



**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**

July 8, 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: Greg Wathen, Aubrey Howder

Webex/Phone: Nate Hahn, Jonathan Siebeking, Rick Wilson, John Petkovsek, Mychelle Christian, Cheyton Pendley, Angie Higgins, Nick Hall, Thomas Witt, Cheryl Mullis, Kari Carmany-George, Shawn Hayden

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

In person: Seyed Shokouhzadeh, Pam Drach, Amir Varshochi, Kari Akin, Matt Schriefer, Erin Schriefer, Xinbo Mi

Greg Wathen directed the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Wilson 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: Asphalt paving from US 41 to Vann Ave is expected to begin in August.
- Walnut St Phase 1 (US 41 to Weinbach Ave): Construction activities are substantially complete and a walk-through inspection will be conducted. Any punch list items identified during the inspection will be completed by the contractor before the corridor is open to traffic.
- Walnut St Phase 2 (Weinbach Ave to Vann Ave): 64 of the 67 parcels secured, 3 parcels going to condemnation. Final tracings packet was submitted July 2, 2021.
- Walnut St Phase 3 (MLK Jr Blvd to US 41): Draft environmental document returned to consultant, preliminary field check is scheduled for mid-August.
- Signal Head Replacement: Final tracings packet was submitted on July 2, 2021.
- Signal Modernization (Green River and Washington): Construction is approximately 85% complete.
- Signal Modernization (First/Mill and Green River/Vogel): Construction is complete.

Vanderburgh County

- **Franklin St Bridge:** A public hearing was held on May 20, 2021; no comments were received. Right of way services is continuing for the on right of way parcel that has to be acquired.
- **Oak Hill Rd:** Design and utility coordination work is continuing. CenterPoint Energy submitted easement documents indicating that they have reimbursable utility relocations on this project. The easement locations are being evaluated.

City/County of Henderson

- **Wathen Lane:** Request for right of way and utility funding will be processed after receipt of the environmental documentation.

INDOT Updates – presented by Aubrey Howder, INDOT

- **(RS-39357) SR 66 from E of SR 161 to E Jct SR 161 Reo:** Box culvert under SR 66 at Orchard Rd has been replaced and construction is underway at this intersection.
- **(B-43148) US 41 Bridge over Pigeon Creek:** Contractor has closed US 41 NB to replace pavement. Bridge work anticipated to start in a few weeks.
- **(R-37845) US 41 at Hillsdale Rd:** Project moved to the February 9, 2022 letting. Perpetual Highway Easement is with INDOT Legal for review.
- **(R-40551) SR 62 (various locations between SR 61 and the West Jct SR 161):** Two parcels in condemnation. Added two parcels to include more design area, possibly adding one more.
- **(R-41410) US 41 from N of SR 66/SR 62 (Lloyd Expwy) to N of SR 66 (Diamond Ave):** Working to finalize sewer and drainage improvements.
- **(B-42876) US 41 Pedestrian Walk at US 41 and Washington:** A public open house was held at Bosse High School on May 12, 2021. We are still working through the Section 106 process which is required due to the historic properties in the area.
- **(R-42287) SR 62 from Rosenberger Ave to Wabash Ave; US 41 over SR 66/Diamond (including various intersections improvements from Rosenberger Ave to Cross Pointe Blvd):** Stage 1 plans are in and reviewed for Vann and Burkhardt. Working on Cross Pointe Stage 1 plans. Anticipate the plans will be submitted next week. Stage 1 plans for pavement replacement from Rosenberger to Wabash will be submitted by August 1. Working on bridges over Carpentier Creek and CSX railroad. Water reports are underway for Carpentier Creek. McDowell Rd intersection approved for FY 2026. It will be moved up to be included in this contract. Traffic Analysis for Quadrant intersection at St. Joe is under review by Central Office traffic along with District traffic.

Nate Hahn asked if a copy of the project update could be provided in the packets when they are sent out. Pam Drach explained that the packets go out a week before the meeting, and the project update is typically not finished until right before the meeting date to ensure the most up-to-date information is provided. Nate asked if one could be sent after the meetings, and Pam said that would be possible. Kari Akin also mentioned that the project update is posted on www.evansvillempo.com on the morning of the meeting.

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

3. NEW BUSINESS

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

Sponsor	Contract	Des#/ID#	Road	Description	County	Work Type	Funding Type	% Split	Action	Fiscal Year	Phase/Source	Current	Revision
Warrick County	41772	1802049	Telephone Rd	Bell Rd to Fuquay Rd	Warrick	Road widening: 2 to 3 lanes, pedestrian accommodations, drainage improvements	STBG-U/CMAQ	80/20	Revise CN	2025	CN	\$5,675	\$7,400
City of Boonville	39840	1600891	Third St	Sycamore St to 450 ft past Olive St	Warrick	Road rehabilitation project with drainage and pedestrian accommodations	STBG-R	80/20	Revise CN	2022	CN	\$2,635	\$3,100
City of Evansville	41599	1801726	Walnut St	Phase 3: Martin Luther King Jr Blvd to US 41	Vanderburgh	Road diet with bike and pedestrian accommodations, green infrastructure and a multiuse path	STBG-U/CMAQ	-	Revise Federal \$ for CN	2023	CN	\$7,536	\$8,032
KYTC	N/A	02-711.00	KY 2084	At intersection with KY 812	Henderson	Intersection upgrade: add dedicated right and left turn lanes and signal upgrades	SHN	80/20 w/Toll Credits	Add CN	2022	CN	\$0	\$950

Greg Wathen asked if a lot of the cost adjustments had to do with changes in the construction material costs. Pam Drach explained that they are usually updated based on current cost estimates and available funding, or adjustments based on the closeout of the previous fiscal year and heading into the new fiscal year.

Nate Hahn made a motion for approval and Shawn Hayden seconded the motion; motion carried.

b. Amendment to Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan – presented by Matt Schriefer

The 2018-2021 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan was adopted on July 6, 2017. The Plan includes details about METS, HART, and area non-profit organizations that have applied to the MPO for Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funding over the past five years and their needs for additional vehicles between 2018 and 2021.

During the 2021 Call for Projects, the MPO received a Section 5310 application from Royal Transportation, who had not previously applied. In order for Royal Transportation to be eligible, they must be included in the 2018-2021 Coordinated Plan. The Project Table will also be updated to include all Section 5310 applications for 2021.

The MPO is requesting your approval to amend the 2018-2021 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan by adding the following information:

- Page 44 – Add Royal Transportation to the list of for-profit organizations eligible for Section 5310 funding as follows:
 - Royal Transportation

Royal Transportation, LLC is a for-profit provider who began by providing a reliable and affordable transportation option for low-income individuals and anyone in need of transportation in order to get back into the workforce. They focus on areas just beyond the city limits of Evansville and out of the reach of METS’ fixed routes, primarily along US 41. They have four vans to provide riders with a safe, affordable and reliable trip to and from work seven days a week. Starting in 2021, Royal Transportation will have a wheelchair accessible van to provide trips for non-emergency medical appointments. Their goal is to fill the gaps in medical transportation, including providing trips to medical facilities beyond the Evansville region.

- Page 55 – Update Table 18: Planned Capital Projects to include:
 - 1 low-floor minivan for The Arc of Evansville
 - 1 paratransit bus and 4 cameras for Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
 - 1 low-floor minivan for Missing Pieces CDC
 - 2 paratransit buses for Bridge Builders
 - 1 low-floor minivan for Royal Transportation

The full Coordinated Plan, including these updates can be found on the MPO website, under the Publications & Links tab in the Multi-Modal section or directly at:

http://www.evansvillempo.com/Docs/Coordinated_Public_Transit_Human_Services_Plan/2018-2021%20Coordinated%20Plan.pdf

Angie Higgins made a motion for approval and John Petkovsek seconded the motion; motion carried.

c. CRRSA & ARP Section 5310 Funding Applications – presented by Matt Schriefer

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) made available \$43,322 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funding and \$43,323 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for Section 5310 recipients in the Evansville MPO region. According to the FTA, these funds can be used for operating expenses or to purchase equipment to compensate for the effects of COVID-19. All projects normally eligible for Section 5310 funding are eligible under CRRSA and ARP, with an emphasis on changes in operations due to COVID-19.

A notice of funding was sent out to all non-profit providers of transportation for seniors and/or individuals with disabilities within our region. The primary request of applications received by our office were to make up for losses in fundraising efforts and other revenue usually used to fund operating expenses. Ridership for each agency remained fairly consistent or increased during the pandemic when compared to pre-pandemic ridership, but normal fundraising activities were unable to be held. These funds will reimburse each agency for overages in operating expenses over the last year.

After a review of each application received by our office, the following applicants and projects were deemed eligible based on FTA regulations:

Applicant	Amount Eligible
Arc of Evansville <i>for operating expenses</i>	\$20,000
Missing Pieces CDC/SAFE Transportation <i>for operating expenses and PPE</i>	\$20,000
SIRS/Link-N-Go <i>for operating expenses</i>	\$30,125
Posey County Council on Aging* <i>for operating expenses</i>	\$7,500
The Arc of Southwest Indiana* <i>for operating expenses</i>	\$9,020
Total	\$86,645

*A request has been sent to the FTA for eligibility determination for these two organizations. Due to their location, they are typically funded through INDOT, but because they provide transportation within the urbanized area, may be eligible for these COVID funds.

Greg Wathen wanted to clarify that the MPO is looking to secure these funds; the funds have not been guaranteed to these organizations yet. Matt Schriefer said that was correct, that the MPO is requesting these funds from the FTA and it is not guaranteed that the organizations will receive them until FTA approval.

Shawn Hayden made a motion for approval and Angie Higgins seconded the motion; motion carried.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7. UPCOMING DATES

- EMPO Fiscal Year 2022 begins July 1, 2021
- EMPO Technical Meetings: September 9, November 10 (Wednesday in room 318)
- METS 2021 5307/5339 FTA grant application submittal: July

Greg Wathen asked if the METS grant was submitted. Matt Schriefer said that all of the grants, including 5310 grants, are getting ready to be submitted.

Meeting adjourned.