



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 3, 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:** Susie Johnson (City Public Works Department), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Frank Nierzwicki (Proxy Ellettsville Town Council), Jim Ude (proxy for Jim Stark, INDOT), Julie Thomas (County Council) and Mark Kruzan (City Mayor).

**Others:** Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Dave Williams (City Parks), Rick Coppock (Bynum Fanyo), Chelsea Sipes (Public observer), Tom Orman (Cowden Enterprises)

**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. **January 9, 2009 (revised)**—Mr. Hess noted that Mr. Ruff had asked for more details in the minutes under the subject of Complete Streets. Mr. Hess noted a few other changes that clarified the discussion about railroad crossings on campus. The minutes have been updated. \*\*\***Bill Williams moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mark Kruzan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- III. **Communications from the Chair**—Mr. McDaniel reported that the bill for regional transportation districts that passed the House is dead. HB1607 is moving. It would create a regional transportation district in NW Indiana only but it does include the BTC service area language that BT wanted. If this bill passes BT still could provide service beyond its taxing districts.
- IV. **Reports from Officers and/or Committees**
  - A. **Citizens Advisory Committee**

Mr. Baker discussed the ARRA backed projects and the TIP amendments for BT. They have been discussing a method of prioritizing projects for the TIP using criteria from the Long Range Plan. This is done by other MPOs. They are looking at developing more project ideas to submit to Ball State this year.
  - B. **Technical Advisory Committee**—Adrian Reid said that the W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. project lets next week. The Henderson St. Safe Routes To School Project is scheduled for a May letting.
- V. **Reports from the MPO Staff**—There was no report.

## VI. Old Business

### A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

#### a. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects (*Action Requested\**)

Mr. Hess said that action on the MPO's ARRA funding allocation was postponed since staff felt that they did not have enough information at that time to make an informed decision. On March 9, the MPO received the final 100% funding (ARRA) amount of \$3,057,822. Three major requirements resulted in many proposed projects being deemed ineligible. The projects need to be shovel-ready. A project needs to obligate funds for construction by March 2010. Money cannot be used on design or right-of-way acquisition. A project either has to be a new project or one that has been moved up in time. Road projects have to be on the federal functional classified system or network. All projects need to meet all federal requirements currently in place. There are new reporting requirements for the LPAs. Mr. Ude added that any construction has to be completed by March of 2012.

##### i. Monroe County projects

Mr. Hess reviewed the Monroe County pavement preservation projects. The project cost is estimated at \$676,996. The second project submitted is for two sections of bridge deck overlay for \$503,277. Bill Williams detailed the projects.

##### ii. City of Bloomington projects

Mr. Hess said that one project is the Jackson Creek Trail project, Phase I (from the Goat Farm to the Sherwood Oaks Park) for \$748,045. There is an existing Transportation Enhancement Award for this project. The City can redesignate that existing award for another City project. The second City project is for sidewalk restoration at multiple locations for \$225,559. The third project is traffic signal upgrades for \$256,887 in downtown locations. The final project is for pavement preservation for S. Walnut St. for \$647,058.

Dave Williams presented details about the Jackson Creek trail project. He said they haven't decided what they would spend the additional \$500,000 on. Mr. Martin asked if a new project would have to be put into the TIP. Mr. Hess said yes, after the project is approved by the state. Mr. Reid and Mr. Nierzwicki asked if it could change LPAs. Mr. Hess said he didn't think they could since the funds were allotted to a particular LPA. Mr. Martin asked if Parks has other projects eligible for TE funding in the pipeline that they could spend that money on. Mr. Williams said yes.

Ms. Johnson explained how they came up with the other City projects and presented more detail about each one. Mr. Martin thought the PC should not consider the pavement resurfacing project since it was not included in last month's packet. Mr. Hess said it was left out of the packet inadvertently last month but staff feels confident that it has met the public participation requirements since it was publically noticed and was reviewed by the CAC and TAC. Mr. Martin confirmed with Ms. Johnson that they basically shifted a bunch of small projects into one large project.

**iii. Town of Ellettsville**

Mr. Hess reviewed the Heritage Trail project. Mr. Nierzwicki said that they were awarded a \$169,000 TE grant in 2003 and that Ellettsville is very interested in getting this project going again. Rick Coppock, Ellettsville's Town Engineer, explained that they would like to build a 12-ft-wide pedestrian sidepath on the bridge over Jack's Defeat Creek. Mr. Nierzwicki said that smaller towns don't often get these funding opportunities. Coming up with local matches is difficult for small towns. Mr. Martin asked why a pedestrian bridge was not put in when the State built the bridge. Mr. McDaniel said that the MPO asked INDOT to put in a pedestrian bridge on the south side and they turned down the request. Mr. Martin asked if they have the right-of-way. Mr. Nierzwicki said they have some of it. There was discussion of trail phasing.

Mr. Martin discussed with Mr. Williams making the widened bridge on Headley fit with the narrower street. Mr. Martin asked how the PC should evaluate the CAC and TAC recommendations since the list they saw was different than the one today. Mr. Hess said the recommendations in your packet are from the March meeting and are closer to what the final list looks like than the recommendations that were made in February. The TAC list did not include the Heritage Trail in their recommendation since it seemed the project would not meet the time line.

Mr. Kruzan asked Mr. Nierzwicki if the portions of the Heritage Trail project could be done within the year's time. Mr. Nierzwicki said yes. Mr. Kruzan asked if for any reason any of these projects cannot be completed in time, what happens. Mr. Hess said we would come back and re-designate a different project for use of those funds. Staff's only concern is that our timelines are relatively tight. Mr. Kruzan suggested dropping the traffic signal modification money completely and dedicating it toward the Heritage Trail. The project will employ local people and local contractors. He indicated the City will try to cover the traffic signals. If it looks like the Heritage Trail is not going to move forward, he asked for Mr. Nierzwicki's support to putting those funds back in for signal modification. Mr. Williams said he could offer additional money from his pavement preservation projects.

Mr. Desmond suggested monthly progress reports on these projects. Mr. Martin suggested an absolute deadline of Sept. 11 to decide if changes need to be made. Mr. Williams said that his trail projects are in the INDOT camp. Is there communication from the MPO to INDOT Seymour indicating the decisions so that INDOT will set the letting date? Mr. Hess said yes.

**\*\*Richard Martin moved approval of the ARRA funding project request list as amended at the Policy Committee meeting for the total amount of \$3,057,822 for projects in Monroe County (pavement preservation, bridge deck overlay), Bloomington (Jackson Creek Trail, Sidewalk Restoration, Pavement Preservation of S. Walnut) and Ellettsville (Heritage Trail). At the Sept. 11, 2009 meeting, the PC will have a report on the status of each project**



and to verify that they can go forward and use the funds under the criteria that have been established by the State and Federal government and allow us to make modifications at that point if we have projects that are not going to be successful. Jack Baker seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

**b. Operational Assistance (Bloomington Transit) (*Action Requested\**)**

Mr. May said that this TIP amendment is to bring BT's operational assistance project into agreement with the BT budget for 2009. Last year when the TIP projects for BT were prepared, it was done a few months before the actual operating budget was prepared. BT is going to need to use about \$250,000 of federal funding (5307) to help balance the operating budget primarily due to the increased cost of fuel and insurance. **\*\*\*Susie Johnson moved to accept the amendment. Richard Martin seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

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

**A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas**—Adrian Reid suggested considering getting DES#s for possible replacement projects. Mr. Martin wanted to get some discussion about the I-69 North interchange so we can send a letter to the State. Have we received a letter from the feds? Mr. McDaniel said we had not yet.

**IX. Upcoming Meetings**

- A. Technical Advisory Committee – April 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- B. Citizens Advisory Committee – April 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- C. Policy Committee – May 8, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**

Adjournment

*These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their regular meeting held on May 8, 2009.  
(RCH 5/8/09)*

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