



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2012 Council Chambers 115, City Hall**

*Policy Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department. **Technical difficulties –an incomplete audio recording was produced for this meeting. See DVD for complete recording.***

Policy Committee: Lynn Coyne (IU), Nathan Frey (for Kathy Eaton-McKalip: INDOT), Joe Hoffmann (for Jack Baker--Bloomington Plan Commission), Susie Johnson (Public Works), Mark Kruzan (Bloomington Mayor), Richard Martin (County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (BT), Patrick Murray (CAC Chair), Andy Ruff (City Council), Dan Swafford (proxy--Ellettsville Town Council), and Bill Williams (County Highway).

Others: Michelle Allen (FHWA), Ashley Beaman (student), Mary Jo Hamman (Michael Baker), Larry Jacobs (Chamber of Commerce), and Sam Sarvis (INDOT).

MPO Staff: Josh Desmond, Vince Caristo

Call to Order--Mr. Martin called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

- A. June 8, 2012—Mr. Swafford moved approval. Mr. Ruff seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Communications from the Chair -- None

Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Citizens Advisory Committee –Mr. Murray reported that the CAC approved the TIP amendments for FY 2012-2015 and the Complete Streets exemption for Old SR 37 & Dunn St. project. They also approved the MPO UAB and MPA boundary updates. Steve Walls (INDOT) moved to Florida.

B. Technical Advisory Committee – Mr. Reid said that TAC made positive recommendations for the Complete Streets exemption and TIP amendments. They received an update from on I-69 Sections 4 and 5. Sam Sarvis and Mary Jo Hamman were at the PC meeting. TAC had discussed the changes to the trumpet interchange. Ms. Hamman said they are in the process of writing the draft EIS with input from participating agencies. A public hearing will be scheduled this fall. Mr. Ruff noted that Commissioner Cline and Governor Daniels have said that we don't have adequate traditional funding for I-69 at this time. He asked to have a list of projects that funding will be pulled from around the state to pay for I-69. Ms. Hamman didn't think that INDOT's only option was to pull funding from other projects.

Reports from the BMCMPPO Staff

A. 2012 MPO Conference – Mr. Desmond reported on the 2012 MPO Conference that the BMCMPPO is hosting. Any MPO committee member can attend the conference for \$40.00 (50% discount). The website address is www.bloomington.in.gov/MPO.

B. Transportation Legislation Reauthorization – Mr. Desmond that MAP21 is a 2-year bill that was passed this summer and takes effect on Oct. 1, 2012. He will present details as he learns more about the bill. The population threshold for MPOs remains at 50,000 under this bill. Ms. Allen added that there is an emphasis on performance measures with this bill. FHWA will inform the MPO when the details are worked out.

C. Long Range Transportation Plan – Mr. Desmond noted that the Corradino Group is in the process of being hired for work on the LRTP. The City and County are splitting the cost up front. Mr. Martin asked if staff had a ball park price on this part of the LRTP effort. Mr. Desmond said the total contract is just under \$175,000. Most of that money will come out of the 2012 Work Program budget. The remainder is in the 2013 budget. Mr. Martin wanted Mr. Desmond to inform the PC members about discussions with Corradino concerning air quality studies. Mr. Desmond said that Corradino didn't think that the information would not be of much value to the MPO. It is not in our contract for the LRTP at this point. When you build an air quality model you have to build in a lot of assumptions such as motor vehicle efficiency, etc. The same information should be available in I-69 air quality study that has been done. Funding is not available at this time. Ms. Allen said since this county is not in non-attainment, no air quality study would be called for. She didn't think that any new information would be obtained. Mr. Kruzan said that he felt we know that something is a priority but we have to wait until the problem exists to talk about the problem. This community does not want to become a non-attainment area for the health of the community and the health of the community's economy. We don't know what the impact of construction will be on this community's air quality. We can't find out the impact because we don't measure the air quality. You can't prevent becoming a non-attainment county. How does the state and federal government assist localities in preventing themselves from becoming non-attainment areas? Ms. Allen said that EPA and IDEM monitor air quality data. She suggested having an expert participate in a discussion. Mr. Kruzan said he understood that INDOT and FHWA live by established laws. He wanted the MPO to try to prevent non-attainment from happening. We've been asking the wrong agencies for information. Mr. Martin agreed and said that transportation is only part of the contributing factors to air quality issues. He agreed with Ms. Allen that the MPO should look to other agencies for information and not expect the MPO to drive the issue. A more broad-based community effort is needed.

D. 2011 Crash Report – Vince Caristo presented the 2009-2011 Crash Report. Ms. Johnson asked if there is a model that could be used to rank the most dangerous intersections. Mr. Caristo said yes and it will be used for the next report. A composite score will look at crash frequency, crash rate and crash severity. Mr. Ruff asked about wide variations from one year to the next in some intersections. Mr. Caristo said the sample sizes are very low. There was more discussion about the Crash Report results.

E. TIP Administrative Modifications – Mr. Desmond reported on 5 minor TIP modifications that were adopted via PC email. They have been adopted by INDOT into the STIP.

VI. Old Business -- None

VII. New Business

A. FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendments -- Mr. Desmond introduced the following amendments.

a. INDOT TIP Amendments

- i. New Signal Installation – SR 46 & Matthews Drive**
- ii. Bridge Deck Overlay – SR 46 & Stephens Creek**
- iii. Statewide Underwater Bridge Inspections**
- iv. Statewide Fracture Critical Bridge Inspections**
- v. Statewide Post-Tensioned Bridge Inspections**
- vi. Statewide Bridge Load Rating Inspections**

The amendments have been unanimously recommended for adoption by the CAC and TAC. Mr. Martin asked if bridge funds come from state or local funds. Mr. Desmond said they are state bridge funds. Mr. Martin asked for details about the SR 46 signal installation. Mr. Desmond said the installation will be funded by state HSIP money. Mr. Swafford said he believed the signal was to be installed on westbound SR 46. Who decided this intersection needed a signal? Mr. Desmond said

INDOT. Ms. Allen and Mr. Frey provided more details. Mr. Martin asked why this project was chosen over other state road projects that appear in our Crash Report. Mr. Frey couldn't say why this was chosen over other intersections except that the decision is data-driven. Ms. Allen suggested INDOT report where the MPO projects fall into their plans. Mr. Martin would like to see INDOT justification for project decisions in the future. He asked why preliminary engineering for the Bridge Deck Overlay project was going to be done in 2013 with no money being set aside for the actual project in 2014 or 2015. The MPO is being asked to make decisions in the blind. Mr. Martin asked for an explanation for an illustrative request. Ms. Allen reiterated that these are state funds being allocated. ***** Bill Williams moved to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Nathan Frey seconded. There was unanimous approval.**

B. Complete Streets Exemption -- Mr. Desmond presented the case for this exemption based on extreme topographic constraints and the existence of a reasonable and equivalent alternative for certain users (bicyclists). Both the CAC and TAC recommended approval. Mr. Reid provided more details. Mr. Martin asked what would keep people from using the Marlin Hills alternative after the curve is improved. Mr. Reid said the slope in Marlin Hills is less severe. Mr. Martin would like signage and road markings designating the bike route. Mr. Ruff agreed. He asked for information about fatalities and accidents at this intersection. Mr. Williams said there had been many accidents in that area. There was a discussion about obtaining HSIP funds. *****Andy Ruff moved approval. Bill Williams seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.**

a. Old SR 37 & Dunn Street (City of Bloomington)

C. MPO UAB & MPA Boundary Updates -- Mr. Caristo presented the report. The CAC and TAC recommended approval. *****Richard Martin moved approval. Susie Johnson seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-1 (Mr. Martin voted against).**

D. MPO ADA Policy -- Mr. Desmond reported. The CAC wrote this policy and brought it to the TAC. The policy was recommended for approval by the CAC and TAC. Mr. Martin asked for a definition of "direct access approaches." Mr. Desmond said he thought it meant that disabled people could directly gain access without having any intermediation or assistance. *****Patrick Murray moved approval. Andy Ruff seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.**

E. 2013 Meeting Schedule – Mr. Desmond presented the schedule. There were no objections.

VIII. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)

A. Topic Suggestions for Future Agendas

IX. Upcoming Meetings

A. Technical Advisory Committee – September 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)

B. Citizens Advisory Committee – September 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

C. Policy Committee – November 9, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. (Council Chambers)

Adjournment