



Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2009 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall

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

Attendance

Technical Advisory Committee: John Carter (Monroe Co. Community School Corp.), John Collisson (County Highway), Jewel Echelbarger (Rural Transit), Jane Fleig (CBU), Laura Haley (Bloomington GIS), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Tom Micuda (Bloomington Planning), Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), Andrea Roberts (Bloomington Public Works), Mike Trexler (Bloomington Controller), Jim Ude (INDOT), and Dave Williams (Bloomington Parks).

Others: Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), Raymond Hess (MPO Staff), Jane Weiser (MPO Staff), and Joyce Williams (Bloomington Engineering).

- I. Call to Order**—Adrian Reid called the meeting to order.
- II. Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. February 25, 2009**—Tom Micuda moved approval of the minutes. Lew May seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.
- III. Communications from the Chair**—There was no report.
- IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees**

Mr. May said that Bloomington Transit had chosen Parsons Brinkerhoff working with Bill Riggert as their architectural and engineering team to negotiate a scope of work and the cost proposal. They hope to be able to award a contract for the final design within the next two weeks. Mr. Collisson reported that the Smith/Rogers preconstruction meeting will be Tuesday. Construction will be starting the first of May. Mr. Reid is reviewing RFQs for construction inspection for the Henderson St. project. Engineering may do that in-house. INDOT is looking at the two roundabouts (17th & Arlington and Sare & Rogers) for advertising for RFQs.
- V. Reports from the MPO Staff**

Mr. Hess pointed out the supplemental handouts. One was an email from a CAC member about Complete Streets.
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (ARRA Projects)**
 - a. Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects (*Recommendation Requested*)** Mr. Hess said our funding allocation totals \$3,057,822. Many projects have been disqualified for funding based on the guidance provided by INDOT and FHWA. As a result, staff asked the Policy Committee on March 13th to withhold amending the TIP to program ARRA funds since information was still coming in. There will be a special meeting of the Policy Committee on April 3 for them to make a final determination on which projects should receive the funding.

The supplemental handout contains the most up-to-date information. Mr. Hess explained why some projects became ineligible for ARRA funds.

i. Monroe County projects

Monroe County projects still eligible include pavement preservation projects and 2 bridge deck overlays.

ii. City of Bloomington projects

The B-Line Trail project dropped from the list since that has a good chance of moving forward without ARRA funding. Mr. Hess listed the projects still being considered. Ms. Williams said that project inspection costs were not included so around 12% should be added to the projected costs for the City projects. Mr. Hess relayed a few detail changes to the projects.

iii. Town of Ellettsville

Mr. Hess said that the Heritage Trail is their main project but he didn't have details. From the MPO staff point of view, it is a little uncertain as to whether this project is ready to move forward and capable of meeting the obligation timeline.

Mr. Hess said that the TAC needs to reduce the number of projects to better match the amount of ARRA funds available. Mr. Hess presented a couple of scenarios which the committee could consider. Mr. Reid explained that they had dropped the signal projects on 3rd St. and why they had decided they could mill and fill Walnut St. *** **Tom Micuda recommended that the Policy Committee be forwarded the following recommendation from the TAC—ARRA funds should be used on the County pavement preservation and bridge projects, the Jackson Creek Trail project, the Ellettsville pavement preservation projects, the 4th St traffic signal projects (subject to construction inspection cost), all of the City preservation projects, plus the City sidewalk projects (with the amount being allocated to the City sidewalk projects reflecting whatever remaining funds are available).** Ms. Fleig seconded.

Dave Williams said that they have a \$500,000 TE award for Jackson Creek from 2003. He has heard various opinions as to how this money would be handled if they use ARRA funds. If he was sure he would get to keep is TE award, his request would be for \$248,000 instead of \$748,000. Mr. Hess said that INDOT has confirmed that if you use ARRA funds to replace existing TE funds, INDOT has agreed that within a 45-day period, you can assign those TE funds to another eligible TE project to be used within the same fiscal year that the original TE was assigned to. Mr. Hess asked Mr. Ude if this reassignment of TE money accurate. Mr. Ude said he thought it was. Ms. Williams read the language detailing this arrangement. There was more discussion about the risk of departments giving up TE money in order to qualify for more ARRA money and not having an INDOT-compliant project to transfer the TE funds to. Mr. Micuda said the City is working on a trail connection between Miller-Showers, Cascades and eventually Griffy. Presuming we could get the design done in a timely fashion, would a Phase I be potentially eligible. Mr. Williams

said it could be. It is uncomfortable to compete with other local, worthy projects. It is just a matter of timing. Mr. Micuda asked if some other funding becomes available for Jackson Creek Trail, we would come back and amend the TIP to reprogram that money. There was discussion about using ARRA funds to partially fund a project and it was decided that it could be tricky but possible. Mr. Ude noted that there are a lot of reporting requirements that go along with this money. Ms. Williams asked what would happen to surplus money if projects come in under budget. Mr. Hess said the money would be gone. Mr. Micuda said he guessed this would be a common problem and a certain amount of leeway would be expected. Mr. Hess said he was more concerned that projects might end up being underfunded. In those situations, there would be a need to get local funding. Mr. Reid thought that ongoing local funding lines could probably cover those situations. Mr. Williams said he would request that the 100% scenario stays in. Mr. Hess presented the new allocations which total \$3,057,820. Ms. Fleig asked if Parks TE money could go to the Heritage Trail. The money is for 2011. That could give them time to prepare. Mr. Desmond and Mr. Williams thought that the TE award would have to be allocated to a TE project within the city. *****Voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

a. Operational Assistance (Bloomington Transit) (*Recommendation Requested*)

Mr. May reported that last year's TIP amendment was developed prior to BT's budget process. Especially due to significantly higher fuel costs, they need to have the TIP reflect the proper number in their 5307 grant application. They are proposing a \$250,000 increase for 2009 Operating Assistance. That increase has been reflected in the 2010, 2011, and 2012 but they will still review those costs each year in case there are changes. Insurance costs have been going up dramatically, too. Mr. Micuda asked if it was possible that the Federal Transit Authority would deny the requested increase. Mr. May said it is a local decision. They've never had any problem with any TIP amendment. *****Jewell Echelbarger moved to accept the amendment. Dave Williams seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

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

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas

Mr. Reid asked what happens when they are doing the TIP next year and the I-69 issue comes up again. Has there been any fallout by what we did yet? Mr. Desmond said not to this point. We'll have to do business as usual until such time as that changes.

Jewell Echelbarger said Rural Transit's goal is \$1,074,052. Mr. Hess noted that Ms. Echelbarger had told him that their application has been submitted to the State and is under review. Once it gets final approval, we would do another TIP amendment.



Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Policy Committee (special meeting) – April 3, 2009 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)**
- B. Technical Advisory Committee – April 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)**
- C. Citizens Advisory Committee – April 22, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**

Adjournment

These minutes were adopted by the Technical Advisory Committee at their regular meeting held on April 22, 2009 (RCH 04/22/2009)