



**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 12, 2022**

*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](http://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 (Nick Hall as proxy)	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 (Robb Myers as proxy)	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		
Xinbo Mi		X		
Kari Akin			X	
Others Present		In Person	Webex/ Phone	Absent
Nick Stallings		X		

*Jack Corn directed the meeting.*

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

## **3. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Project Update – presented by Erin Schriefer**

#### **City of Evansville**

- Walnut St Phase 2 (Weinbach Ave to Vann Ave): Project was relet on April 6, 2022 and awarded to Blankenberger Brothers, Inc. for a low bid of \$13, 819,100. Utility relocations are underway and construction is expected to begin in May.
- Walnut St Phase 3 (MLK Jr Blvd to US 41): Right of way APAs (Appraisal Problem Analysis) are complete and offers are being made.
- Signal Head Replacement: All 12 intersections are complete. Waiting on the pre-final inspection.

#### **Vanderburgh County**

- Franklin St Bridge: Clearing activities complete. A pre-construction meeting was held on March 28, 2022. Bridge construction has not started, waiting on railroad to approve their submittal.
- Oak Hill Rd (Eastwood Dr to Millersburg Rd): Thirteen parcels have been secured. County advertised for the opportunity to request a public hearing.

#### **Warrick County**

- Telephone Rd: The public meeting was held February 1, 2022 with hearing certification received on March 1, 2022. Environmental document was approved April 1, 2022. Preliminary right of way engineering completed for 79 parcels. Pavement design complete March 10, 2022.
- Epworth Rd: PE contract awarded to Lochmueller Group.

#### **City/County of Henderson**

- Green River Rd: Offers have been made on 5 parcels.
- Wathen Lane: Anticipate making offers to property owners in May.

#### **KYTC**

- Watson Lane: Project split into 2 sections/phases with the intersection improvement phase a priority. Plan changes are being made to the intersection improvement phase.
- US 60 Spottsville Bridge: Work on the deck, barriers and painting to be completed so traffic can be shifted to the new bridge this summer. Utilities are beginning to relocate to the new bridge.
- KY 2084 at KY 812/Airline Rd: Utility relocations are complete. Construction activities began April 18. The work is expected to take approximately 4 to 5 months.

### **INDOT Updates – presented by Rusty Fowler, INDOT**

- (B-43148) US 41 Bridge over Pigeon Creek: Beams are scheduled to be completed. Working on southbound pavement.
- (R-39921) US 66 at Epworth Rd: Project moved to the August 8, 2022 letting. A public hearing was held March 9, 2022. Waiting on signed MOU from county.
- (B-42876) US 41 Pedestrian Walk at US 41 and Washington Ave: RW Engineering completed and RW is now in appraising. Still waiting on the environmental review to be released for public involvement. Pending environmental review, looking to schedule the Public Hearing in June.

- (R-41410) US 41 from N or SR 66/SR 62 to N of SR 66: Working with Evansville Arborist to evaluate the trees that will be cut.

*Rusty Fowler also provided an update to the high-mast lighting project at US 41 and I 69. Most of the high-mast lights are up now; the contractor is finishing up the underpass lights and other incidentals. They are hoping to be finished with this project by early June.*

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

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. FY 2023 Budget – presented by Kari Akin**

The proposed FY 2023 Evansville MPO budget, a budget trend sheet and a sheet explaining the changes in the budget from the previous year are provided in the packets. The values in the budget are the same values that were approved in March for the FY 2023 UPWP; however, the MPO received final allocation of federal funding and we received a little bit more. There are no increases in local shares from the previous 10- or 15-years years. Explanation of budget increases from FY 2022 to FY 2023 for salaries and benefits are as follows:

- There is an extra pay period during this fiscal year; that accounts for 4%
- A 3% cost of living increase is requested (starting January 1, 2023)
- A lot of staff members have a work anniversary this year that accounts for a 2% -5% increase
- An offer letter has been sent to someone to fill the vacant position and should be accepted soon; the budget was updated to include this offer
- Benefits including PERF, Health Insurance, FICA are all based on our salaries as a percentage

*Buzzy Newman asked if there are opportunities for additional increases for salaries outside of the 3% cost of living raise. Kari explained that the only other increase staff get is 2% or 5% every five years on their starting date anniversary. Buzzy then asked if we followed the City of Evansville on cost of living. Kari explained that the MPO has a handbook that includes a salary guideline that is based on a combination of Vanderburgh County and Evansville's cost of living guidelines. Buzzy expressed concern about retention and recruitment and asked the other board members if they think a 3% cost of living increase is enough. Dan Saylor added that he thinks 3% in the current environment is on the low side, and Buzzy agreed. Kari asked Buzzy what the City of Henderson does, and he explained that Henderson has a 3% cost of living increase with the opportunity for a merit increase of 2%. He also explained how they have struggled with attracting people and losing people to what is going on in the economy and he doesn't want to see that for the MPO. Jack Corn commented that there has been one opening and that was due to a retirement, and staff seem to be content. Seyed Shokouhzadeh added that it is the environment that staff is content with; it took nearly a year and a half to find someone, adding that the new staff member is from Henderson. Buzzy reiterated that he's been around this staff for many years and the MPO does a terrific job; he believes in supporting staff and if there's any way to do this, he would support it.*

*Jill Hahn made a motion for approval and Christy Powell seconded the motion; motion carried.*

**b. TIP Modifications – presented by Erin Schriefer**

The Evansville MPO modified the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program on April 6, 2022 with the following:

2020-2024 TIP Modification: April 6 2022										MPO Action:	4/6/22	Resolution, Minutes, or N/A:	N/A	Air Quality Conformity (AQC) Date or N/A:	1/7/22
Sponsor	Contract	Des#/ID#	Road	Description	County	Work Type	Funding Type	% Split	Action	Fiscal Year	Phase/S ource	Active TIP	New TIP		
All amounts in thousands															
INDOT	B-44156	2000636	US 41	Over Pigeon Creek, 0.37 mi N SR 66-JBNB	Vanderburgh	Bridge Deck Overlay	STBG	80/20	Add Contract as approved in the 2022-2024 TIP	2022	CN	\$0	\$560		
		1900782	US 41	Over SR-66/Diamond Ave. 00.46 mi N SR-62	Vanderburgh	Bridge Deck Overlay				2023	CN	\$0	\$2,996		
		1901940	US 41	From 1.27 miles N of SR66 to 0.44 miles S of SR57	Vanderburgh	Small Structures & Drains Construction				2023	CN	\$0	\$199		

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

**c. Section 5310 Program Management Plan – presented by Matt Schriefer**

The Evansville MPO has completed an update to the *Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program Management Plan (PMP)*. The PMP identifies the policies and procedures the MPO follows to administer the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant program. It also identifies the requirements the subrecipients must follow in order to be eligible for Section 5310 funding.

Changes since the last PMP, which was adopted in 2018, include:

- Regional Transit Advisory Committee (RTAC)
  - The RTAC was established after adoption of the previous PMP. This update includes the role that the RTAC plays in the Section 5310 program.
- Operating funds as an eligible activity
  - Previously, the MPO only provided Section 5310 funds for capital expenses, primarily the acquisition of accessible minivans or buses for non-profit agencies. Per Section 5310 regulations, up to 35% of our region’s available Section 5310 funding can be used for operating. Moving forward, the MPO will utilize up to 35% of funds for operating expenses for non-profit agencies, pending the number of vehicles requested.
- On-site visits to the non-profit transportation providers
  - The MPO is increasing their oversight of Section 5310 subrecipients moving forward. This update includes an on-site visit checklist that the MPO will now use to evaluate the non-profit agencies that provide transportation.

*Bill Hubiak made a motion for approval and Todd Robertson seconded the motion; motion carried.*

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Approval of Bills**

*Bill Hubiak made a motion for approval and Dan Saylor seconded the motion; motion carried.*

**Announcements:**

*Erin Schriefer commented that the Evansville MPO is at the beginning stages of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the long-range plan that identifies projects to be completed into the future. This plan will include projects to the year 2050 and will replace the current 2045 plan. Right now, the MPO is putting together a public opinion survey to be distributed within the next few weeks. The MPO will send an email to committee members with the link for the survey. Please take it and consider sharing with friends, family and coworkers.*

*Matt Schriefer announced that the MPO is also in the middle of updating the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, essentially the short-term plan for transit in the region for seniors and individual with disabilities. There is currently a second survey out now that will close on May 27, 2022. Even though the plan is geared towards seniors and individuals with disabilities, the survey is open to everyone and the MPO would like as much feedback as possible. The survey is available on the front page of the Evansville MPO website.*

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Jack Corn announced that Bill Hubiak is retiring and this meeting will be his last. Bill introduced his successor, Nick Stallings, PE. Nick will be taking over as Henderson County Engineer and will replace Bill on the MPO Policy Committee. Bill also thanked Jack for running efficient meetings and has enjoyed being part of the committee. Jack thanked Bill for all of his input throughout the years, and welcomed Nick to the Committee.*

## **7. UPCOMING DATES**

- CY 2022 EMPO Policy Meetings:
  - July 14
  - September 8
  - November 10

Meeting adjourned.