



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
March 12, 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 (Bloomington Plan Commission), Lynn Coyne (Indiana University), Richard Martin (Monroe County Plan Commission), Kent McDaniel (Bloomington Public Transportation Corp.), Tom Micuda (proxy for Mark Kruzan), Andy Ruff (Bloomington City Council), Julie Thomas (Monroe County Council), Bill Williams (Monroe County Highway Department), Mike Farmer (proxy for Ellettsville Town Council), Iris Kiesling (County Commissioner), Jim Stark (INDOT), and Patrick Murray (CAC)

Others: Sarah Clevenger (Citizen), Tom Tokarski (CARR), Ann Kreilkamp (Citizen), Adrian Reid (City Engineer), Sarah Ryterband (CAC), Jay Mitchell (INDOT), April Schwering (INDOT), David Holtz (INDOT).

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

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 22, 2010—Mr. Coyne moved approval. Mr. Micuda seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

III. Communications from the Chair—Mr. McDaniel discussed the Zipcar car-sharing service on campus. IU is not providing any financial support but helping to promote it. The Indiana University Student Association has started Zimride—a ride-sharing service. IUSA has also developed a bus-tracking system using cell phones.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Citizens Advisory Committee—Mr. Murray said that at their last meeting Mr. Williams spoke about the Mt. Tabor Rd. and the Matthews Drive Bridge. There was a long discussion about the SR 45/46 Bypass project. The CAC asked if there would be audible signals and pedestrian crossing at 3rd and 10th St. Mr. Stark said that INDOT is nearly done with testing some audible systems. There is another approval process for signals which should be done by the end of 2010. Any requested signal will have to have traffic warrants to back them up. Their opinion is that traffic will warrant them at these locations.

B. Technical Advisory Committee—Mr. Williams announced that they were awarded the Indiana Partnership for Highway Quality Award for the 1st and Walnut St. project. That project will also receive an award from the American Council of Consulting Engineers.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff

A. 10th St. Mobility Study (aka North Campus Area Study)—Mr. Hess stated there was a public presentation on the final findings of the report at the library last night. He presented the

3 possible alternatives. The preferred alternative is to design 10th St. and a new Law Lane/14th St. as 2-way streets. The estimated cost for the whole project is between 8 and 9 million dollars. The project will likely be done in segments. Mr. Hess noted that there is a webpage specifically dedicated to this study on the MPO website. CATS will be broadcasting the meeting.

B. Progress Report FY2010 2nd Quarter—Mr. Hess presented this report. Mr. Martin noted that Line Item 201 has spent 75% of the funding at this point and asked if more money should be added. Mr. Hess said not at this time.

C. Quarterly Project Tracking—Mr. Desmond presented this report and why it is important. LPAs and INDOT have provided information on projects identified in the TIP. This quarterly report helps MPO Committee members track the progress of projects. Mr. Hess thanked Richard Martin and Jay Mitchell for coordination to get information for State projects.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

*Action Requested**

1. 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program

a. ARRA project corrections—Mr. Hess said our Draft 2010-2013 TIP (new TIP) is not approved by the state so we are still operating under the 2009-2012 TIP (old TIP). The old TIP was not amended while staff was waiting for the new TIP to be approved. As a result, the old TIP now has some projects that are out of sync with what should be reflected. The old TIP needs to accurately reflect those changes. He listed the projects that need to be updated to reflect the final contract amount (See packet for details). We will be asking the PC to take action on the menu of changes just outlined related the old TIP. Staff will also ask for action to amend the new TIP.

2. 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

a. ARRA project corrections—Mr. Hess explained that all of the ARRA projects have been let and as a result the project costs should be updated in the new TIP (See packet for details). Also, the B-Line Trail Phase II will be able to absorb any surplus ARRA funds resulting from favorable bids on other projects.

b. INDOT project list—With respect to the new TIP, the State has requested that four INDOT projects be removed from the TIP. Ms. Kiesling said that she has had several complaints about the intersection of SR 45 at Garrison Chapel Rd. That is one of the projects that the State is withdrawing. Also removed are SR 45 from the bypass to Pete Ellis Rd, SR 45 from Pete Ellis Rd. to Russell Rd. and SR 46 from SR 446 to SR 135. Mr. McDaniel was surprised that the SR 45 (E. 10th St) projects have been bumped back 10 years. Kiesling agreed. Mr. Martin said that these projects were a commitment for funding to the County that is now gone. Is there other funding coming to the County that replaces these funds? Is the County just losing money or are we shifting the funding within an allocation through the Seymour District? He would be concerned if this money was going someplace else in the state for a new project that hadn't been included in somebody's program before. Mr. Stark said that in this financial situation today, the State's allocation for federal funding has been decreasing on an annual

basis. They reevaluated all projects last year and removed many projects across the State – not just in Bloomington. Everyone is pushing projects out 14 or 15 years which could result in a huge amount of projects in those years potentially costing billions of dollars. They spread projects on a statewide basis over several years in the future. Based on the fact that money is decreasing, and not leveling off, they are prioritizing projects not just in the Seymour district but on a statewide level. A project in Ft. Wayne might turn out to be much more of a priority than some of the projects in Seymour. Mr. Martin said that wouldn't necessarily be a shift in priority. If they are a high priority now, they were a high priority before. What concerns him is that priorities are changing. What are the changes in condition that are impacting change in priority? He doesn't want to see Monroe County being shortchanged because somebody took a project from someplace else and stuck it in line in front of us. Mr. Stark said he understood Mr. Martin's concerns but priorities can change if, for example, a bridge suddenly fails and they have to spend \$60-100 million on it. Where is that money going to come from? In some cases, they have to take the money and fix the bridge because it is a higher priority than another project. Ms. Kiesling said the area of E.10th St. is rapidly being developed by IU and there will be much more traffic there. This was on our list 15 years ago. Mr. Williams said that the section of SR 45 to Pete Ellis was on the bid list and was then removed. Ms. Thomas asked about access to a preliminary plan. Staff said they would help her find it. Ms. Thomas was concerned about pedestrian and bike amenities.

*****Mr. Williams moved to amend the TIPs as outlined by staff with the amendment of the last two in the fiscal year 2010-2013. Mr. Micuda seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

B. Update of the Long Range Transportation Plan—Mr. Desmond presented the strategy to readopt the current Long Range Transportation Plan. This approach would give staff more time to do a more thorough update. There are no funds for a consultant to prepare a new model. Staff would like to include the new Census numbers and any new requirements from the anticipated new federal transportation bill. There will be a 30-day public comment period starting at the end of March. Mr. Hess said that there is a lot of interest in overhauling the Travel Demand Model, but that time and budgets do not lend themselves to this approach at this time. Ms. Kiesling asked if the State was going to use the new Census data in their LRTP. Mr. Stark said they would but the data won't be available until 2012. Mr. Williams said the County will cooperate with the City for information, etc. Ms. Kiesling said the data should be available much sooner than last time. Mr. Micuda said that MPO staff can work on some parts of the Plan that don't require the use of the Census data. There was more discussion about the Travel Demand Model and the LRTP. Mr. Hess noted that the current Model doesn't include non-vehicular travel. Including bike, pedestrian, and transit data can be done but it will be a little more complicated. Mr. Desmond said staff will put together a preliminary timeline.

C. Indiana Statewide Transportation Improvement Program – Status Update—Mr. Stark said that since the last meeting the INSTIP has been approved and is online. He said that Mr. Ruff had asked specifically about dollars that are in the INSTIP for I-69 from SR231 to SR37. Mr. Stark explained that nothing has actually been appropriated monetarily because the preliminary engineering and the environmental documents are not ready for certain decisions to be made. There was more discussion about the progress of I-69 and the associated funding. He said that he would try to report at the May meeting.

VIII. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)—Mr. Ruff said that he certainly appreciated the cooperation between INDOT and the City in the past few months working toward making a kinder, gentler bypass project. He presented some traffic count data he obtained from INDOT’s website which suggested a decline in traffic along the bypass. To him this data indicates that the assumptions about the need for the project may be in question if these numbers are actually accurate and valid. It doesn’t seem there is enough increase in traffic to justify the amount of money that will be spent on this project. It’s critical to pause and get this right.

A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas

IX. Upcoming Meetings

A. Technical Advisory Committee – March 24, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)

B. Citizens Advisory Committee – March 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

C. Policy Committee – May 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)

Adjournment

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

*These minutes were adopted by the Policy Committee at their meeting held on May 14, 2010
(JFW)*