



EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular meeting held at 10:00 a.m. in Room 301
Civic Center Complex – Administration Building
Evansville, Indiana

January 14, 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.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present (voting):

In person: Matthew Bullock

Webex/Phone: Greg Wathen, Jeff Whitaker, Kelly Mitchell, Khalil Dughaish, Lorie Van Hook, Luke Hill, Nate Hahn, Nick Hall, Shawn Hayden, Troy Arnold, Ian Nesbitt, Doug Boom, Angie Higgins, Aubrey Howder, John Petkovsek, Rick Wilson, Lora Phillippe, Karstin Carmany-George

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

In person: Seyed Shokouhzadeh, Pam Drach, Amir Varshochi, Kari Akin

Webex/Phone: Erin Schriefer, Matt Schriefer

Greg Wathen directed the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nate Hahn made a motion for approval and John Petkovsek seconded the motion; motion carried.

2. OLD BUSINESS

a. Project Update – presented by Pam Drach

City of Evansville

- Covert Ave: Work from Green River Rd to I-69 is complete. Construction from Vann Ave to Green River Rd is ongoing. All sidewalks and curb ramps on the south side of the roadway between Green River Rd and Vann Ave are complete and work continues on the north side.
- Walnut St Phase 1 (US 41 to Weinbach Ave): Pavement has been installed between Rotherwood Ave and Lodge Ave. Forming and pouring of sidewalk and multi-use path is ongoing.
- Walnut St Phase 2 (Weinbach Ave to Vann Ave): Offers for all parcels will be out to owners by January 19, 2021.

- Walnut St Phase 3 (MLK Jr Blvd to US 41): Early Coordination documents distributed November 23, 2020. Received confirmation of No Adverse Effect. Final consulting party comment review period has ended.
- Washington Ave: Project is complete with the exception of automated control panels for green infrastructure. Roadway was opened to traffic on December 18, 2020.

Vanderburgh County

- Franklin St Bridge: Right-of-way services activities have started.
- Oak Hill Rd: Stage 2 plans were submitted to the County in December 2020.

Warrick County

- Bell Rd: Oak Grove Rd to High Pointe Dr has been constructed up to asphalt binder and temporarily striped and open for winter traffic. Utility Relocation ongoing and storm sewer installation to begin this month north of Oak Grove Rd.
- Warrick Trails SRTS: Right-of-way acquisition complete. The project moved to the February 2021 letting.

City of Henderson

- Wathen Lane: Utility coordination completed in December 2020. Final design is expected in February 2021. Request to begin right-of-way acquisition to follow final design.

KYTC

- Watson Lane: Federal authorization has been received for the second phase of design.

INDOT Updates – presented by Matthew Bullock, INDOT

- SR 66 at Epworth Rd: Met with Commissioner to discuss project. Decision by February 14, 2021.
- US 41 NB Ramp over Eagle Creek and US 41 Over SR 66/Diamond Ave: Looking into project timing, want to minimize impact to the public since the Truss bridge to the north of Diamond will be replaced summer of 2021.
- SR 62 (various locations between SR 61 and the West Jct SR 161): Geotech reports approved December 17, 2020. Looking into adding tree removal to maintenance contract.
- SR 62 from Rosenberger Ave to Wabash Ave (also includes intersection improvement projects located at Rosenberger Ave, St. Joseph Ave, Vann Ave, Burkhardt Rd, and Cross Pointe Blvd): Traffic analysis is in for review. Working towards stakeholders' meetings late January or early February. Preparing Change Management for Carpenter Creek bridge; changing work to a full replacement from a deck replacement.
- US 41 Pedestrian Walk at US 41 and Washington: A public information meeting was held at Bosse High School with virtual options on November 18, 2020. INDOT is currently still receiving comments and recording them.

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

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 2020-2024 TIP Amendments – presented by Pam Drach

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

Des# Various: Various locations within the Vincennes District: Bridge Rehabilitation (Lead Des# 2002024, Contract B-43231). Add project to the TIP with Preliminary Engineering (PE) in FY 2022 for a total of \$395,000 and Construction (CN) in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$1,725,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal STBG funds and 20% state match.

Des# 2002063: SR 68 Bridge over Mill Creek: Bridge Rehabilitation (Contract B-43235). Add project to the TIP with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$181,000, Right of Way (RW) in FY 2024 for a total of \$50,000, and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$1,613,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal STBG funds and 20% state match.

Des# 2000186: US 41 at Washington Ave: Intersection Improvement (Contract R-43254). Add project to the TIP with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$154,000, RW in FY 2024 for a total of \$234,000, and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$1,265,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal NHPP funds and 20% state match.

Des# 2001938: SR 261 Bridge over Unnamed Tributary 3.7 mi N of Jct SR 66: Bridge Construction (Contract B-43232). Add project to the tip with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$190,000, RW in FY 2024 for a total of \$15,000, and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$1,070,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal STBG funds and 20% state match.

Des# Various: Various Locations in Vanderburgh and Pike counties: Road Reconstruction (Lead Des# 2001914, Contract R-43248). Add project to the TIP with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$1,691,000 and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$15,342,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal NHPP funds and 20% state match.

Des# 2001796: Various Locations on I-64 from 2 mi W of SR 165 to 1.27 mi E of SR 37: Small Structure project (Contract R-43255). Add project to the TIP with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$335,000 and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$2,733,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal STBG funds and 20% state match.

Des# Various: SR 62 from Posey/Vanderburgh county line to Rosenberger Ave: Road Reconstruction with Intersection Improvements at Schutte Rd, Wabash Ave and Stockwell Rd (Lead Des# 2001917, Contract R-43197). Add project to the TIP with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$5,169,000, RW in FY 2024 for a total of \$510,000, and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$44,832,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal NHPP funds and 20% state match.

Des# Various: SR 62 at Boehne Camp Rd and at Red Bank Rd: Intersection Improvements (Lead Des# 1900258, Contract R-43199). Add project to the TIP with PE in FY 2022 for a total of \$1,030,000, RW in FY 2024 for a total of \$20,000, and CN in outer year (FY 2025) for a total of \$7,168,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal NHPP funds and 20% state match.

Des# 2001713: Various locations including Interlake State Recreation Area: Recreational Trails project (No Contract number). Add project to the TIP with CN in FY 2022 for a total of \$400,000 and CN in FY 2023 for a total of \$232,000. The project will be funded with 80% Federal Recreational Trails Program funds and 20% state match.

Kelly Mitchell made a motion for approval and John Petkovsek seconded the motion; motion carried.

b. Participation Plan – presented by Amir Varshochi

The Evansville MPO has completed an update to its Participation Plan (PP). The PP (previously called the Public Participation Plan) is the MPO's policy document used to ensure participation, outreach and involvement in transportation planning and related activities. The PP is guided by federal legislation.

The MPO Participation Plan's goals are to:

- Improve and increase the opportunity for involvement and consultation in the MPO's transportation planning activities
- Improve access to the planning process for populations that may have lacked access in the past

- To encourage participation that will result in transportation planning and decisions that reflect the needs of the community.

The following are examples of updates and improvements to the Plan:

- Updated MPO procedure pertaining to State of Emergency situations
- Updated public outreach methods
 - New virtual options, such as virtual meetings and virtual open houses
- Updated demographic maps to support the targeted outreach identification process
- Inclusion of a general MPO Comment Form to encourage public feedback to MPO staff

The draft PP was available for public review and comment for 45 days (November 19, 2020 – January 4, 2021). No comments on the draft document were received.

Rick Wilson made a motion for approval and Shawn Hayden seconded the motion; motion carried.

Before Agenda Items C and D, Pam Drach provided the following overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2045 (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Conformity Document:

MTP 2045

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2045 is a planning document with projects that are recommended to be completed in the next 20 years for the development of a regional transportation system that supports the goals and objectives as identified in the plan. The goals and objectives are formulated as part of the plan development process and through coordination and consultation with State and local agencies, elected officials, advisory committees and public input. Because it is a planning document, the recommended completion times are not year specific but are listed in timeframes during which the project is recommended to be completed. The listings in the MTP 2045 are: projects to be completed sometime between 2019 and 2025, between 2026 and 2035, and between 2036 and 2045. The Plan is updated every 4-5 years so that the goals objectives and recommended project lists can be reviewed given changing priorities and any new information and/or data. For example, the next Plan update will include 2020 census data.

The MTP 2045 does include a fiscal analysis to assure that the plan can be implemented based on estimated funding to be received and estimated costs of the projects, but does not award funding to any of the projects specifically. That process takes place as part of the development of the TIP.

TIP

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a programming document that identifies the projects, phases (i.e. Preliminary Engineering, Right of Way, Construction) costs and identified funding sources for projects in the MPO planning area. When the agency with jurisdiction over a project in the MTP 2045 decides to move forward with a project, they identify local funding, apply for federal funding through a call for projects process, and once approved for funding, request the project be added to the TIP. Projects using the MPO federal funding would go through the MPOs call for projects process while projects using State federal funding would go through the appropriate State project prioritization and selection process. All regionally significant projects in the MPO planning area approved for federal funding must be listed in the MPO TIP. The local program included in the TIP is developed by the MPO in consultation with the local agency of jurisdiction while the State programs are provided to the MPO by the State DOT. The document is updated every 2-4 years.

Conformity Document

The conformity document is completed for the MTP and TIP and documents that the MTP and TIP meet transportation air quality conformity requirements considering the regional network, but specifically as it relates to Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties.

c. Draft 2022-2026 TIP Program – presented by Pam Drach

The Evansville MPO is developing the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP provides a five-year funding and implementation schedule for projects based on the expected available federal funds. The draft Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) program of projects, the draft program for the local Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Transit, and Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) program of projects for Henderson, KY were developed based on the expected FY 2022-2026 TIP funding program amounts, the current and anticipated phase of project development, and through consultation with local officials, transit providers, INDOT and KYTC.

The full document will be available for public comment during the 30-day public comment period that will begin January 29, 2021 and extend through March 1, 2021. Committee members will be getting an email with a link once the document is on the MPO website for review.

Greg Wathen confirmed that these projects are being proposed between 2022 and 2026, and confirmed that the public comment period was being held between January 29 and March 1. Greg also asked if the MPO prefers to have written comments back, or is there going to be any sort of public meeting. Pam Drach explained that the MPO is looking into holding a virtual open house for an entire day to allow anyone to contact the MPO to ask questions. People can also email or call with comments.

Nate Hahn asked about the share split and wanted to know if the local share was the state match, or if that was a county/city match. Pam Drach explained that the projects are listed by sponsors, so if a project is an INDOT or KYTC project, the local share would be a state match. If a project is listed under a Local Public Agency (e.g., City of Evansville or Vanderburgh County), then that agency would pay the local match.

This item was informational and did not require a committee action; it will be an action item on the March agenda.

d. Draft MTP 2045 Amendment and Conformity – presented by Pam Drach

The Evansville MPO is developing an amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2045 and the associated conformity documentation. The amendment includes changes to project timelines for three projects and an added section to an existing project in the MTP 2045. The amendments to the MTP 2045 are:

- **Oak Hill Rd from Lynch Rd to Heckel Rd:** This project is currently in the 2019-2025 timeframe in the MTP 2045. The project is being split into two sections, with the section from Lynch Rd to St George Rd programmed for construction funding in FY 2025 resulting in that section moving to the MTP 2026-2035 timeframe.
- **Telephone Rd from Bell Rd to Fuquay Rd:** This project is currently in the 2019-2025 timeframe in the MTP 2045. The funding for construction of this project is being programmed for FY 2026 resulting in the project moving to the MTP 2026-2035 timeframe.
- **Epworth Rd from SR 662 to Lincoln Ave:** This project is currently in the 2026-2035 timeframe in the MTP 2045. The County, as part of their project application for Epworth Rd, proposed to extend the limits of the project adding the section from Lincoln Ave to south of SR 66. This 0.33 mile added section is also being proposed as a widening from 2-lane to a 5-lane cross section while the original section from SR 662 to Lincoln remains a widening to add a two way left turn lane.
- **I-69 Ohio River Crossing:** This project is currently in the 2019-2025 timeframe in the MTP 2045. KYTC and INDOT, along with the I-69 ORX project team, completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and solicited public comment in 2019. The project team continues to work toward the selection of a preferred alternative and the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). The Highway Plan from the 2020 Kentucky Legislative Session includes funding for a phased approach, with Phase 1 including work from the Henderson Bypass (KY 425) to US 60, and Phase 2 from US 60 to I-69 in Evansville. The phases and associated funding are detailed in the draft 2022-2026 TIP. In the MTP 2045 amendment, the project as a whole is moving to the 2026-2035 timeframe.

The changes to the local program of projects were identified as part of the development of the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and associated fiscal constraint analysis. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) identified the need for the proposed change to the I-69 Ohio River Crossing project.

Matthew Bullock asked if both sections of Oak Hill Rd are being moved out from 2025 to 2035. Pam Drach explained that just the Lynch Rd to St George Rd section is moving to 2035.

Pam Drach noted that the public comment for the TIP will also cover the comment period for the MTP 2045 Amendment and Conformity document that covers both the TIP and MTP 2045. Pam will send out information about this when sending out information about the TIP once it is all on the MPO website.

Shawn Hayden asked if the .33-mile segment of Epworth Rd being added would be justified in having its own project listing because of the amount of traffic it carries. Pam Drach explained that MTP does not specify how the project moves forward by an LPA. The county could choose to move the project forward in phases, but the MPO is identifying that the project is within that timeframe. Shawn asked about why that segment wouldn't be moved up sooner, and Pam explained that the development process for federally-funded projects is typically four years. In addition to that, there isn't any federal funding available for that project at this time other than in an outer year.

This item was informational and did not require a committee action; it will be an action item on the March agenda..

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Greg Wathen reminded that meetings will now be held every other month. The next meeting will be March 11, 2021 and we will be electing officers.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rick Wilson commended the MPO on Certification Review and the amount of effort staff put into preparing for the review.

Meeting adjourned.