



**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**

September 12, 2024

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. ROLL CALL

Policy Members	Organization	In Person	Webex/ Phone	Absent
Jack Corn, Jr.	Chairman			X
Mayor Stephanie Terry	City of Evansville			X
Mary Allen	Evansville City Council	X		
Rusty Fowler	Vice Chairman, Indiana Department of Transportation		X	
Jill Hahn	Vanderburgh County Council		X	
Deneatra Henderson (Thomas Witt)	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet	X		
Nick Stallings	Henderson County Appointment			X
William “Buzzy” Newman (Dawn Kelsey)	City of Henderson Appointment		X	
Chris Cooke	Town of Newburgh Appointment	X		
Todd Robertson	City of Evansville Mayoral Appointment		X	
Dan Saylor	Warrick County Commission		X	
Cheryl Musgrave	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		
Kari Akin		X		
Matt Schriefer		X		
Erin Schriefer		X		
Amir Varshochi		X		
Jennifer Scott		X		
Others Present		In Person	Webex/ Phone	Absent
La’Kesha Stewart			X	
Brian Aldridge			X	
Anne Marie Jensen			X	
Chai Mamidala		X		

John Stoll directed the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris Cooke made a motion for approval and Mary Allen seconded the motion; motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Project Update – presented by Pam Drach

City of Evansville

- Walnut St Phase 2 (Weinbach Ave to Vann Ave): The project is complete.
- Walnut St Phase 3 (MLK Jr Blvd to US 41): Contractor has extended reconstruction to Governor. Final asphalt surface is expected to be placed this quarter from US 41 to Garvin St.

Vanderburgh County

- Oak Hill Rd (Eastwood Dr to Millersburg Rd): Pipe installation, grading, subbase, curb and gutter, and driveways completed on the east side of Phase 1. The west side work completed includes grading, stabilization, underdrains and subbase installation.
- Oak Hill Rd (Lynch Rd to St George Rd): Right of way acquisition is ongoing; 8 parcels secured, offers for 17 parcels have been approved. Geotechnical work has started.
- Wimberg Rd Bridge (over Locust Creek): A field check was held on August 17.

City/County of Henderson

- Green River Rd (Bend Gate Rd to Osage Dr): Final bid documents have been submitted to KYTC for comment. Additional funding request has been submitted.
- Wathen Lane (US 60 to the City Limits): Excavating, grading and placement of stone for walking trail is underway. Installation of stormwater structures and associated piping is continuing.

INDOT Updates – presented by Rusty Fowler

- (R-39921) SR 66 at Epworth Rd: Displaced left turn is open and functioning very well. Some small adjustments to be made.
- (R-42753) I-69 Concrete Pavement Restoration: Over 70% of the project is completed. Slowly opening back up to 2 lanes. I-69 southbound between the 10–15-mile markers will have concrete patching taking place.
- (B-42876) US 41 Pedestrian Walk at Washington Ave: Bridge has been set on abutments; working on ramps. Aesthetics are final. Working on pavement for U-Turns.
- (R-41410) US 41 from SR 66/SR 62 (Lloyd) to SR 66 (Diamond): Closed Morgan Ave for 37-day closure. Working on surface asphalt for mainline pavement.
- (R-44898) Intersection Improvements on SR 66 (at Vann, Burkhardt, Cross Pointe, Stockwell): Vann Ave left turns and signal has been removed. Work on Stockwell Ave median complete. Working through utility conflict on the south. Division St closed September 4, 2024.
- (R-42748) SR 61 (Lynnville): Bridge is complete. Patching should now be complete and continue with paving.
- (R-42287) SR 62 Lloyd4U project (improvements west of St Joseph Ave): Crossovers are close to completion; will shift traffic to the south side of median by October. Utility relocations ongoing. In a recent meeting, there were some concerns expressed by the Evansville Fire Department about the width of paving available, so some barrier walls will be moved to provide more width as normal construction continues.
- (R-45152) SR 62 at Wabash, St Joseph: Working on Stage 3 plans and redetermining utility conflicts. Updating contract documents.

Rusty Fowler mentioned Hillsdale at US 41. This project included a Reduced Conflict Intersection and a box structure just south of the intersection. The box structure should be completed by mid-October, and the intersection should hopefully be finished by early November. The contract completion will not be until May 2025, but this is mostly due to getting grass to grow and other similar requirements.

He also mentioned the Ohio River Crossing (ORX) project. I-69 northbound is restricted to one-lane between US 41 and Green River Rd. Excavation work and embankment work should be starting next week. Temporary haul roads will be installed. Some activities will continue next month like bridge piling, pier footers and permanent embankment for the approach on the Indiana side.

This item was informational and did not require committee action.

b. CY 2024 Call for Projects – presented by Erin Schriefer

In July, the MPO announced the Call for Projects for Indiana LPAs for FY 2031 and beyond. Thirteen applications were received, and all were reviewed following the project selection process that is guided by the goals and objectives set forth in the MTP 2050.

At this time, the MPO is recommending the top project from each Indiana LPA move forward. The following is a summary of these projects:

Project	LPA	Recommended Program Year for TIP 2026-2030
Epworth Rd (Tecumseh Dr to SR 662)	Warrick County	FY 2031
	Project includes lane widening with curb and gutter, new storm sewers, bike lanes and a sidewalk/trail. This segment of Epworth Rd was previously included in the entire corridor from Frontage Rd to SR 662 approved for Federal funding during the CY 2022 Call. Due to additional environmental work, this segment of the corridor must proceed as a second phase.	
Virginia St (Green River Rd to Circle Front Dr)	Evansville	FY 2032
	Project includes adding a two-way center turn lane and various bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including bike lanes, sidewalks, and a sidepath. Signal modifications at various intersections and pedestrian crossing improvements will also be made.	
Petersburg Rd (Club House Dr to Boonville New Harmony Rd)	Vanderburgh County	FY 2033
	The project includes reconstructing Petersburg Rd to provide curbs, storm sewers, and a sidewalk on the east side of the road. Left turn lanes will be added at the entrance to McCutchanville Elementary School and at the intersections with Championship Dr and Keefer Dr.	

Your approval designates these projects for MPO funding, and the federal participation level for these projects will be determined as part of the upcoming TIP 2026-2030 development process.

Mary Allen made a motion for approval and Chris Cooke seconded the motion; motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2024-2028 TIP Amendments – presented by Pam Drach

The Evansville MPO amended the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program with the following:

Sponsor	Contract	Des#/ID#	Road	Description	County	Work Type	Funding Type	% Split	Action	Fiscal Year	Phase/Source	Current TIP Entry Total	New TIP Entry		
													Total	Federal	State/Local
INDOT	45621	2400611	Various	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure location: 2020 S Greer River Rd, Evansville, IN 47715	Vanderburgh	Other Type Project (Miscellaneous)	NEVI	80/20	Add Project	2025	CN	\$0	\$750	\$600	\$150
												\$0	\$0	\$0	

Rusty Fowler made a motion for approval and Thomas Witt seconded the motion; motion carried.

b. 2024-2028 TIP Modifications – presented by Pam Drach

The Evansville MPO modified the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program with the following:

Date Processed	Sponsor	Contract	Des#/ID#	Road	Description	County	Work Type	Funding Type	% Split	Action	Fiscal Year	Phase/Source	Current TIP Entry	New TIP Entry		
														Total	Federal	State/Local
16-Aug-24	INDOT	45284	2301164	SR 161	Various locations along SR 161 Includes Des# 2301070	Warrick	Small Structure Replacement	NHPP	100	Increase Funding	2025	PE	\$2,300	\$2,710	\$2,710	\$0
											2024	PE	\$5,540	\$1,000	\$900	\$100
	INDOT	44987	2300274	Various	Electric vehicle charging infrastructure at various locations along Indiana Interstates	Various	Other Type Project	STBG	80/20	Revise Funding	2024	CN	\$21,215	\$0	\$0	\$0
											2025	PE	\$5,540	\$8,336	\$7,503	\$834
											2025	CN	\$21,215	\$0	\$0	\$0
											2026	CN	\$21,215	\$19,948	\$15,959	\$3,990
2027	CN	\$0	\$27,243	\$21,794	\$5,449											
2028	CN	\$0	\$18,988	\$15,190	\$3,798											
26-Aug-24	INDOT	43969	2100668	I-64 & SR 64	Various locations in the Vincennes District Includes Des# 2100668, 2100718, 2100717, 2100753	Warrick	Bridge Deck Overlays	NHPP	80/20	Add Funding	2025	PE	\$0	\$106	\$85	\$21
											2025	PE	\$0	\$363	\$318	\$35
	INDOT	45295	2301241	SR 66	From 1.81 mi E of US 41 to 1.91 E of US 41 (EB). Grouped Project: Bike and pedestrian facilities	Vanderburgh	Other Type Project (Miscellaneous)	HSPF	80/20	Add Project	2027	RW	\$0	\$20	\$16	\$4
2028	CN	\$0	\$270	\$216	\$54											
29-Aug-24	INDOT	39418	1593066	SR 68	Over Simpson Branch, 2.33 mi E of SR 61	Warrick	Bridge Replacement	STBG	80/20	Add Project	2025	PE	\$0	\$40	\$32	\$8
											2025	CN	\$0	\$1,203	\$962	\$241

This item was informational and did not require committee action.

Jill Hahn asked a general question to anyone that would be able to help her address it. She has received a few phone calls as President of the County Council asking why it appears that the federal, state and local partners are not talking to one another to coordinate projects with as much construction that is going on. She was seeking an answer that she would be able to pass on to people when they ask her about it. Rusty Fowler (INDOT) responded that from his perspective, there have been a lot of communications happening, especially with the Lloyd4U project. A lot of studies were conducted on the impacts of the local roadways beyond the Lloyd Expressway. He also asked Jill to send anyone with specific questions or concerns to INDOT and they will do what they can to help provide answers. Jill also mentioned that she understands the community's frustrations and shares with people that the roads will have to be messed up first in order to get better. Seyed Shokouhzadeh (EMPO) let Jill know that she can also send people to the MPO if there are questions. John Stoll (County Engineer) mentioned that from the local perspective, the County always tries to coordinate projects, but there are times when problems and conflicts come up. He provided the example of Oak Hill Rd that received approval for federal funds in 2018 and was set at that time to go to letting in the second half of 2023. When projects are planned that far out ahead, it can sometimes be hard to know what other projects will be also be underway. Another example is that there are three bridges on the west side of the county that are recommended for rehab or replacement this year, but with the Lloyd4U project that is happening out there currently, the county will not be starting those bridges until at least 2028. He reiterated that everyone tries to avoid conflicts, if possible, but sometimes that can't always happen. Jill thanked everyone for their input and lastly mentioned that she lets people know they can tune into the MPO meetings to see what is discussed.

c. FY 2024 Performance and Expenditures Annual Completion Report – presented by Kari Akin

The Annual Unified Planning Work Program Performance and Expenditures Completion Report for FY 2024 presents a summary of the activities and products completed by the Evansville MPO during FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Described in the report is the progress attained in completing each of the work elements contained in the approved FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. This report is submitted to Indiana and Kentucky state agencies by September 19th and to FHWA by September 30th of each year.

Each work element includes a purpose, finished products, and funds expended. The document also includes budget and expenditure summary tables for each funding source and staff hours per element.

Below are the total funding sources of what was granted versus what was spend in FY 2024. The balances with an asterisk will transfer to FY 2025. These balances are all from special projects including the pavement management program and Section 5310 FTA vehicles.

TASK	Title	Federal Funding Source	Budget	1-Jul-23 through 30-Jun-24		FHWA		
				Expenditure	Balance	% Complete	Completion Date	Continued in FY 2025
100	Admin/Pub	PL/5303	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	100%	June-24	Yes
200	Data	2.5/PL/5303; HSIP; SPR	\$ 388,847.00	\$ 387,180.00	\$ 1,667	100%	June-24	Yes
300	Short Plan	PL/5303;	\$ 263,817.00	\$ 263,817.00	\$ -	100%	June-24	Yes
400	Long Plan	PL/5303;	\$ 103,750.00	\$ 103,750.00	\$ -	100%	June-24	Yes
500	Transit/Ped	PL/5303; 5303; 5307; 5310	\$ 187,126.00	\$ 187,126.00	\$ -	100%	June-24	Yes
600	Specials	Pavement & Software	\$ 310,820.00	\$ 300,231.00	\$ 10,589.00	95%	December-24	Yes
B-1	FTA Vehicles	FTA Vehicles CRRSA/ARP 5310	\$ 738,745.00	\$ 723,850.00	\$ 14,895.00	98%	June-24	Yes
TOTAL			\$ 2,243,105.00	\$ 2,215,954.00	\$ 27,151.00			
		Indiana PL/5303	\$ 633,053.00	\$ 633,053.00	\$ -			
		Y410 2.5% Safe & Accessible	\$ 13,487.00	\$ 13,487.00	\$ -			
		Indiana STBG	\$ 203,856.00	\$ 197,184.00	\$ 6,672.00 *			
		Indiana HSIP (100%)	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -			
		KY PL Pavement	\$ 44,800.00	\$ 43,001.00	\$ 1,799.00 *			
		KY PL	\$ 74,400.00	\$ 74,400.00	\$ -			
		Indiana SPR	\$ 43,904.00	\$ 43,904.00	\$ -			
		INDOT Counts - NSO/State Owned	\$ 67,667.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 1,667.00			
		FTA KY 5303 KY-2021-030-01	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -			
		FTA KY 5307 KY-2024-015-00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -			
		FTA IN 5307 IN-2024-002-00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -			
		FTA IN-2022-022 5310 Admin +OP	\$ 322,189.00	\$ 310,272.00	\$ 11,917.00 *			
		FTA 5310 IN-2020-035 (Carryover)	\$ 1,887.00	\$ 1,887.00	\$ -			
		FTA 5310 IN-2021-051-00 (C/O)	\$ 265,106.00	\$ 265,106.00	\$ -			
		KY State Match	\$ 4,650.00	\$ 4,650.00	\$ -			
		IN State Match	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ -			
		Local Match	\$ 435,946.00	\$ 430,850.00	\$ 5,096.00 *			
		TOTAL	\$ 2,243,105.00	\$ 2,215,954.00	\$ 27,151.00			

*Specials and Appendicies are multi-year contracts in which balances will carry forward.

An electronic copy will be available September 12 on the EMPO website at www.evansvillempo.com under “publications and links” and “finance”. Hard copies are available on request.

This item was informational and did not require committee action.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Approval of Bills

Chris Cooke made a motion for approval and Mary Allen seconded the motion; motion carried.

b. INDOT/EMPO Multimodal Connectivity Plan – presented by Brian Aldridge

Brian Aldridge of Stantec Inc. provided an overview of the INDOT/EMPO Multimodal Connectivity Plan. Stantec was selected as the consultant to study SR 66 from US 41 to Epworth Rd for multimodal connections across SR 66. To hear the full presentation, go to <http://www.evansvillempo.com/Meetings.html> and select the audio/video button for 9/12/2024 in the Policy Committee section.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

La’Kesha Stewart with Federal Highway Indiana Division provided safety updates. Fatalities and serious injuries have increased across the nation in the last 10 years. In 2012 nationally, there were 32,999 fatalities, which increased by 30% to 42,939 in 2021. Indiana has a similar trend, as there were 781 traffic fatalities in 2012 which increased by 20% to 932 in 2021. The share of urban fatalities in Indiana has increased and now exceeds the amount of fatalities in rural areas. Pedestrian fatalities are increasing and now represent more than 15% of the total fatal crashes in Indiana. Indiana is experiencing more fatalities per vehicle miles traveled today than at anytime in the previous 10 years. Fatalities among all users have been increasing and fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists have been increasing even faster since 2010. A focus area for FHWA and USDOT is to address disproportionate adverse safety impacts that affect certain groups on the roadways. Safety is a shared responsibility – it isn’t just FHWAs, INDOTs or KYTCs job – it is all of our responsibility to strive for zero roadway fatalities. We need to incorporate safety into planning and design of roadways, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. FHWA has been committed and ramped up resources and tools in recent years to include safe system approach and creation of the National Roadway Safety Strategy. A safe system involves anticipating human mistakes by designing and managing road infrastructure to keep the risks of a mistake low. The DOT has developed tools and resources available to employ proven safety countermeasures, which are low cost, quick implementation proven strategies to save lives and prevent serious injuries on the transportation system. Added significant monetary resources, with Safe Streets and Roads For All discretionary grant program, has been available and has been doing very well. Money is also available through HSIP and PL funding set aside for Safet Streets For All.

La’Kesha also noted that FHWA is working on a grant-making workshop/course with LTAP, and once there are more details, she will share them with everyone. FHWA Indiana Division will also be conducting a mini grant peer exchange during the MPO conference in October and encourages everyone to attend if available.

7. UPCOMING DATES

- CY 2024 EMPO Policy Meetings:
 - November 14

Meeting adjourned.