



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Seyed Shokouhzadeh, Executive Director

EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular meeting held at 4:00 p.m. in Room 301
Civic Center Complex – Administration Building
Evansville, Indiana

April 3, 2014

The foregoing are minutes and not intended to be a verbatim transcript. An audio version of the proceedings can be heard or viewed on our website at www.evansvillempo.com.

ROLL CALL

Members Present (voting):

Jack Corn, Stephanie Brinkerhoff-Riley, Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, Todd Robertson, Donald Angel, William Hubiak, Russell Sights, Richard Reid, Lori Buehlman, Rusty Fowler, Kevin McClearn

Members Absent (voting):

Stephen Melcher, Angela Koehler-Lindsey

Members Absent (non-voting):

Karl Browning, Rick Marquis, Scott Deloney, Marisol Simon, Tony Greep, Jose Sepulveda, Bernadette Dupont, Mike Hancock, Keith Damron, John Gowins, Michelle Allen

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

Seyed Shokouzadeh, Pam Drach, Rob Schaefer, Craig Luebke, Kari Akin, Erin Mattingly, Laura Lamb

Others Present:

Bobby Howard, Mike Shoulders, Michael Grovak

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Corn: The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes from the previous meeting. I would entertain a motion for approval. (Motion was made by Mr. Hubiak and seconded by Mr. Robertson.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Project Update

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Ms. Lamb: They have three projects for which they had RFPs posted in February. The RFPs were for preliminary engineering and right-of-way services.

Covert Avenue Road Diet

Ms. Lamb: United Consulting has been selected. They had a scoping meeting was held March 25th.

Weinbach Avenue Road Diet

Ms. Lamb: VS Engineering was selected and they also had a scoping meeting on March 25th.

Washington Avenue-Second Street-Parrett Street Area

Ms. Lamb: First Group Engineering was selected and their scoping meeting was held March 27th.

Evansville-Vanderburgh County Sign Inventory and Replacement

Ms. Lamb: Project plans and specifications for sign replacement are being developed. So now that they have done the inventory, they are going to go back and replace the deficient signs.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Burkhardt Road-Virginia Street Intersection Improvement

Ms. Lamb: An RFP for construction inspection has been posted on INDOT's website with a response date of April 24th.

Green River Road: Millersburg Road to Kansas Road

Ms. Lamb: A preconstruction meeting was held March 18th. A notice to proceed was issued March 21st.

Maryland Street Bridge Over Pigeon Creek

Ms. Lamb: This project is on track for letting this month.

INDOT

US 41 Preventative Maintenance: Boonville-New Harmony Road (northern Vanderburgh County) to SR 168 (southern Gibson County)

Ms. Lamb: This project was let for construction on March 5th to E & B Paving, Inc. of Anderson, Indiana for a low bid of \$15,671,509.

SR 261: SR 66 to Jenner Road in Warrick County

Ms. Lamb: According to INDOT, construction on this project is complete, though signs may remain through mid-summer and additional seeding of vegetative areas may be necessary.

CITY OF HENDERSON

Green River Road: Osage Drive to Woodspoint Drive

Ms. Lamb: The city is awaiting a notice to proceed from KYTC before sending out the plans for bid.

KYTC

KY 351/Zion Road

Ms. Lamb: The tentative letting date has been pushed back to July of this year in order to finalize bridge design plans.

E T Breathitt Parkway & KY 416 Interchange Modification

Ms. Lamb: Construction is underway and the project is expected to be complete by October of this year.

I-69 CORRIDOR

I-69 Indiana

Ms. Lamb: INDOT is expected to add a project for signing I-164 from US 41 to I-64 as I-69. The targeted letting date is September of this year and the estimated cost is \$2,048,000. Those are all the updates I have. Does anybody have any questions or comments?

Mr. Corn: Seeing none, thank you Laura.

B. FY 2015 & FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Akin: The draft UPWP has been on our website since March 3rd. I have made all the changes based on the comments we have received. So the final draft was on our website on March 27th when the packets went out. The UPWP includes all sources of funding that MPO will use in the next fiscal year, in addition to the scope of work the office will complete. The draft UPWP was sent to our state and federal planning partners, Federal Highway in Indiana and Kentucky, Federal Transit Administration, INDOT, and KYTC have all reviewed the document and they have issued questions to us and I have compiled all the questions, and because I was very lengthy last month, I'm not going to go into detail with most of these. Most of the comments were just adding an introduction that had definitions in it and changing some of the verbiage. I did want to note, if you go to page 40 that has all of our numbers on it, the total, \$1,624,946, remains the same. It did not change. Page 50 as well. Those are all exactly the same as what I presented last month. So do you have any questions on the comments we received?

Mr. Corn: Any questions? (None.) I would entertain a motion for approval. (Motion was made by Mr. Hubiak and seconded by Mr. Angel.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

C. Henderson Urban Area Boundary

Ms. Lamb: The Evansville MPO is seeking approval of the 2010 Henderson adjusted urban area boundary (UAB). The MPO worked with the local partners including the City and County of Henderson, Henderson City/County Planning Commission and the KYTC. Based on the rules and guidelines presented by KYTC, the MPO and the partnering agencies arrived at the 2010 adjusted urban area boundary map which is attached. Also attached is a justification letter that explains why the boundary was increased.

Mr. Corn: Any questions? Is there a motion for approval? (Motion was made by Mr. Hubiak and seconded by Mr. McClearn.) (Voice vote.) SO ORDERED.

D. Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Presentation

Mr. Shoulders: Thank you Mr. Corn. Members of the Policy Committee, I'm Mike Shoulders. I'm with Bernardin Lochmueller. We have been working on, under a Sustainable Communities grant for the past three years on a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The draft plan was posted for review from February 27th to March 27th on the seacplan.org site and I come to you today asking for approval of that plan. In your packet are some changes that have been made since March 27th. I'm not going to read them over to you. You can do that yourself. But I will give you a brief synopsis.

The first one on the first page is the Future Midwest Developments of AMTRAK. We presented some of the highlights of the plan on WNIN and we had a caller that asked about the status of AMTRAK. So we included the latest Midwest Regional Rail Association's plan which shows Evansville connected by a bus shuttle to Carbondale and then catching the AMTRAK line in Carbondale north to Chicago. So we reflected that in the SEAC Plan in response to that question.

I will say none of the changes that you have in your handout are of any policy change nature or new recommendations or changes. These are all illustrations and clarifications in the plan.

The second one is, working with DMD, we added some of the cultural districts and a designation for connection of these by a cultural trail.

Third in your hand out, we had been looking for an impaired streams from IDEM map and we found a good one and we have included that as an information point in the SEAC Plan. I want to add one that is not in your packet that we just very recently added. That is a simple location map of the CSOs. It came directly out of the control plan. In the draft plan, we had a very long description of the CSO program and the control plan and the location of CSOs and the area covered. But we didn't have a good map. So all this was just adding a map in there to kind of go with the text that was already there.

The last series of items are what we call Fair Housing and Equity Assessment as required by HUD in this grant. It's FHEA. These changes are from HUD in Washington, D.C., discussions and review of our FHEA. Most of these are also simply clarifications to the data. The FHEA HUD has a very set prescription of how to go about your analysis and stepping through your process and we followed that very closely. So those are the changes at this point. I would be happy to honor any questions you might have on this whole effort.

Mr. Sights: Mike, it's going to sound like I'm being critical and I'm not. But why did you choose to run the shuttle to Carbondale as opposed to either Centralia or Effingham which is closer to Chicago?

Mr. Shoulders: We didn't make that choice or that recommendation. It's in the Midwest Rail Association's information. So we just kind of duplicated their map. So, I don't have an answer for the reasoning on that. That is the current published location. There is also some discussion and mapping in there which we didn't really go into that shows a utilization of some existing rail lines that would go from Henderson and Evansville up to Terre Haute. That is not in their overall AMTRAK and Midwest Rails plan. That is not the favored one right at this time. The favored one is for Evansville to have a shuttle to Carbondale. We would like to see some hard rail recommendations. After all, this is a 2040 plan, so let's do some dreaming. But we just chose to show what the Midwest Rail was showing at this time.

Mayor Winnecke: I would just like to thank Mike and his team. You guys have done a phenomenal job these last three years. We have had many provocative discussions about what our region could be. It's a tedious process. So I say "hats off" to you and David and others that have been so steadfastly committed to this project. It's an exciting plan.

Mr. Shoulders: Thank you Mayor. I would just like to say that working with the Technical and Policy committees and EMPO staff has been a real pleasure. It has been a professional experience and rewarding and productive. We would like to announce and invite all of you now and all of your associates and friends to our gala celebration of this unveiling of the regional plan. This will occur next Thursday at 5:00. This is kind of a reception format. We are going to have two or three locations for running slide shows and design boards. We may be having a physical model that is coming from the University of Kentucky. Tim Skinner is working on that. But I can't promise that Russell. We will have some endorsements by some of our public officials. So please come join us. This is kind of the culmination of this three-year plan.

Mr. Corn: Where?

Mr. Shoulders: I'm sorry. The Centre, otherwise known as the name of the Old National Bank events plaza.

Ms. Buehlman: Is this a plan like most other master plans? Am I committing the Town of Newburgh or Warrick County to anything when we vote on this?

Mr. Shoulders: This is a regional plan. So it's rare that regional plans are done. Usually counties, municipalities do comprehensive plans. So this is a three-county, Henderson, Warrick, Vanderburgh plan. This is a 2040 plan. We say to all the stakeholders that we worked with that you can adopt all or any part of this plan as you see fit because some of the components will not sort of phase in until maybe 2025, 2030, depending on what goes before. Does that answer it for you? We are looking for an endorsement and adoption as sort of a policy guideline document.

Ms. Buehlman: Okay, but it doesn't necessarily commit the Town of Newburgh to any one thing, right?

Mr. Shoulders: Not to any capital improvements or that sort of thing.

Mr. Corn: Anyone else? If not, I would entertain a motion for approval. (Motion was made by Mr. Sights and seconded by Mr. Angel.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. METS Comprehensive Operational Analysis RFP Consultant Selection

Mr. Schaefer: On January 1, 2014, Evansville MPO issued a request for proposals cooperatively with the City of Evansville for the development of a Metropolitan Evansville Transit Systems Comprehensive Operational Analysis. We received six proposals. They are Bernardin Lochmueller, Nelson Nygaard, Parsons Brinckerhof, RLS and Associates, SRF Consulting and Tindale-Oliver and Associates. The six proposals were distributed to the City of Evansville, City of Henderson and the MPO for review, comments and scoring. We attached assessment summaries of the three highest scorings for this memo. We would ask for the selection of a consultant today.

Mayor Winnecke: Mr. Chairman, I was pleased to review these presentations. I would make a motion, and I will offer some backup. First, I would make the motion that we select Bernardin Lochmueller for this task. I do it for a couple of reasons. Communities hire a lot of consultants many times, from outside of our community because they have expertise that locals do not. This is one I would argue when we really need local eyes and knowledge of the community. Bernardin Lochmueller obviously they have the technical ability to do it, and the fact that they are here, and have been so involved in the SEAC planning that Mr. Shoulders just presented. They are intimately aware of the METS system. I think it makes them uniquely qualified to perform this analysis and that's why I offer BLA for a motion to hire them.

Mr. Sights: Could I make a comment? I agree with the Mayor's comments. I was one of their reviewers scorers. Honestly whenever I started looking at the proposals that were presented, mentally I was thinking, this is not Bernardin Lochmueller's area of expertise as I am aware of. But I was wrong. After I looked at the proposal, I think it was a great proposal. Based on their track record here and based on the content in the proposal, I think it is the right decision to make.

Mr. Corn: Any other comments?

Mr. Robertson: I too was one of the reviewers on the proposals that were given. I looked over all of them. But I do notice that there are some lines that, because they are aware of the knowledge of METS and some of the things I have been personally involved with METS in a lot of ways, I can see the actual clear, transparent transition that would be afforded if we went with Bernardin Lochmueller as opposed to some of the other entities that did not know relatively some of the inner workings of METS. So I thought that was also a good pick as well.

Mr. Corn: (Motion was made by Mayor Winnecke and seconded by Mr. Reid.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

B. Draft Transportation Alternatives Program Application

Ms. Mattingly: In your packets, you have the draft Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Application. The TA program is a new program under MAP-21 that basically combines the three previously stand alone programs of Safe Routes to School, Transportation Enhancements and the Recreational Trails Program. So these three programs are now combined into one funding source. So we needed to come up with an application for this program. Most of the projects that were eligible under these three programs are also eligible under the TA program. So looking at the application, the first two pages is really just kind of basic LPA information, basic project information. Then the third page is where we get into more of the detailed questions. That's where we will start prioritizing and scoring the applications. The second portion that will receive scoring is Project Readiness. Then the third section that will receive scoring is a section that the MPO will actually provide answers for. We wouldn't expect the LPAs to provide these answers.

Basically it's kind of data-driven questions that all the LPAs may not have resources for. So we will help the LPAs out with that section. We are also working on providing a guidelines document that will kind of guide the LPAs along the application process. We are bringing this today just as an informational piece. We are giving you a month to review it and then we will be back in May for approval. So if you have any questions or comments, you can let us know.

Mr. Corn: Any questions? Thanks Erin.

C. FY 2013-2016 TIP Amendments

Mr. Luebke: We have several amendments this month. The first three are all from our friends across the river in Kentucky.

No Item #: This is the Sandy Lee Watkins Park that the county is developing east of Henderson. This is an extension of the bike and walking trail they have in the park. They are adding the project for construction in FY 14. Project costs are \$130,000 and that's a 50% split between federal RTP funds-Recreational Trails Program funds, one of those programs that was folded into the new transportation alternatives Erin was just talking about and a 50% local match.

No Item #: Canoe Creek Nature Trail Phase 1. This is a City of Henderson project. There was an existing project on the north side of town, a Kimsey Lane trail project that is recommitting the funds that were assigned to that project and are revising the description to begin the development of Canoe Creek Trail project down on the south side. That's from Newman Park to the Old Madisonville Road trailhead. Also in FY 14. Project cost is \$200,000, also 50% RTP funds and a 50% match from the city.

No Item #: The third is a US 41 traffic study requested by KYTC. This is to study the segment from the US 60 interchange to the Ohio River bridges for issues along that corridor. They are adding that project in FY 14. Study costs \$100,000 and will be 100% federally funded with STP funds and Kentucky toll credits are providing the local match portion of that funding.

Mr. Luebke: We have several from INDOT.

Des # 1383240: I-164 sign modernization. This is the resigning project or the corridor from I-164 to I-69 that Laura spoke about earlier. Adding the project for construction in FY 15. Project cost is \$2,048,000, 100% federal interstate maintenance funding.

Des #s 1400305, 306, 307, 308: Bridge maintenance and repairs over Pollack Avenue and SR 66/Lloyd Expressway. Add construction for FY 15. \$500,000. That's a 90/10 federal interstate maintenance and state match.

Des #s 1382256, 57: Bridge maintenance on SR 66; bridge over Little Pigeon Creek and CR 125 West, that's east of SR 61 in Warrick County. Add project in FY 15, \$26,000 construction cost. 80/20 project.

Des #S 1382258, 259, 260, 261: SR 68 and SR 161, also bridge maintenance and repair a various locations on SR 68 and SR 161. Construction in FY 15. Construction costs are \$64,000.

Mr. Corn: Are there any questions? If not, I will entertain a motion for approval. (Motion was made by Mayor Winnecke and seconded by Mr. Hubiak.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

D. Summer 2014 Call for Projects

Mr. Luebke: We currently have an open Call for Projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program. Both of these project elements are available in Warrick County and Vanderburgh County in our study area. The applications are available on our website as well as the program guidance to kind of walk you through the process. The call is open and projects are due to us on Monday, April 21st for both programs. We will be reviewing those and bringing back projects that have been submitted for your consideration at a future meeting. Are there any questions?

Mr. Corn: Thanks Craig.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Bills

Mr. Corn: I would entertain a motion for approval bills. (Motion was made by Ms. Buehlman and seconded by Mr. Reid.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned.