



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2010 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall

Policy Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.

Attendance

Policy Committee: Jack Baker (Citizens Advisory Committee), Jason Banach (proxy for Lynn Coyne—Indiana University), Susie Johnson (Bloomington Public Works Department), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Andy Ruff (Bloomington City Council), Kathy Eaton (Indiana Department of Transportation), Julie Thomas (Monroe County Council), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department), Mike Farmer (proxy for Ellettsville Town Council), and Mark Stoops (Monroe County Commissioner).

Others: Adrian Reid (City Engineer), Larry Jacobs (Chamber of Commerce), Beth Cauter (Parsons Brinkerhoff), Cris Klika (PB), Ann Sheilder (PB).

MPO Staff: Josh Desmond, Raymond Hess, Scott Robinson and Jane Weiser.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 8, 2010—Kent McDaniel made a correction to the minutes. The correction was noted. Bill Williams moved approval of the corrected minutes. Richard Martin seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Communications from the Chair—Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Hess attended a meeting at the Statehouse concerning the Complete Streets policy (House Bill 1182). Mr. Hess testified. Around 15 people testified--all in favor of this policy except INDOT. No action was taken at that time.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

- A. Citizens Advisory Committee**—No report.
- B. Technical Advisory Committee**—No report.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff

A. The Jobs Bill (ARRA pt. 2)—Josh Desmond reported on the draft Jobs for Main Street Act which will be referred to as the Jobs Bill. We need to be ready with projects so that we can act quickly when money is made available. The funding levels should be a little over \$3 million. The funding will be 100% match—no local funds will be called for. Fifty percent of this funding has to be under contract within 90 days after the passage of the bill. There will probably be emphasis put on completing these projects quickly. The eligibility requirements for projects will remain the same as they were for ARRA. Some swapping of funds between projects will be possible. If an LPA wants to use the Jobs Bill money to cover construction inspection costs, it will have to use the district-wide inspection contract. Kathy Eaton from INDOT (Seymour) will be the person to go to with Jobs Bill questions. Mark Stoops was concerned about the time constraints. Mr. Hess said that INDOT helped obligate the funds last

year. They say they would like to do that again. Mr. Martin asked if any of the projects on the list that were not funded last time are not eligible for these funds. Mr. Hess said the Ellettsville Heritage Trail might not meet the 90-day threshold but maybe the 1 year threshold.

VI. Old Business

A. Mt. Tabor Rd. Bridge #33 (Monroe County) and Complete Streets Compliance Action Requested*

Bill Williams introduced Cris Klika with Parsons Brinkerhoff, the design consultant on this project. She explained why this project should be exempted from the Complete Streets policy. The site has several environmental constraints. There was extensive discussion about this project and its complications. To expand the size of the road, the stream bed would have to be changed and there are problems with very steep banks. Other choices would involve a working stone company and the historic Mathews mansion. There was discussion about alternative locations for a section of the Heritage Trail—each with its own disadvantages. Ms. Klika said they would push the size of the road and shoulders as far as they can to try to gain another foot or so. They are waiting to hear from the Historic Commission to see if this project is an adverse effect to the Historic District containing the mansion. She proposed working on the engineering as described and push onto the Historic property if at all possible. Julie Thomas asked if there would be money for replacing trees. Mr. Williams said they could build the cost of replacement trees into the project. Mr. Martin said that they have to maintain the alignment of the road which creates some restrictions. They should maintain as much shoulder as possible. There are 3 criteria that can be used to exempt the project.

*****Ms. Johnson moved to exempt this project from the Complete Streets requirement with the conditions that the engineers expand the shoulders to the maximum without creating any undue impacts to the Historical 106 Review. They should mitigate any negative impacts to the stream. Mr. Ruff and Mr. Martin added that the taper should be pushed as far as possible since there are extreme topographic or natural resource constraints. Ms. Thomas added that tree removal should be mitigated by planting them on the other side. The engineers shall investigate the potential of water filtration type bioswales. Mr. Ruff seconded the motion.**

Mr. Ruff said that he is very supportive of this exemption but wanted to say that he is not convinced that a straighter, wider passageway through here necessarily nets the most overall all-user safety benefits as opposed to working within the existing alignment. He understood that the existing alignment has some flooding and other problems.

Mr. Baker said that he doesn't like it either. It creates an unsafe area there but we just have to do it.

*****The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

VII. New Business

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

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas



IX. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Technical Advisory Committee – January 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- B. Citizens Advisory Committee – January 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- C. Policy Committee – March 12, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**

Adjournment --The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

*These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their meeting held on March 12, 2010
(JFW)*