



**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2010 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 (Citizens Advisory Committee), Jason Banach (proxy for Lynn Coyne—Indiana University), Susie Johnson (Bloomington Public Works Department), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Mark Kruzan (City of Bloomington Mayor), Andy Ruff (Bloomington City Council), Jim Stark (Indiana Department of Transportation), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department), Mike Farmer (proxy for Ellettsville Town Council), and Mark Stoops (Monroe County Commissioner).

**Others:** Adrian Reid (City Engineer), Morgan Hutton (Chamber of Commerce)

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

- I. **Call to Order**—Kent McDaniel called the meeting to order.
- II. **Election of Officers**
  - A. **Chair**—Susie Johnson nominated Mr. McDaniel as Chairman. Mark Stoops seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
  - B. **Vice-Chair**—Andy Ruff nominated Jack Baker for Vice Chair. Ms. Johnson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:**
  - A. **October 9, 2009**—Ms. Johnson moved approval of the minutes. Mr. Ruff seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- IV. **Communications from the Chair**—Mr. McDaniel said that the final Bloomington Transit passenger count for 2009 was 3,027,877. Campus Bus had 3,293,179 passengers in 2009. Mr. McDaniel asked Ms. Johnson to comment on a recent pedestrian safety committee. Ms. Johnson reported that the recommendations included increased education to all students, some infrastructure components including installation of crosswalks on Fee Lane, and alignment of two opposing bus stops. The crosswalks will have medians, pavement markings for cars and a large sign package. Mr. Baker asked if they had considered improved crosswalks on Third St. especially near Rawles Hall. Ms. Johnson said she has quarterly meetings with IU and this subject has been raised for discussion. If these type of crosswalks work, they will consider installing them in locations on a list of places needing crosswalks.
- V. **Reports from Officers and/or Committees**
  - A. **Citizens Advisory Committee**—No report.

**B. Technical Advisory Committee**—Adrian Reid reported that a couple of stimulus-funded projects were on last month’s letting. The remaining projects are scheduled to let this month.

**VI. Reports from the MPO Staff**

**A. Progress Report FY2010 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**—Raymond Hess introduced the Progress Report for the 1st Quarter of FY 2010. He pointed out the funds spent on the North Campus Area Study. FY 2010 includes FY 2009 leftover funding.

**B. MPO Conference**—Josh Desmond presented a report on the Indiana MPO Conference. Mr. Hess presented a couple of sessions on bicycle safety and our efforts to create and sustain a Safe Routes to School Taskforce. This year our MPO won the 2009 Outstanding MPO Planning Project Award for our development of the Complete Streets Policy. Our policy is being used by at least 2 MPOs going through a similar process to establish complete streets policies. They are using our Policy as a framework for their policies. Mr. McDaniel said that AARP Indiana is very interested in statewide Complete Streets legislation. Mr. Baker noted that in the national AARP magazine there was an article about complete streets policies and we weren’t mentioned—so he sent them an email and the text of our policy.

**C. ADA Transition Plans**—Mr. Desmond reported that every community or public entity that has employment of at least 50 people or more has to have an ADA Transition Plan. The original deadlines have long since passed. The FHWA has communicated that if a community does not have one of these plans, their federal funding for transportation could be at risk. MPO staff has tried to provide information and training on a local level. The City of Bloomington does have a plan from the earlier in the 1990s. Ellettsville and Monroe County will have to do a plan. The MPO hosted a meeting in November where representatives of FHWA explained the process to local people. MPO staff will be available to assist with the plans. Jim Stark noted that the ADA regulations have been changing over the years making it difficult to produce plans. Mr. Stoops asked if there was a deadline for the initial plan. Mr. Desmond said no.

**D. Bill Stuebe’s retirement from Plan Commission**—Mr. Desmond announced Mr. Stuebe’s retirement. When a new Plan Commission President has been elected, that person will serve on the MPO Policy Committee. Mr. Hess noted that proxy statements remain valid as long as there is no expiration date on file.

**VII. Old Business** – There was no old business.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (*Action Requested\**)**

Mr. Hess introduced these minor TIP amendments for consideration.

**1. Transportation Enhancement Awards**—TE funds were awarded to these projects that have already been discussed by the MPO.

**a. Historic Street Restoration (Bloomington)**—The University Courts Brick Street Restoration will have a total project cost of \$264,354.00. The amount of TE funds was \$130,000. INDOT and FHWA have reviewed the application and approved the projects.

**b. Karst Farm Trail Phase IIa (Monroe County)**—Monroe County has been awarded \$430,000 in TE funds for the Karst Farm Greenway, Phase II. (Total project cost: \$537,500.)

**2. Updates to Projects**—Mr. Hess said that the following projects have some updated project costs or some minor changes in scope that are in the TIP.

**a. Operating and Capital Budget (Rural Transit)**—Rural Transit’s project description has been simplified to include 12 light transit vehicles, some software and miscellaneous equipment. Their operating budget has increased \$16,000. Mr. Stoops asked if the requested vehicles are in addition to the ones requested in early 2009. Mr. Hess said that Rural Transit did not purchase the previously requested vehicles.

**b. Pavement Preservation (Monroe County)**Mr. Hess reported that a segment of road originally included in the list of projects for the stimulus package has been removed. Mr. Williams said that the resulting extra funds will be applied to eligible roads for resurfacing.

**c. Batchelor Middle School Infrastructure Project (MCCSC)**—This is a shifting in the amount of funding designated for preliminary engineering versus construction. Mr. Hess added that the MPO might want to consider a change to allow for administrative amendments for very simple changes such as these.

**\*\*\*Richard Martin moved approval of the TIP amendments. Mr. Stoops seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

**B. Mt. Tabor Rd. Bridge #33 (Monroe County) and Complete Streets Compliance**

**(Action Requested\*)** Mr. Hess explained the project is subject to the Complete Streets policy. There are environmental constraints at the location that may affect the amount of shoulder space available for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The Policy Committee must decide if the change is inconsequential, if the project is exempt from the Complete Streets policy, or if the project will have to make changes to bring it into compliance with the policy. Mr. Williams explained that that they are proposing 2 11-foot lanes with 2 foot shoulders. This is a preliminary plan. They may be able to make the shoulders wider when they survey the area in more detail. Mr. Martin asked if they were trying to avoid the detention ponds or the creek on the other side. How can they make the road any closer to the creek? Ms. Johnson said she would not feel comfortable voting today without more information. The rest of the committee concurred. A special meeting was set for Jan. 22 at 1:30 pm for presentation of more information on the project and its compliance with the Complete Streets Policy.

**\*\*\*Ms. Johnson moved to table the vote until the special meeting on Jan. 22, 2010. Mr. Baker seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

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

**A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas**—Mr. Ruff asked if Mr. Stark could talk about the statewide Transportation Improvement Program at a future meeting. There is about \$5 million in the FY 2010-2013 INSTIP for I-69 from SR 231 to SR 37. He would like to know what the State has in mind for that segment of the project. Mr. Stark said it is probably for preliminary engineering or right-of-way acquisition but he will try to prepare a report for the March meeting.



- X. Upcoming Meetings**
  - A. Technical Advisory Committee – January 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)**
  - B. Citizens Advisory Committee – January 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**
  - C. Policy Committee – January 22, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**

**Adjournment**

*These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their meeting held on January 22, 2010  
(RCH )*