



**I-69 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**October 7, 2011 1:30pm**

**McCloskey Conference, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St. Ste. 135, Bloomington, IN 47404**

*I-69 Subcommittee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Meetings are not recorded.*

**I-69 Subcommittee:** Jack Baker (Bloomington Plan Commission), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Lynn Coyne (Indiana University), Mayor Mark Kruzan (City of Bloomington), Mark Stoops (Monroe County Commissioner).

**Others:** Larry Jacobs (Chamber of Commerce), Rod Spaw (Herald Times), Mark Haggarty.

**MPO Staff:** Josh Desmond and Tom Micuda.

The meeting opened with 4 of 6 members present approving the minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Martin reported receipt of responses to 30 of our questions from FHWA on October 5, 2011, and that so far no responses had been received from INDOT. Most of the responses are similar to others received to questions over the past several months. One new response was the detailed information regarding the emergency access issue on Burch Road. This is the first time MPO members have been given explicit criteria to meet. The sub-committee members decided to review the FHWA responses in sequence.

Participants discussed the relationship between the current INDOT request to add I-69 Section 4 construction into the TIP and expected INDOT request to add I-69 Section 5 funding into the TIP. The requests are slightly different because the current 2010 – 2013 TIP has some I-69 Section 4 funding but the 2012 – 2015 TIP has none and was not accepted by the Governor. The direct relationship is the extent of safety related concerns identified in the FEIS for Section 4 that occur in Section 5 and the need for assurance that the upgrades needed to address the safety concerns are addressed in a timely manner, especially at Vernal Pike.

Discussions with staff about the dates of funding commitment indicated that projects already underway were not expected to be impacted because of contractual obligations but there are still questions about projects that are committed but spanning 2012 – 2013.

Mr. McDaniel stated that transit funding is done by contract agreement and that Federal, State, and discretionary funds account for about 57% of the Bloomington Transit annual funding.

Staff discussed the Context Sensitive Process as they believe it exists and noted that they were unaware of its use anywhere in Indiana.

Participants asked staff to further investigate the amendment and administrative procedures referenced in the FHWA response.



**Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
I-69 Subcommittee

Mr. Martin noted that INDOT has yet to inform Monroe County concerning karst feature identified during the FEIS as specified in the TIP amendment last November. Appendix sections related to the issue are redacted from the final report and have not been made available. This information can aid the Planning Department as it processes subdivision and rezoning requests along the corridor – 2 are now pending action.

Participants noted the distinction between the NEPA process that lead to the FEIS and the MPO process for approval of Federal funding. While we tend to consider them as part of one project process, the FHWA clearly indicates that they are different in purpose and outcome.

Participants expressed general satisfaction with the answers received from the FHWA but do need to clarify if the State can build I-69 without MPO approval. The impression is that until the MPO agrees to inclusion of I-69 construction into its TIP, the State cannot build any part of the interstate highway in the MPO jurisdiction.

Mr. Micuda suggested three future meeting options: Oct 17, 2011 4-6PM, Oct 19, 2011 1-3PM, and Oct 24, 2011 1-4PM. Participants agreed to schedule meetings at all three times and use those necessary to conduct review of responses, continue discussions with FHA and INDOT as appropriate, and determine the form and content of a report to the MPO Policy Committee. Mr. Desmond indicated that they will send out the meeting packet on Oct 28.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Richard Martin