



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization

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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

October 2, 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, Todd Robertson, Donald Angel, Angela Koehler-Lindsey, William Hubiak, Russell Sights, Richard Reid, Lori Buehlman, Rusty Fowler, Thomas Witt

Members Absent (voting):

Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, Stephen Melcher

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 Shokouhzadeh, Pam Drach, Rob Schaefer, Kari Akin, Erin Schriefer, Laura Lamb, Vishu Lingala, Craig Luebke

Others Present:

Bryan Bennett, Robert Howard, Ted Miller

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. Reid and seconded by Ms. Buehlman.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Project Update

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Covert Avenue Road Diet

Ms. Lamb: The BPW approved the preliminary engineering contract with the consultant on September 25th and it has been sent to INDOT for processing.

Weinbach Avenue Road Diet

Ms. Lamb: INDOT has issued authorization to proceed with the preliminary engineering contract.

Washington Avenue-Second Street-Parrett Street Area

Ms. Lamb: A kickoff meeting was held September 23rd with all interested city departments to discuss the scope of services.

Tekoppel Safe Routes to School

Ms. Lamb: At the last quarterly tracking meeting in August, all parties agreed that the project letting date would move from March 4th to February 4th.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Green River Road Widening: Millersburg Road to Kansas Road

Ms. Lamb: The project is 24% complete with the contractor working on storm sewers and fill for the new roadbed.

Maryland Street Bridge Over Pigeon Creek

Ms. Lamb: The project was posted for bids again starting September 26th and the bids will be opened on October 14th.

TOWN OF NEWBURGH

Newburgh Safe Routes to School

Ms. Lamb: A preconstruction meeting was held September 3rd and construction was expected to begin September 29th.

Newburgh Rivertown Trail

Ms. Lamb: Property appraisals are expected this month.

Newburgh Sign Replacement

Ms. Lamb: INDOT has approved the scoring of the RFPs and negotiations have begun with Beam, Longest & Neff.

WARRICK COUNTY

Oak Grove Road, Section 1 (County line at I-164 to Libbert Road)

Ms. Lamb: This project was scheduled to open to traffic on or before Friday, September 26th. So, I believe that project should be complete.

Bridge 371 (Old Highway 66 over Little Pigeon Creek)

Ms. Lamb: This project is now complete.

INDOT

US 41 – Lloyd Expressway Interchange

Ms. Lamb: This project was let for construction to Ragle, Inc. of Newburgh for a low bid of \$19,182,806.14. The engineer's estimate was \$21,010,000. Those are all the updates that I have. Are there any additions or discussion?

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: On the Weinbach Avenue Road Diet, that section, when are we going to do from Green River Road to Oak Hill, I'm sorry, Lloyd Expressway to Oak Hill? We are going to have Weinbach from the Expressway all the way to Pollack. Covert is going to be a bike lane as well, and then there's that gap from N. Weinbach to Oak Hill before you pick up another bike lane. It's either going to go to 41 and we are going to put one on Virginia; or it will go all the way out to Lynch. I think it is confusing for motorists. Then for cyclists, as soon as you hit the expressway, your lane is gone from that section until you get up to Oak Hill. I'm just curious if it's on the radar screen to complete that section.

Ms. Lamb: Has anybody heard anything about that? I haven't personally.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: I met with the City Engineer who basically said that maybe the pavement on N. Weinbach isn't old enough. That was about all that I got because I met with him and encouraged him to apply for funds for that section to be on a road diet when I saw that we were doing Weinbach.

Ms. Lamb: Was that with Pat Keepses or...

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: It was with Pat. No it was actually with Brent, the new City Engineer. It would just be nice because a lot of students come past the Expressway and use Wesselmans as well as tanning beds down there and a couple others. It's sort of promoting the business development of N. Weinbach. It would be nice to at least have a plan or an idea of when we will sort of complete, because that would be just an awesome section of bike lane to go all the way from the south side potentially to Oak Hill and Lynch. If you guys would at least ask, that would be great. Thank you.

Mr. Corn: Any other questions? (None.)

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2015 and 2016 UPWP Amendment-Add Safety Education & Public Awareness

Mr. Corn: Kari, you want to introduce your shadow?

Ms. Akin: I have Brian Bennett with me today. He is a student at the University of Evansville and he is double majoring in accounting and management. I am part of the U of E Connect program. I'm his mentor for this year.

Mr. Corn: You will learn a lot from her, Brian.

Ms. Akin: In your packets, we have a request for an amendment to the UPWP for the fiscal years 2015 and 2016. This is one new HSIP program project which is Highway Safety Improvement Program funding. It's a Safety Education and Public Awareness Campaign. The estimated project completion date is December of 2015. The total cost is \$18,000 with 100% being HSIP funds and all the pages that would be changed and affected in the UPWP, those are also included. So the most important one is the second page, 39-B, the Safety Education and Public Awareness Campaign. Our objective is to educate the public on roadway safety issues in an effort to improve safety for all modes of traffic, and bicycle safety and roundabouts are the main focus areas for this project.

Mr. Corn: Can we take those together or do we have to do them separate?

Ms. Akin: Separate.

Mr. Corn: Are there any questions? If not, I would entertain a motion for approval. (Motion was made by Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley and seconded by Ms. Koehler-Lindsey.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

B. Working Spouse/Registered Domestic Partner Rule Update to Employee Handbook

Ms. Akin: This is an update to our handbook. The Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking approval of an update to our health insurance policy in the Evansville MPO handbook. The update would include the working spouse/registered domestic partner rule in which working spouses of the Evansville MPO employees would, in most situations, be required to join their employer group medical coverage for primary coverage. This update would assist the Evansville MPO in providing competitive health benefits for their employees and their dependents up to age 26, and control rising health care costs. There are two pages attached to that memo. The first one is the proposed and that's the language we would use to attach to the current handbook. The next page at the very bottom, it says section 2.90.270 Health Insurance, that is what is currently as written in our handbook and it says the MPO provides medical group health insurance for its regular full time MPO employees.

Mr. Corn: Questions?

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: I found this very interesting because mostly the way I read this is that you currently offer benefits to what you are calling a registered domestic partner.

Ms. Akin: Right. We don't currently have any registered domestic partners but we looked at INDOT's policy and the I.U. School of Medicine and we are just trying to be proactive in case laws do change in the future.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: I understand that absolutely and it is pretty common to require your spouse to be on the plan if they have one available through their employer. But do you mind getting me a copy of that? I would like to see how you are defining domestic partner, because that would actually create three categories under the City of Evansville. The teamsters recognize domestic partner, married or not. The City does not. Then you could potentially have a different definition of this all together. I know one of the things we want to do hopefully before we have to wait for the Supreme Court to make a decision is get it all together.

Ms. Akin: Right.

Mr. Corn: Any other questions? I would entertain a motion for approval. (Motion was made by Mr. Sights and seconded by Mr. Angel.) Voice vote. SO ORDERED.

C. FY 2013-2016 TIP Administrative Modifications

Mr. Luebke: This is a couple of TIP administrative modifications that are just for your information. I don't need any action.

No Des#: The first is a request to modify the UPWP for the MPO. Revise the 2014 planning elements to reflect a slight revision to the METS Comprehensive Operational Analysis project. The total increase was \$15,000 on that. You see the UPWP element was \$1,000,000 and revised to \$1,015,000. That's also inclusive of the work for the Bicycle Master Plan as well as the Regional Pavement Management Process that you just saw outside this afternoon.

Item#02-2087: The second is a request from KYTC, Audubon Parkway. This is a maintenance project that is being pulled out of the group projects listing that is currently in the TIP and added as its own project to define the details of that project more specifically. This is pavement maintenance from Pennyriple Parkway to just east of Eutopia Road in Henderson County. That project is 12.4M in pavement maintenance, NHS funding and Kentucky toll credits are providing the construction funding for that project.

Mr. Corn: Any questions? (None.) Thanks Craig.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Subdivision

Docket No: 10-S-2014 Fieldstone Ronald Lee Dauby, et al, Owners

Ms. Lamb: This is in Vanderburgh County, a 49-lot, 32.7 acre residential subdivision located on the east side of Oak Hill Road just south of Oak Hill Elementary School. Lot 3 of the subdivision is approximately 13 acres and I think this was intended for an expansion of this proposed subdivision. Sidewalks are currently not available on Oak Hill Road. The EVSC has requested sidewalks in the subdivision due to the fact that buses cannot maneuver within the subdivision without an internal loop road. Cul-de-sacs are being proposed here. Therefore, children riding buses will be required to walk in the street to the entrance of the subdivision. The entrance to the proposed subdivision is within approximately 550 feet of the sidewalk in front of the school that goes directly straight out from the front to the edge of the road and only 100 feet from the school property line. Our recommendation is that sidewalks not be waived. The school has requested sidewalks. Buses are required to pick children up when sidewalks are not provided. Buses cannot access the subdivision without an internal loop road. In addition, the entrance should be reviewed for necessary

auxiliary lane improvements in accordance with the approved access management manual. If not currently warranted, auxiliary lanes should be required when expansion into Lot 3 occurs.

Mr. Corn: Is there any particular reason why we didn't loop that road all the way around, do you know?

Ms. Lamb: I think the cul-de-sac is going to dead-end into a retention basin. So, I'm not saying that they couldn't back it off a little bit and connect the loop, but that's not what is being proposed.

Mr. Corn: I think you would have trouble with fire trucks that have to get back there. Any other questions?

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: Who are we making the recommendation to? When we say we recommend that sidewalks not be waived, where does that go?

Ms. Lamb: It goes to the Area Plan Commission and they forward it to the County Commissioners in this case. They would have the decision of waiving sidewalks or not.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: What happened out at the Promenade? I know several meetings ago, I was on vacation one month and had trial a month. So, I've been gone for two in a row, but I know at one point we were looking at the fact that the Promenade development was not putting in sidewalks and Jack made the point that that's now the city proper and they can't waive. Do you know what happened with that project?

Ms. Lamb: I haven't heard that they have moved forward with it. We haven't had any additional subdivision sketches of that subdivision submitted for approval. So, I can't say for sure what has actually happened.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: We made a recommendation or actually said that they couldn't waive the sidewalks for the pedestrian paths that we were proposing. Is that the same deal, it went to the APC?

Ms. Lamb: That would be the city and Area Plan Commission in that case would have the authority to either waive or not waive sidewalks.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: I don't think they can waive them. I think it would have to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ms. Lamb: It's actually, if the lots are over a certain size. If they are smaller lots, then they can't be waived. But if they are 2.5 acres,...

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: Are they that big?

Ms. Lamb: Some of them are.

Mr. Angel: Just some information for Stephanie. I know a lot of that work out there that we spoke about at that time is out for bid right now. So, I guess that's oncoming.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: I drive out there a lot. I haven't seen anything going on. I just wondered if we were going to get sidewalks or not. I'll ask Ron London.

Mr. Corn: Any other questions? (None.) Thanks Laura.

C. Approval of Bills

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Buehlman: Almost a year ago, the MPO stepped up and helped Newburgh get our Safe Routes to School grant back on track. It will be seven years on October 29th since that was awarded and we will be about half way through the project at that point and almost done. So please come to Newburgh. Walk the construction going on. Again, thank you so much to the staff here. If it wasn't for the MPO, it would have been dead. So thank you again.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: Steve Melcher is a member of this Policy Committee and Steve is doing fantastic. He is expected to leave the hospital and go home by the weekend.

Mr. Corn: Thanks for the update because I hadn't heard anything the last couple days.

Ms. Brinkerhoff-Riley: He's doing wonderful. I had been going every day. This week I got there in the morning and he was reading the paper. So he's just doing wonderful. I think he will make a full recovery and it's just a miracle.

Mr. Corn: Thanks Stephanie.

Meeting adjourned.