



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
May 8, 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 (CAC), Lynn Coyne (IU), Susie Johnson (City Public Works Department), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Kevin Robling (proxy for Mayor Kruzan), Andy Ruff (City Council), Jim Stark (INDOT), Bill Stuebe (City Plan Commission), Julie Thomas (County Council), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department), Frank Nierzwicki (Proxy Ellettsville Town Council), and Mark Stoops (County Commissioner).

Others: Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Dave Williams (City Parks), Jim Ude (INDOT), Randy Paul (citizen), Sarah Ryterband (CAC/BTOP), and Doug Norton (Rural Transit).

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. March 13, 2009—Mr. McDaniel commended Jane for putting together the extensive minutes. Mr. McDaniel made one correction: that the buses will be built by “Gillig.” Mr. Stark presented a few comments and sidebars from Dave Butts. Mr. McDaniel said that he had been told that in order to participate in the hardship acquisition program, a property must be the homeowner’s primary residence. Mr. Stark said he could find out the answer. Mr. Stuebe moved approval of the minutes as amended included Mr. Starks comment. Mr. Nierzwicki seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. April 3, 2009—Mr. Martin moved approval. Mr. Stuebe seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Communications from the Chair—Mr. McDaniel reported that all the legislation he was following at the State level went down in flames. There is some talk about reviving some of the issues in the Special Session.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Citizens Advisory Committee—Mr. Baker reported that the CAC has been evaluating the long range vision statement and discussing ways of prioritizing projects. They have submitted two projects to Ball State for possible studies.

B. Technical Advisory Committee—Mr. Reid reported that the bid for the Henderson St. Safe Routes to School project came in \$100,000 under the engineer’s estimate. They hope to get started in June. The South Rogers St. project (also in the TIP) was advertised in the paper today. Public comment closes on May 29.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff

A. 10th Street Campus Mobility Study—Mr. Hess reminded the PC that the City, IU and the MPO are collaborating on possible improvements to the 10th St. corridor. Staff has developed a website accessed from the City’s MPO webpage for information regarding that. Two public workshops were held on April 16. There was good input although a small attendance. There is an online survey. He encouraged PC members to participate in that survey. Staff also has set up a Facebook page with the same information on the website. Other project information is posted as well. Staff hopes that the consultant will be working on this project soon after May.

B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development—Mr. Hess said that staff is very behind on the development of the TIP. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has taken a lot of staff’s attention and consequently, other projects like the TIP are behind schedule. We have formally begun the process. Staff issued a call for projects to all the LPAs on April 23. All LPA submittals are due on May 13. The 30 day public comment period will run from May 20-June 18. The TAC and CAC will review the projects at their May 27 and June 24 meetings. We anticipate the PC to adopt the TIP on June 26. The regularly scheduled meeting for the PC was to be on June 12. There was no objection to changing the date of the meeting and the date was changed.

C. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development—Mr. Desmond said that the UPWP has been delayed but since we did a 2-year Work Program last year, we don’t need to do a full-blown new UPWP this year. Staff just got our annual allocation from INDOT this last Tuesday which was about 3 months later than usual. For the second half of our 2-year Work Program, we will have whatever we didn’t spend for FY 2009, a reserved \$150,000 and our new funding for FY 2010 Federal/Local combined about \$350,000. We should have enough money to meet everyone’s needs. FHWA has sent us this year’s PEAs (Planning Emphasis Areas) to be added to our UPWP. This year they include 1) Quarterly Project Tracking Reports, 2) Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and 3) Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plans. As part of the ADA act, any public agency with over 50 employees needs to have a plan to come into compliance with that act at all of their public facilities. Any LPAs requesting money to which this is applicable must have up-to-date facilities. Mr. Hess said that staff intends to distribute to the PC the first draft of the UPWP as soon as it is ready.

Mark Stoops asked how are comments incorporated into the proposal. Mr. Hess explained that staff compiles the comments and includes them in the packet for the PC’s consideration. When comments come in after the packet is distributed, they are provided at the meeting as supplemental information.

VI. Old Business – there was no Old Business

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Enhancement (TE) Process (*Action Requested)**

Mr. Robinson reviewed the transfer of TE administration to MPOs. It is anticipated that the MPO will receive about \$280,000 annually for TE projects. In order to award and administer TE grants, the MPO needs to develop a TE project selection process. Staff suggests formation of a selection committee made up of 2 members from each committee of the MPO with staff

adding a couple of at-large members based upon the grant application. The selection committee will score and review applications and recommend projects for funding. Their recommendations will be forwarded to be reviewed by the CAC, TAC and the PC. Staff chose to follow existing state criteria guidelines. We are using INDOT's grant application and scoring system. We can add to that in the future. At this point, all criteria are equally weighted although we could decide to change our preferences in the future. Staff brought this draft process to both the CAC and TAC for their feedback and comments. The CAC supported the process. The TAC was concerned over the composition of the selection review committee and potential conflicts of interest. They recommended that the request was tabled. Staff didn't feel there was enough time to table the request so it was brought forward to this meeting today. Staff feels the TAC's concerns have been addressed with this draft. Mr. Reid said that he felt this draft was acceptable. Mr. Martin said it should say who makes the selection of the committee. Mr. Hess said the intent was that each committee would self-select their representative. Mr. Martin asked for that wording to be added. He also felt that the wording should be "appointed" rather than "nominated to." Mr. Martin asked if staff appoints the "experts?" Mr. Robinson said yes. Mr. Martin wanted that made clearer by adding after TE selection committee "by the MPO staff if the MPO staff finds the composition of the committee could benefit." There was no public comment. **Mr. Martin moved approval of the local Transportation Enhancement program as stated in our packet and amended during our meeting. Mr. Stoops seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

B. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

a. Rural Transit – Transit Stimulus Package Purchases (ARRA) (*Action Requested)**

Mr. Hess stated that on March 13, the PC processed the first round of ARRA amendments related to transit. The list of projects submitted by Rural Transit was not yet final. Since then, Rural Transit has met with INDOT and finalized the project list and cost and would like to make an amendment to the project in the TIP. Doug Norton explained how the changes came about. INDOT and the County Commissioners have approved this. Randy Paul, member of the public, said that he is largely supportive of the project. He uses Rural Transit and BT Access. However, he has real concerns with the management by Area 10. He discovered about 8 weeks ago in the bid to BT for the BT Access contract that there is an entire section on training which in fact does not exist. Two managers are named to run the training program but those drivers never knew that their names were being put forth. This is a public safety concern. The current training is that they will basically shadow another driver for about a day and a half. One driver shadowed for 4 hours only because she had driven a school bus. He has probably trained more drivers on how to secure a wheelchair than anybody has. There are inherent labor problems in Area 10 now. There have been 12 transit managers in the last 6 years. On the BT Access account that Area 10 finally got, there were a total of 22 different benchmark conditions that the director has to make or she gets fined. Money-related accountability seems to work. It does matter where the money goes but also who is running the program. The drivers need formal training on these buses that they are buying. Mr. McDaniel said that he doubted that it was the PC's job to worry about management issues. Mr. Paul said that he has spent 5 years to try to work out arrangements to try to take care of problems. He has exhausted everything that he could think of. He wanted to make the PC aware of the problems. **Mr. Martin moved approval

of Rural Transit's TIP amendment to use \$1,057,074. Mr. Williams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b. INDOT – SR 48 Preventive Maintenance from SR37 to Curry Pike (ARRA) (*Action Requested)** – Mr. Hess explained that INDOT has requested that the TIP be amended to include preventive maintenance of SR 48, aka W. 3rd St. from 800' east of SR37 to Curry Pike. The project would use \$534,251 in ARRA. Both Advisory Committees recommended approval of the this amendment. This project did not have to undergo the full-blown public participation process because it does not add capacity. Mr. Wykoff asked if this project would address sidewalk ramps and bringing them into compliance with ADA standards. Mr. Ude indicated it should. **Mr. Williams moved to amend the TIP to include the project. Mr. Nierzwicki seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

c. INDOT – SR 45/46 Bypass from Kinser Pike to Pete Ellis Dr. (ARRA) (*Action Requested)** – Mr. Hess explained that he received communication yesterday morning from Tim Muench, INDOT's project manager for the bypass, requesting that the amendment be withdrawn. Mr. Hess reviewed the message from Mr. Muench which stated that the total construction cost is identified to be \$24.5 million dollars and that a TIP or STIP amendment is not required. Mr. Hess also stated that it was his understanding that the project is no longer being considered for ARRA funding. Mr. Stark explained that ARRA funds need to be equally distributed across the State. Funding the bypass with ARRA funds would throw this area's portion out of balance with the rest of the state which is why the bypass will be funded with state funds. Mr. Stark indicated they are aiming for a July letting for this project. Mr. Stark stated the project would likely have to be shown in FY2010 in the next TIP. Mr. Desmond clarified that no action is needed at this time. The project will be included in the next TIP with the updated cost and DES numbers.

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

Mr. Martin reported that the City and the County are discussing interchange possibilities related to I-69 on the north side of town. Something may surface on this subject at a later time.

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas

IX. Upcoming Meetings

A. Technical Advisory Committee – May 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)

B. Citizens Advisory Committee – May 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

C. Policy Committee – June 26, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

Adjournment

These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their rescheduled meeting held on June 26, 2009 (RCH 06/24/2009)