



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2011 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.

Policy Committee: Jack Baker (Bloomington Plan Commission), Max Azizi (FHWA) , Susie Johnson (City Public Works), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Patrick Murray (CAC Chair), Andy Ruff (Bloomington City Council), Julie Thomas (Monroe County Council), and Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department).

Others: Adrian Reid (City Engineer), Sarah Ryterband (CAC), Michelle Allen (FHWA), and Morgan Hutton (Chamber of Commerce)

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

- I. **Call to Order**—Kent McDaniel called the meeting to order.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. **May 13, 2011**—Jack Baker moved approval, Julie Thomas seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved although Mr. Martin abstained since he did not attend meeting.
- III. **Communications from the Chair**—Mr. McDaniel suggested having an agenda item on a future agenda to discuss legal representation for the MPO. At the April meeting the MPO asked for a legal opinion of the 23-page legal opinion that was delivered to the MPO. They did not get the requested opinion and still haven't gotten it. The attorneys threatening the MPO had a copy of the opinion that the MPO didn't get. He did not blame staff.
- IV. **Reports from Officers and/or Committees**
 - A. **Citizens Advisory Committee**—Mr. Murray said that the CAC continued work on an ADA Accessibility policy. The draft was presented for comment. They will probably vote on something to present to the Policy Committee (PC) in the future. They also had an extensive discussion on the 17th and Arlington roundabout. Mr. Martin asked if this is our mechanism to come up with an updated ADA policy to meet state requirements. Mr. Murray said no, this is a draft statement that was initiated by a member of the CAC. Their statement will not address the broader concern that the Federal Government has. Mr. Azizi said that FHWA would like to have a workshop for representatives of local governments. Ms. Allen said that additional workshops could be added for associations or larger groups.
 - B. **Technical Advisory Committee**—Mr. Reid had no report.
- V. **Reports from the MPO Staff**
 - A. **Quarterly Project Tracking**—Mr. Hess presented the report. This report was developed before the last PC meeting. The projects reported on are from the old TIP. I-69 is still being reported on with this report. He offered to answer questions. He pointed out that at the end of the report there is a Change Order Tracking Spreadsheet. The MPO sets aside 5% of its

Surface Transportation Program funding allocation into a special pot so that any projects that have cost overruns can tap into this. Our remaining balance is just over \$42,000. Any leftover funds will roll over to the new Change Order Reserve for FY2012 which starts July 1. Mr. Baker asked for an explanation of the right-of-way purchase for the S. Rogers project. Mr. Reid explained that 45 people had accepted their offers. Mr. Hess explained the \$102,650 change order for W. 3rd St. was caused by a conversion factor error when they figured the bid. Mr. Martin said it looked like a decimal point error rather than just a conversion error. Mr. Ruff said that the majority of the projects are listed as not applicable for Complete Streets. He requested a little explanation as to why on the next report.

B. Long Range Transportation Plan Task Force (LRTP-TF)—Mr. Hess reported on the progress of the LRTP-TF. There is a link to the website in the packet. The TF looked at comparable college towns to Bloomington. They have been evaluating the existing Vision Statement.

C. FHWA Certification Review—Mr. Desmond introduced Michelle Allen (FHWA) who made a presentation on the review process and some recommendations. The BMCMPO is certified for 4 more years. At the time it was determined that the MPO was in compliance with the 3 Cs. They suggest the MPO and INDOT update their agreement. Transit revenue cost estimates should reflect the year of expenditure dollars in the Transportation Plan. The Transportation Plan should involve consultation with various federal and state ancillary groups. The LRTP should include anticipated land use and growth management scenarios. A map that shows the bicycle and pedestrian routes should be included. Performance measures that show how the community has met specific goals should be part of LRTP. The MPO should discuss with INDOT the Crash Report annually to coordinate projects. FHWA commended Bloomington Transit for receiving the American Public Transportation Association 2010 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award.

Ms. Thomas asked how FHWA might force INDOT to meet accessibility standards at crosswalks, etc. Ms. Allen said their role is to make sure they have correct plans. INDOT is working on ADA Transition Plans like the MPOs are. The Transition Plan will guide how INDOT does work on signals, curbs, etc. to meet current standards. They expect more detailed guidelines from PROWAG concerning ADA accessibility requirements. Ms. Thomas asked if the Bypass is done before PROWAG requires ADA accessibility, could we go back and get anything retroactively. Mr. Azizi said FWHA usually reviews a sampling of INDOT projects. Since the MPO is raising the issue, they will pay special attention to ADA accessibility on this project. Mr. Baker asked if the facilities usually include crosswalks with facilities for the blind. Ms. Allen said she knew that it is part of PROWAG and has talked to Seymour INDOT about it. INDOT is going to put these accommodations at certain crosswalks. They just aren't sure at which intersections they will be included.

Mr. Martin referred to FHWA's recommendation to include alternate scenarios in the LRTP. The notion of having alternate plans in a LRTP makes no sense. Mr. Azizi said this could come in the vision process. Mr. Martin said that we have rejected that process. Since Bloomington is such a diverse community, we can't ever come to agreement.

VI. Old Business—No report.

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Plan(s) Amendment

1. SR 45 at Garrison Chapel/Harmony Rd intersection improvement (INDOT)

Action Requested*-- Mr. McDaniel asked if we had heard anything from INDOT about our TIP. Mr. Desmond said no. Mr. Hess said INDOT would like the MPO to amend this intersection improvement into the TIP. A 30-day public comment period produced no public comments. The County supports this project. The TAC and CAC recommended approval. He suggested amending both the old and new TIP. Ms. Johnson asked why the State is exempt from our Complete Streets policy. Mr. Hess said he understands that we can't force local policy on the State. The State is in the process of adopting a context-sensitive solution which is similar to our Complete Streets policy. If the State adopts that solution, we can present our Complete Streets policy to them. Ms. Johnson said that when a state highway is also one of our streets, she would like to see the improvements made. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Williams if the County's Greenway Plan could apply to this intersection. Mr. Williams said yes. Mr. Martin strongly advocated for a signal at the intersection. Ms. Johnson asked if this is in the area of the proposed interchange with I-69 and SR 37. Mr. Williams said no. Mr. Martin said that INDOT has said that this intersection improvement project is crucial to handle the increased traffic from I-69. *****Jack Baker moved to amend the old TIP and the new TIP to incorporate the intersection improvement at SR 45 and Garrison Chapel /Harmony Rd. Richard Martin seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.**

B. Resolution supporting referendums for transit and transportation alternatives—Mr.

McDaniel has been meeting with a coalition of transit advocacy groups that are trying get a resolution to address the issue of enabling legislation to allow voter referenda so that local communities can choose to tax themselves to support public transportation. This group is collecting local endorsements of this resolution. He asked the PC to support this legislation. He said that the Indiana Transportation Association tried to get similar legislation approved (HB 1372). That bill included a \$10.00 green fee through the BMV car registrations and the authority for a City Council to call for a referendum to create a local option income tax. The bill was killed by the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. There is a great need for this in central and northwest Indiana. They believe that similar legislation will be introduced in 2012. Mr. Martin discussed the difficulty of passing local referenda and that a green fee might be a better way to go. Mr. Murray asked if this is a symbolic effort. Mr. McDaniel said it is to show that people support public transportation. Mr. Martin suggested changing the language to include "or other funding measures." The resolution states "that the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby supports the enactment of enabling legislation that authorizes voter referenda or other methods to enact funding measures that create dedicated and adequate funding for the design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of transit and transportation alternatives *****Kent McDaniel moved to approve ENDORSEMENT RESOLUTION FY 2011-14. Jack Baker seconded.**

Public Comment—Sarah Ryterband said she supports other forms of alternative transportation including bicycle and pedestrian facilities. How would we divvy up this tiny pot of money? It's a great idea and it feeds into the Complete Streets policy, too.

*****The motion was unanimously approved.**

C. Policy Committee Meeting Recordings on CATS—Mr. Hess suggested the PC should consider making a policy regarding CATS (Community Access Television) broadcasting and recording. Staff has never requested CATS to broadcast or record PC meetings so recordings of PC meetings have been irregular. If taped, the Policy Committee should probably meet in Council Chambers instead of McCloskey. Several PC members supported CATS taping all PC meetings. They would have to consider avoiding the use of acronyms and nicknames not familiar to the public. Mr. Baker said it might be good for people to understand what the MPO does. Mr. Martin said it would change the dynamic of the meetings. Ms. Johnson didn't want all meetings to be broadcast. The way they are now has resulted in very productive meetings. If they were televised, part of the way this group operates will be diminished. Mr. McDaniel asked about televising meetings that have potential public interest. Ms. Johnson said that has worked out fine. We need to know in advance to make arrangement for a meeting covered by CATS. Mr. Ruff still thought they should consider moving the meetings to Council Chambers and televising all meetings. Mr. Desmond pointed out that the meetings might be recorded but not televised live. Several members said that live broadcasting is not as important as getting the meetings on record. Ms. Thomas noted that the table in McCloskey can't always accommodate all committee members. Mr. Martin suggested talking to CATS to see what kind of notice they need. Staff should forward the draft agenda 3 weeks before the next meeting to the Policy Committee. If more than 1 PC member wants the meeting to be broadcast, it will be. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

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

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas

IX. Upcoming Meetings

A. Technical Advisory Committee – June 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)

B. Citizens Advisory Committee – June 22, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

C. Policy Committee – September 9, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

Adjournment

**Public comment prior to vote (limited to five minutes per speaker)*

The minutes were approved at the PC meeting held on September 9, 2011 (9/9/11 rch).