



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2009 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 (MPO CAC), Justin Wykoff (proxy for Susie Johnson, City Public Works Department), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department), Iris Kiesling (Monroe County Commissioner), Richard Martin (proxy for Jerry Pittsford, Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Frank Nierzwicki (Proxy for Dennis Williamson Ellettsville Town Council), Bob Williams (INDOT), Bill Stuebe (City Plan Commission), Lynn Coyne (IU VP/CAO office), Andy Ruff (City Council) and Mark Kruzan (City Mayor).

Others: Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), Joyce Williams (City Engineering), Scott Robinson (MPO Staff), Raymond Hess (MPO Staff), and Jane Weiser (City Planning).

I Call to Order

Kent McDaniel called the meeting to order.

II. Election of Officers

A. Chair & Vice Chair—Iris Kiesling nominated Kent McDaniel for Chair and Lynn Coyne as Vice-Chair. Bill Stuebe seconded the motion. The nominations were unanimously approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 14, 2009—Iris Kiesling moved approval of the minutes. Bill Stuebe seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Communications from the Chair—Kent McDaniel said that the Indiana Mass Transit studies have been posted on the web. Staff will email the committee members the link to the studies. They mention urban areas of the state and a possible rail line from Muncie through Indianapolis to Bloomington. The American Public Transportation Association has proposed a \$12.5 billion package for public transportation which would result in extra local money. Mr. McDaniel said a list of projects has been compiled.

V. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Citizens Advisory Committee

Jack Baker reported the CAC is going to try to recruit more members.

B. Technical Advisory Committee

Adrian Reid said that his topics will be covered later in the meeting.

VI. Reports from the MPO Staff

Josh Desmond said that Bob Williams from INDOT is retiring. This is his last PC meeting.

VII. Old Business

A. Operational Bylaws Amendment (*Action Requested)**—The bylaws needed to be changed to reflect the TAC meeting schedule. Language was added stating all MPO meetings are open to the public. Provisions were made to take emergency votes for all 3 committees. Attendance requirements for voting privileges for CAC members were clarified. Agenda suggestions must now be submitted 7 days prior to the CAC meeting.

***Lynn Coyne moved to approve the changes. Jack Baker seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. New Business

A. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant Application (*Action Requested)**
Raymond Hess introduced the HSIP program which is administered by the MPO. The MPO has about \$716,000 to program. The City of Bloomington applied for funding for improvements at Atwater and Henderson St. Improvements include a new traffic signal, roadway realignment new sidewalk and street trees, stormwater infrastructure, improved geometrics and new signage. The City requested \$571, 875 in HSIP funds with a local match of \$165,700 for a grand total of \$730,000. This project has a benefits cost ratio of 8.74. Lynn Coyne noted that IU staff who work in this area witness many accidents. The project will start in fall 2009. Richard Martin asked about the left turn lane. Joyce Williams said it will be managed through the signalized intersection. Mr. Desmond said staff will bring a TIP amendment for this project at a later date.

***Lynn Coyne moved approval. Iris Kiesling seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Railroad Crossing Support Resolution (*Action Requested)**—Josh Desmond said that MPO staff has had discussions with City of Bloomington and Indiana University concerning some possible upcoming railroad crossings. Along with W. 3rd St. improvements, a railroad crossing is desired to connect Johnson Ave. to Basswood Ave. The City would like MPO support for this new crossing. Both the CAC and the TAC supported the City's request. ***Jack Baker moved to approve the Johnson Avenue railroad crossing. Iris Kiesling seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IU has been updating their Master Plan. They would like to close the crossing at Walnut Grove and add a crossing on Woodlawn. IU would like an MPO endorsement of this new crossing. Many neighbors support a future Dunn St. connection rather than the Woodlawn crossing. The CAC was comfortable with closing the Walnut Grove crossing but withheld endorsement of a crossing at Woodlawn over N. Dunn St. Mr. McDaniel supported closing Walnut Grove and opening Woodlawn because it would provide an efficient route for the buses to leave the stadium and go straight into campus. Mr. Coyne suggested that other options, like underpasses and overpasses, are cost prohibitive. He said that a pedestrian underpass at Walnut Grove is being planned since presently some students crawl under the stopped trains to get to class. Mr. Martin suggested getting rid of the crossing at Fess to open up the possibility of establishing a crossing at Dunn St.

***Iris Kiesling moved to approve the Woodlawn railroad resolution. Andy Ruff seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 11:1 (Mr. Baker voted against.).

C. Complete Streets Policy (Action Requested*) Iris Kiesling requested postponing action on this item until March since some information to be discussed at Road School may have bearing on the Policy. Road School will be held March 10-12, 2009. Mr. Stuebe asked what effect this would have on the Policy. Mr. Hess stated there is no timeline to adopt the Policy. It would be preferred if the Policy were adopted sooner than later and that the Committee should keep in mind how the Policy might affect the development of the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Hess said that the Policy was endorsed by both the CAC and TAC in November. Mr. Baker said the CAC has been working on this Policy for a long time and would like to see it passed so that the Committee can move on to other things. Mr. Ruff asked if delaying the vote would impact applying the Policy to any road projects in the near future. Mr. Hess said he believed that it would affect how the TIP is developed.

***Andy Ruff moved to approve the Policy. Jack Baker seconded.

Mr. Stuebe asked Ms. Kiesling to clarify what will be revealed at Road School that will impact the Policy. Ms. Kiesling explained she believes the tenants of the Policy are already followed without the need for a Policy. Bill Williams further explained that INDOT is trying to streamline project development but this Policy would add more hoops to jump through, more possible expense and more possible delays. He stated he has no problems with what the Policy is trying to accomplish and believes its intent is already being met. Mr. Baker said that it is laudable that current projects are doing some of the things called for in the Policy. The Policy is needed to solidify a commitment to complete streets, clarify how projects are programmed into the TIP, and ensure that good practice is followed even after a change in personnel. Scott Robinson said that staff would be sure to work with the LPAs to keep the requirements from becoming burdensome. Mr. Stuebe asked if the Complete Streets Policy will be in conflict with the State's LPA Initiative. Bill Williams responded "no" but reaffirmed his concern over the added time the Complete Streets Policy would add to a project. Mr. Martin questioned this assertion. By his reading, only exemptions seem to be an imposition in time. Mr. Nierzwicki called for waiting since Ellettsville had not yet had organizational meetings. The Ellettsville Town Council would meet the following week and Mr. Nierzwicki would feel more comfortable broaching this issue once they've selected a President. Mark Kruzan asked what practical changes would be made between now and March if the issue was tabled. Ms. Kiesling said she thought people would like to see changes in some definitions, performance standards and measurable outcomes. She was concerned that this policy added another group of people dictating how the County spends its money. Adrian Reid stated that there was a local design issue in which LPAs may be fearful of losing funding during project implementation if a change order causes the project to be inconsistent with the Complete Streets Policy. Bob Williams explained that INDOT's LPA initiative is meant to speed up projects. INDOT would offer trainings after the initiative was unveiled at Road School. Mr. Ruff stated he sees a predictable and understandable resistance to formalizing a new paradigm in transportation and street building. If the Policy proves to be problematic, the Policy Committee can choose to amend it in the future. Mr. Coyne and MPO staff clarified that the Complete Streets Policy would be applied before INDOT's LPA Initiative when it comes to individual project implementation. Mr. Martin affirmed this to be true except when there are significant changes which would require the LPA to come back to the MPO for approval.

***Iris Kiesling moved to continue the issue until March 13 and that we clarify the issues that are of concern to both to Ellettsville and the County.

Mr. Martin pointed out that since Ms. Kiesling's motion was to continue rather than table the motion, Mr. Ruff's motion would need to be dealt with first. Mr. Robinson acknowledged that not all Policy Committee members have benefited from a staff overview of the Policy which seems to have resulted in some confusion. Staff has worked with the CAC for nearly 2 years on the Policy in addition to meeting with LPAs individually. He also stated that much of the language has been taken from draft federal legislation as well as other existing policies across the country. Mr. Robinson also explained that the Policy is purposefully vague when it comes to standards so that the LPAs can define their own standards. The Policy is process driven and not design driven. Lastly, Mr. Robinson requested that direction be given to staff as to what changes need to be made if the Policy Committee chooses to continue the discussion until March. Mr. Martin reiterated that it is up to the LPA to determine a project's performance standards and measurable outcomes. He stated he did not see how it changed the existing process except for projects which encounter significant changes during implementation. He also explained that projects which are more than 30% complete at the time this policy is adopted are exempt from the Policy. Mr. Ruff encouraged fellow Committee members to vote for the Policy and not go against the recommendations of the CAC, the TAC, and staff. Mr. Desmond requested a roll call vote.

***A roll call vote was taken. The motion was approved by a vote of 8:4. (Ms. Kiesling, Mr. Nierzwicki, Mr. Stuebe and Bill Williams voted no.)

Mr. Coyne was very concerned with the County's concerns and would be very supportive of any changes proposed by the County in March based on what is learned at Road School. Several committee members agreed with Mr. Coyne's comments. Mr. Nierzwicki preferred to have more direction from incoming Ellettsville officials before he votes for the Policy. Mr. Stuebe was concerned that both Monroe County and the Town of Ellettsville had reservations about the Policy and would prefer waiting to adopt it in March. Ms. Kiesling asked if the Karst Trail could be exempted from the Policy. Mr. Hess explained that the project is not a road project and therefore is already exempted.

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

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas

Mr. Nierzwicki explained that the Town of Ellettsville is hard at work identifying projects for the expected Stimulus funding. Mr. Coyne announced that IU will hold an open house on its Master Plan in the near future.

X. Upcoming Meetings

A. Technical Advisory Committee – January 28, 2009 at 10:00am (McCloskey Room)

B. Citizens Advisory Committee – January 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

C. Policy Committee – March 13, 2009 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)

Adjournment

*These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their regular meeting held on April 3, 2009.
(RCH 4/3/09)*