



**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**

May 13, 2021

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.

1. ATTENDANCE

Policy Members	Organization	In Person	Webex/ Phone	Absent
Jack Corn, Jr.	Chairman	X		
Mayor Lloyd Winnecke	City of Evansville			X
Ron Beane	Evansville City Council		X	
Rusty Fowler	Vice Chairman, Indiana Department of Transportation	X		
Jill Hahn	Vanderburgh County Council	X		
Deneatra Henderson	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet			X
William “Bill” Hubiak	Henderson County Appointment	X		
William “Buzzy” Newman	City of Henderson Appointment		X	
Christy Powell	Town of Newburgh Appointment			X
Todd Robertson	City of Evansville Mayoral Appointment			X
Dan Saylor	Warrick County Commission		X	
Ben Shoulders	Vanderburgh County Commission			X
John Stoll	Vanderburgh County Commission Appointment		X	
EMPO Staff Members		In Person	Webex/ Phone	Absent
Seyed Shokouhzadeh		X		
Pam Drach		X		
Erin Schriefer		X		
Matt Schriefer		X		
Amir Varshochi		X		
Laura Lamb		X		
Xinbo Mi				X
Kari Akin		X		
Others Present		In Person	Webex/ Phone	Absent
Erica Tait (FHWA-IN)			X	
Bernadette Dupont (FHWA-KY)			X	
Cecilia Godfrey (FTA Region V)			X	
Kari Caramany-George (FHWA-IN)			X	
Brandon Burgoa (INDOT)				

Jack Corn directed the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rusty Fowler made a motion for approval and Dan Saylor seconded the motion; motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Project Update – presented by Pam Drach

City of Evansville

- Covert Ave: Vann Ave to Green River Rd concrete work and sodding complete. Gilbert Ave to Weinbach Ave concrete work and sodding nearing completion. Work ongoing in the remaining phases.
- Walnut St Phase 1 (US 41 to Weinbach Ave): Ph 2, Rotherwood Ave to Lodge Ave, concrete work complete, HMA surface and sod remain to be finished. Phase 3, US 41 to Lodge Ave, concrete sidewalk, trail and driveway work underway.
- Walnut St Phase 2 (Weinbach Ave to Vann Ave): All offers made to property owners and 52 and the 67 parcels are secure. Pavement design and geotechnical report received.
- Walnut St Phase 3 (MLK Jr Blvd to US 41): Comments on the draft environmental document were received and addressed. Document resubmitted April 30, 2021.
- Signal Preemption: Awarded to Midwestern Electric. Construction activities are expected to begin in July.
- Sign Replacement: Project is complete.
- Signal Head Replacement: The Environmental Document was approved on March 12, 2021.
- Signal Modernization (Green River and Washington): Construction is approximately 40% complete.
- Signal Modernization (First/Mill and Green River/Vogel): Construction is 90% complete with the crosswalk striping the only remaining item.

Vanderburgh County

- Franklin St Bridge: A public hearing has been scheduled for May 20, 2021. Information can be found at www.evansvillempo.com.
- Oak Hill Rd: Work on early design is underway. A kick-off meeting with the county, INDOT and consulting representatives to be scheduled.

Warrick County

- Bell Rd: Oak Grove Rd to High Pointe Dr is nearing completion. North of Oak Grove, utility relocation and storm sewer installation are ongoing.
- Warrick Trails SRTS: Much of the clearing for the trails along Casey Rd and by Castle North Middle School is complete. Utility relocations are ongoing. Trail construction to begin after school is out for summer.
- Telephone Rd: Preliminary Field Check held on April 15, 2021. Preliminary plans and the draft environmental document are in development.

KYTC

- Watson Lane: Utility Coordination is underway. Tentative joint inspection meeting in September.
- US 60 Spottsville Bridge: Substructure is complete. Beams will be set the week of May 10. The contractor will be working on Superstructure (beams, trusses, deck etc) this construction season. Work ongoing on the approach embankment on the east side.
- KY 2084 at KY 812/Airline Rd: Utility work is underway and expected to last until August. Tentative letting in November 2021.

INDOT Updates – presented by Rusty Fowler, INDOT

- US 41 Bridge over Pigeon Creek: Awarded to Blankenberger Brothers Inc. Contractor will start in early June. Scheduling partnering meeting.
- SR 66 at Epworth Rd: Working on redesign. Submitted new fees to cover extra design.
- US 41 at Hillsdale Rd: Project moved to the January 12, 2022 letting. Right-of-way easement under review.
- SR 62 (various locations between SR 61 and the West Jct SR 161): Right-of-way appraising still in process. Looking at some parcel questions that have come up.
- US 41 from N of SR 66/SR 62 (Lloyd Expwy) to N of SR 66 (Diamond Ave): Hydraulics should be submitted in a couple of weeks.

Rusty Fowler reminded everyone to be careful during construction season and to not drive distracted.

Jack Corn asked how long it will be before the US 41 Bridge over Pigeon Creek is open. Rusty said it will be about two construction seasons.

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

b. Certification Review Update – presented by Erica Tait (FHWA-IN) and Cecilia Godfrey (FTA)

Erica Tait and Cecilia Godfrey provided highlights from the Evansville MPOs Certification Review that was conducted virtually on January 12 and 13, 2021. The result of the Review was the certification of the Evansville MPO's planning process on April 26, 2021. Along with the certification letter, a formal report was issued that included six commendations, 16 recommendations, and zero corrective actions. There were also two opportunities for public comment.

To hear the full presentation, go to <http://www.evansvillempo.com/Meetings.html> (9:30 in the 05/13/2021 Policy Committee audio/video link).

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 2022 Budget – presented by Kari Akin

The proposed FY 2022 Evansville MPO budget, the 10-year budget trend sheet, and a sheet explaining these changes in budget from the previous year were presented. These are the same values that were approved in March for the FY 2022 UPWP. There are no increases in local shares from the previous ten years.

Jill Hahn made a motion for approval and Bill Hubiak seconded the motion; motion carried.

b. FY 2020-2024 TIP Modifications – presented by Pam Drach

The Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization has processed the following administrative modifications to the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

The City of Henderson requested the following modifications:

ID# 02-382: Wathen Lane from US 60 to the City limits: Move \$350,000 of the \$750,000 in FY 2021 funding for right of way to utilities. The phases will be funded with a combination of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding, Federal SHN funds and local match.

ID# 02-382: Wathen Lane from US 60 to the City limits: Increase FY 2021 funding for right of way from \$400,000 to \$419,000, funded with 80% Federal SHN and a 20% local match. Increase the FY 2021 funding for utilities from \$350,000 to \$710,000, funded with a combination of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding, Federal SHN funds and local match.

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

c. FY 2022-2026 TIP Amendments – presented by Pam Drach

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) requested the following TIP Amendments:

Sponsor	Contract	Des#/ ID#	Road	Description	County	Work Type	Funding Type	% Split	Action	Fiscal Year	Phase/ Source	Current	Revision
INDOT	43504	2002551	I-64	Various locations in the Vincennes District	Various	ITS Program Equipment	NHPP	80/20	Remove Project	2022	PE	\$360,000	\$0
	-	1601700	PR 69	I-69 Ohio River Crossing (ORX) in Evansville, IN to I-69 south of Henderson, KY	Vanderburgh /Henderson	New Construction	STBG, NHPP, IF	-	Remove INDOT RW	2022	RW	\$400,000	\$0
	43506	1802087	I-69	US 41 to I-64	Vanderburgh	ITS Traffic Management Systems	NHPP	90/10	Revise CN	2026	CN	\$5,824,000	\$5,677,000
City of Henderson	-	02-382	Wathen Lane	US 60 to city limits	Henderson	Upgrade by widening lanes, adding curb, gutter and sidewalk	SHN	80/20	Remove RW and UT	2022	RW	\$400,000	\$0
										2022	UT	\$350,000	\$0
Warrick County	-	1902074	Various	Inspection of all county bridges over 20 ft in length	Warrick	Bridge Inspections	STBG-B	80/20	Revise PE	2022	PE	\$198,000	\$163,000
										2023	PE	\$22,000	\$20,000
										2024	PE	\$172,000	\$152,000
										2025	PE	\$30,000	\$19,000

Bill Hubiak made a motion for approval and Rusty Fowler seconded the motion; motion carried.

d. Henderson 2022 SHIFT – presented by Laura Lamb

SHIFT stands for Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow, and it is Kentucky’s transportation project prioritization process. One of the first steps in the process for the MPO is to select six of the highest priority projects from the database of identified but currently unfunded projects within the MPO area to “sponsor”.

Working in coordination with local leaders in the City of Henderson and Henderson County, the MPO has selected the following six projects:

Project ID/ CHAF ID	SYP	Route	Type of Work	Description	BMP	EMP	Total Cost
IP20040011		051-CS-1014-000	Minor Widening	Reconstruct Atkinson St to improve level of service and reduce congestion	0.248	0.856	\$8,978,000
IP20070066		051-KY-0351-000	Reconstruction	Improve safety and level of service in the area of Graham Hill	2.582	3.567	\$7,348,000
IP20080088		051-KY-0416-000	Reconstruction	Reconstruct KY 416 to improve safety and level of service	0.000	7.363	\$41,358,000

IP20080098		051-CS-1115-000	Reconstruction	Reconstruct Elm St to improve level of service and pedestrian safety and mobility	1.573	2.898	\$9,777,000
2-383.20	2-383.20	051-CS-1372-000	Reconstruction	Address safety and congestion along Watons Ln	0.309	0.850	\$5,900,000
IP20190168		051-KY-1539-000	Reconstruction	Reconstruct KY 1539/Zion Larue Rd from KY 351 to Henderson city limits	0.000	0.727	\$6,187,000

These projects will move forward to be analyzed and given a data-driven score based on measures such as safety, congestion, economic development, and more. Local and regional agencies will have a chance to review the scores and apply “boost points” to any project that has merit above and beyond the identified performance measures. The MPO will bring the list with applied points back for approval.

Approval from the board today allows the MPO to submit the list of projects that will move forward.

Buzzy Newman made a motion for approval and Bill Hubiak seconded the motion; motion carried.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Approval of Bills

Bill Hubiak made a motion for approval and Buzzy Newman seconded the motion; motion carried.

b. Biking and Health Presentation – presented by Bernadette Dupont and Darrin Grenfell (FHWA-KY), Kari Carmany-George (FHWA-IN), Brandon Burgoa (INDOT) and Troy Hearn (KY-Health)

Bernadette Dupont lead a presentation on biking and health that included information on incorporating bicycle accommodations into the transportation network, the many health benefits of bicycling, and the comprehensive approach to bicycle planning and programming using the 5-E’s: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement and Evaluation. She also introduced other FHWA and state partners that are available for any bicycling-related questions or planning assistance.

To hear the full presentation, go to <http://www.evansvillempo.com/Meetings.html> (31:30 in the 05/13/2021 Policy Committee audio/video link).

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bernadette Dupont commented on a few funding opportunities that are coming up, including National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP) and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant Program (RAISE).

She mentioned that the transit safety targets, which are included in the Public Transit Agency Safety Plans (PTASP), are due annually in July. Safety targets must be revised or reaffirmed by the transit agencies annually. MPOs must update these targets at the next TIP update.

She also mentioned that starting in 2022, all TMAs that are non-attainment or maintenance will have to develop targets for Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED), % Non-SOV Travel and a CMAQ Performance Plan.

Lastly, she mentioned the Kentucky 2021 Regional “Nature’s Call to Action” Conference will be held on May 18 and 19 (1-4:30 ET). The free conference is being held virtually.

7. UPCOMING DATES

- National Bike to Work Day: May 21, 2021
- EMPO Fiscal Year 2022 begins July 1, 2021
- EMPO Policy Meetings: July 8, September 9, November 10 (Wednesday)
- METS 2021 5307/5339 FTA grant application submittal: July
- METS and Vanderburgh County Health Department Mobile COVID-19 Vaccinations May 5 – June 24 (T, W, Th) see www.facebook.com/VCHDevv for times and locations.

Meeting adjourned.