ***Strengthen Campus Commitment to Sustainability***

- *Recommendation:* Add a policy that recognizes the contributions that a mode-shift from the single-occupancy vehicle to other alternative modes of travel (bicycling, walking, etc.) can make to a sustainable campus. Document should also recognize importance to lowering students' cost of college education by eliminating necessity of owning car (which costs \$9,500/year to maintain) to be FGCU student.
- **Specifically, the following sections and COPs should be addressed:**
 - Vol. 1. 4.5.4: Quality of Life

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