



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 6, 2017

The following 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, Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, Todd Robertson, Joe Kiefer II, Russell Sights, Dan Saylor, Christy Powell, Rusty Fowler

Members Absent (voting):

Dr. H. Dan Adams, Bruce Ungethiem, Angela Koehler Lindsey, William Hubiak, Wade Clements

Members Present (non-voting):

Antonio Johnson

Members Absent (non-voting):

Joe McGuinness, Mayela Sosa, Shawn Seals, Marisol Simon, Susan Weber, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Bernadette Dupont, Greg Thomas, Ann Estes, Leslie Poff

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

Seyed Shokouhzadeh, Pam Drach, Laura Lamb, Erin Schriefer, Craig Luebke, Matt Schriefer, Kari Akin, Vishu Lingala

Others Present:

Ted Miller, Bobby Howard, Kevin McClearn, Don Gibbs

Jack Corn directed the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Russell Sights made a motion for approval and Todd Robertson seconded the motion; motion carried.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Project Update- presented by Pam Drach

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Weinbach Avenue Road Diet: Appraisals and review appraisals are complete. Offers have been made for 34 of the 37 parcels.

Washington Avenue-2nd Street-Parrett Street Area: Right-of-way engineering nearly complete.

Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage Project:

- Hi-Rail Corridor: Utility coordination activities are underway.
- Mid-Levee Connection (Cardinal Drive between Stringtown Road and Heidelberg Avenue): Draft Categorical Exclusion (CE) document has been submitted to INDOT for review and comment.

Evansville-Vanderburgh Sign Inventory and Replacement:

- Phase 2: The project construction is 75% complete with contract completion estimated for August 2017.
- Phase 3: The Request for Proposals (RFP) has been posted for project design.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Columbia-Delaware Bridge over Pigeon Creek: The scour report was submitted to INDOT on 4/14/17.

TOWN OF NEWBURGH

Newburgh Sign Replacement: The Town Council signed the third supplemental to the PE contract on 2/22/17. Three condemnations have been filed.

WARRICK COUNTY

Oak Grove Road-Phase 3: Pavement Design revisions were made and submitted to INDOT on 4/13/17.

Warrick Trails SRTS: The survey is complete and environmental work is underway.

I-69 Corridor

I-69 Ohio River Crossing: A Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on 2/13/17 and the Section 106 Early Coordination letter was sent to consulting parties on 4/25/17.

Handouts from the I-69 public hearings were provided in the packets. One handout includes information with potential corridors. The other handout includes a survey and map to draw your suggestions on and submit to the planning team.

This item was informational and did not require a committee action.

B. Certification Review Final Report - presented by Antonio Johnson, FHWA Indiana Division

Antonio Johnson of the FHWA Indiana Division presented the final findings of the Evansville MPO Certification Review. The review team concluded that the MPO was certified for another four years. They also gave the MPO three commendations, including:

- “The review team commends the EMPO for the use of their Title VI plan to engage their stakeholders. Using their Title VI process, the MPO has implemented improvements that have provided ladders of opportunity to some of the Evansville, IN-KY urbanized area most underserved populations.”
- “The EMPO use of published graphics, maps, videos, and other visual aids to translate technical information for non-technical audiences is commendable. The use of such documents serves as a resource for the MPA and a best practice for other MPOs.”
- “The EMPO staff has demonstrated and been acknowledged that it is a strong partner in shaping the Evansville metropolitan planning area’s multi-modal transportation system. They received an honorable mention in the 2015 FHWA’s Transportation Planning Excellence Award for Modeling and Technology Applications for the SEAC Millennial 2040 Plan. They also garnered recognition for the Millennial 2040 Plan by the Indiana MPO Council and the Indiana Planning Association. The Evansville Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Master Plan were also recognized by the later organizations as well by FHWA in 2016 which cited the plan in its Road Diets – Safety|Livability|Low-Cost publication.”

The presentation that was given is attached.

Mayor Lloyd Winnecke expressed his appreciation to Antonio Johnson for visiting again. He remembers there was a time about 6 or 7 years ago where the relationship between the MPO and its state partners was not very good, and with the concerted effort of a lot of stakeholders in the room and building in general, Vincennes, Indianapolis, Frankfort and Madisonville, the relationships are getting stronger. He feels we have come a long way and continue to build these partnerships with all the organizations. He also expressed his appreciation for the MPO professional staff, and mentioned that it is nice to hear that reaffirmed by someone outside of our area.

Jack Corn asked Antonio Johnson about a topic that was discussed at the meeting in February to see if there were any updates on that. Antonio Johnson reminded everyone that the topic was transit, and since the site visit, he and Susan Weber from FTA had several discussions. He stated that METS had a Triennial Review a year earlier, and a lot of what was included in the MPO Certification Review should have been included in the Triennial Review, which a lot of it was. Since the Triennial Review, FTA, FHWA and METS have had conversations and it was determined that more technical assistance needs to be provided to METS from FTA. As this relates to the MPO, the transit planning is great. There are a few gaps between the planning and delivery of services, but with more technical assistance, this can be improved. At this point, FHWA feels it is not a major concern.

Mayor Lloyd Winnecke added that the City did a Comprehensive Operations Analysis of the METS system and there were several recommendations that have been implemented, including several route changes, adding Sunday Service and fare adjustments.

Antonio Johnson commented that the review team received a lot of information after their site visit that answered some of their questions and concerns. After they received this information, a lot of conversations between their organizations took place. FHWA and FTA felt that they could have better clarified their expectations for the transit portion of the review and will do a better job of this next time. The MPO Certification Review is not just for the MPO, but all of their partners. He and Susan Weber from FTA feel like most of the concerns could be addressed through technical assistance.

Jack Corn thanked Antonio Johnson for coming and his kind words towards the MPO, and speaks for the Policy Committee in thanking the MPO staff for their hard work and getting the MPO certified for another four years.

This item was informational and did not require a committee action.

C. 2017 Regional Prioritization Plan for KYTC Unfunded Projects – presented by Laura Lamb

As part of SHIFT Kentucky Ahead (Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow) Prioritization Plan, the MPO must formulate a plan for prioritizing regional projects for inclusion in Kentucky’s Six Year Plan to receive funding through the next legislative cycle. The proposed plan was submitted at the meetings last month as a draft. The MPO accepted comments on that plan from April 6th through April 24th. No comments were received.

Christy Powell made a motion for approval and Mayor Lloyd Winnecke seconded the motion; motion carried.

D. Draft FY 2018-2021 TIP – presented by Craig Luebke

The Evansville MPO is seeking approval of the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP was developed cooperatively with local government, transit operators, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and other appropriate state and federal agencies. The final draft TIP includes only minor changes to the draft TIP presented in April. The changes are listed in the table below. A summary of public comments received is also shown.

The purpose of the TIP is to fulfill federal requirements and to serve local officials and the public as a complete program of federally funded transportation improvements proposed to be undertaken during the next four years (fiscal years 2018-2021) in the Evansville-Henderson Urbanized area. The first four fiscal years of the program are fiscally constrained, while projects listed for planning purposes will be implemented should additional federal funding become available.

Changes From Draft TIP to Final			
Project Updates or Additions			
Sponsor	Des/Item#	Project	Change
Evansville	1383066	2 nd Street	Revise schedule – move construction from FY 19 to FY 20
INDOT	Various	Rail Safety projects	Added 8 rail crossing upgrade projects
EMPO	1600643	STP Planning	Revise estimate
METS	1700384	Bus Purchase	Revise estimate
Other Changes			
Page	Change		
2-3	Remove discussion of planning outside the EMPO Planning Area. Added Urbanized Area discussion and map.		
13-17	Expanded performance measures discussion.		
19-20	Revise TIP amendment discussion to remove amendment not requiring public review.		
29	Corrected Table 7: HART Expenses and Revenues.		
Various	Minor/typographical corrections.		

Public Comments Received			
Date Received	Submitted By	Comment	Response
4/13/17	Gary E. May	Suggestion to improve public outreach by going to transit customers at bus stops and paratransit users. Suggestion to use local college students to conduct surveys.	Public notice of TIP planning process was posted at the main transfer terminals for both METS and HART transit systems. Consideration will be given to additional outreach methods as appropriate for future planning efforts.
4/17/17	Kenny Page	Request to extend City of Evansville road diet project on Weinbach Avenue north to Franklin Street.	The Evansville Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Master Plan calls for bicycle facilities extended north on Weinbach Avenue to Morgan Avenue. This request will be forwarded to the City Engineer’s office.

Mayor Lloyd Winnecke made a motion for approval and Christy Powell seconded the motion; motion carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft FY 2018 Budget – presented by Kari Akin

The proposed FY 2018 Evansville MPO budget, budget trend sheet, and sheet explaining the changes in budget from the previous year were presented for review. The values shown were the same values that were approved in April for the FY 2018 UPWP. There are no increases in local shares from the previous 5+ years except for Warrick County in which they have been notified in advance of the change.

This item was informational and did not require a committee action. Approval will be requested in June.

B. FY 2016-2019 TIP Amendments – presented by Craig Luebke

The MPO is seeking approval of the following amendments to the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A public review and comments period was publicized from April 19th to May 3rd.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) requested the following amendments:

Des# 1700510: Ingle Avenue at Evansville Western Railroad crossing DOT #342739E: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for preliminary engineering (PE) in fiscal year 2018 and construction (CN) in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds.

Des# 1700511: Peerless Road at Evansville Western Railroad crossing DOT #342749K: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Des# 1700512: Hogue Road at Evansville Western Railroad crossing DOT #342754G: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Des# 1700514: Boehne Camp Road at Evansville Western Railroad crossing DOT #342748D: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Des# 1700517: Leslie Avenue at CSX Railroad crossing DOT #342738X: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Des# 1700522: Old State Road at CSX Railroad crossing DOT #342834A: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Des# 1700513: County Line Road at Evansville Western Railroad crossing DOT #342755N: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$36,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Des# 1700587: US 41 at Indiana Southern Railroad crossing DOT #539796S: Railroad crossing safety project. Installation of train activated gates, flashing lights, bell and other safety devices. Add project for PE in fiscal year 2018 and CN in fiscal year 2019. PE costs of \$20,000 and CN costs of \$400,000 will be funded with 100% federal HSIP funds.

Dan Saylor made a motion for approval and Russell Sights seconded the motion; motion carried.

C. FY 2016-2019 TIP Administrative Modification – presented by Craig Luebke

An administrative modification to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was processed on April 6th, 2017.

The Evansville MPO requested the following modification:

Des# 1600643: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Planning Activities: Revise STP budget in fiscal year 2018 to reflect current UPWP budget. STP UPWP costs of \$173,000 is programmed with \$138,000 in federal STP funding and a \$35,000 local match.

This item was informational and did not require a committee action.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Approval of Bills

Christy Powell made a motion for approval and Joe Kiefer II seconded the motion; motion carried

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.


Meeting adjourned.

FINAL REPORT


TMA Certification Review



Introduction of the Federal Team

 U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration


Susan Weber

 U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Bernadette Dupont
Joyce Newland
Antonio Johnson

Why Were We Here?

- Every 4 years FTA and FHWA jointly review the metropolitan transportation planning process for those areas with over 200,000 population



Evansville MPO
Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

What is the Status?



Previous Findings and Disposition

- Finding?
- Action?
- Disposition?

Previous Findings and Disposition

- 20 Finding
 - 1 Corrective Action
 - 13 Recommendations

Previous Findings and Disposition

- 20 Finding
 - 1 Corrective Action
 - 13 Recommendations

Resolved

Current Findings and Actions

- Focused on 13 Areas

Current Findings and Actions


- Focused on 13 Areas
 - Findings - All areas are in compliance with federal codes and regulations.

Current Findings and Actions

- Focused on 13 Areas
 - Findings - All areas are in compliance with federal codes and regulations.
 - 8 Recommendations and 3 Commendations

Questions?

Contact Information



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