

**EVANSVILLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY**  
**Policy and Technical**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**March 3, 2005**

**Policy Members Present**

Jack Corn  
Lloyd Winnecke  
Mae Mason  
Suzanne Crouch  
Phillip H. Baxter  
John Stroud  
Mayor Weinzapfel

**Policy Members Absent**

Stephen Melcher

**Others Present**

Steve Sherwood

**Staff Present**

Pamela Drach  
Lauri Lutz  
Laura Lamb  
Craig Luebke  
Kari Akin

**Technical Committee Members Present**

Patrick Keepes, Evansville City Engineer  
Brad Mills, APC  
Gina Boaz, GRADD  
Kent Cutchin, METS  
David Matthews, Evansville Chamber of Commerce  
Mike Feltz, Evansville Chamber of Commerce  
Nelson Bailes, Chamber of Commerce  
Judith Weatherholt, Warrick Co. Dept. of Economic Development  
Shirley James, Pigeon Creek Greenway Committee  
Pam Whitter, HART  
Phil Wilzbacher, Southwind Maritime Centre  
Sandy Gray, Evansville ARC  
Doug Boom, City of Henderson  
William Hubiak, Henderson County Engineer  
Kevin McClearn, KYTC – D2  
Ted Merryman, KYTC – D2  
Amy Thomas, KYTC  
Emmanuel Nsonwu, INDOT

**Certification Review Agencies**

David Franklin, FHWA-IN  
Bernadette DuPont, FHWA  
John Humeston, FHWA  
Greg Rawlings, FHWA  
Supin Yoder, FHWA  
Larry Heil, FHWA  
Andy Minyo, FTA  
Lynn Soporowski, KYTC

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, introduced John Stroud, Henderson City Representative.

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2005 Policy Committee meeting. On a motion of Lloyd Winnecke and seconded by Suzanne Crouch the Policy Committee minutes were approved. MOTION CARRIED.

**CERTIFICATION REVIEW – FHWA AND FTA**

Pamela Drach introduced David Franklin, FHWA, and Andy Minyo, FTA.

Dave Franklin said thank you for the introduction. He said it is an honor to be here. Every three years a TMA has to undergo a certification review and this is to ensure that all of the federal regulations that the MPO has to adhere to are being followed. The certification review process has been going on for the last two days involves reviewing the planning process of EUTS. Dave Franklin said he is happy to report that EUTS will be certified, which means EUTS will continue to receive federal funds. During the next 60 days, there will be a lot of interaction between the affected agencies at the end of which we should be issuing a formal report with the results.

Dave Franklin said Pamela Drach and her staff did a fantastic job preparing for the certification review. Ms. Drach answered every question in a very professional manner. Dave Franklin said all of the federal review team commended Pamela Drach on her professionalism and her ability to answer the questions. There has been a lot of stress between all of the agencies leading up to this review, and we feel Pamela Drach did an excellent job defusing that friction, and we want to thank her for that.

Dave Franklin wanted to report the findings of the certification review that the review team feels EUTS needs to address. One is staff shortages. We feel there are important transportation issues in this area, I-69 most notably, and we feel EUTS needs to fill these positions as quickly as possible in order to get the staffing levels back up so that EUTS can meet all of the federal requirements.

Andy Minyo, FTA, said it was important for his agency to be at the EUTS certification review for planning reviews and grant approvals that EUTS does for programming projects for the HART and METS systems. Andy Minyo said it was a difficult review, but that Pamela Drach had a handle on the issues given that she is in a transition position. For our agency we feel we got a lot accomplished and it was beneficial for the agency to participate in the EUTS certification review.

Policy Committee Vice Chairperson, Lloyd Winnecke, commented that the staffing shortage is a top priority. Clearly, once the Executive Director position gets filled, the other positions will be filled in a very short order. Policy Committee Vice Chairperson, Lloyd Winnecke, said Pamela Drach has done a very good job representing not only the Technical and Policy Committees, but also the community. We are proud of what she has been able to do to get these certifications renewed.

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, said in the past, EUTS seemed to lose staff because they can go somewhere else for a little more money. Perhaps we need to look at our pay scale again. We looked at the pay scale several years ago and we upgraded the pay at that time, but it hasn't been looked at since then. That is something that needs to be done. Dave Franklin said many towns base their pay scale locally, but the problem with that is MPOs need to think state-wide and regionally because the staff can move regionally. Dave Franklin suggested the committee study the salaries and benefits in the region to be able to compete regionally and keep staff.

Policy Committee Vice Chairperson, Lloyd Winnecke, asked Dave Franklin's opinion on how wide of a region would be good for EUTS evaluate from a competitive standpoint. Dave Franklin answered approximately a 400-500 mile diameter, but that is just his opinion and it is up to the Policy Committee to decide the diameter they would like to evaluate. Dave Franklin said FHWA does not like to dictate salary ranges to MPOs, but FHWA feels it is critical that EUTS fills these positions.

David Matthews asked about the federal highway bill moving in Congress, how that was going to affect us and are we waiting on this before we can do anything? David Matthews asked if one of the FHWA representatives could comment on how important this issue is and if we need to write our Congressman. Andy Minyo, FTA, said we have an appropriation for the urbanized area. The effect that's happening now with the issues not being resolved is that there's an apportionment for FY 2005; however, not all of it is available to be used. What will happen then is the METS and HART systems will have to make an application for the available funding, and then later on in the year they'll come in for an amendment to get the rest of the money.

Shirley James made a comment in respect to the EUTS salaries. She said that when she was in the health planning field, they always looked at their service area, which was the Tri-State service area of Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, and she always thought of that as our regional area.

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, said he keeps hearing that the Governor is delaying some projects. Is there any truth to that matter? Dave Franklin said it's natural as you go through a transition of administration that they are going to take everything off the front burner and re-evaluate the priorities of their transportation program at the state level. Eventually, you will be seeing projects roll out again, but there is definitely an evaluation process going on right now.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **PROJECT UPDATE-handout**

Pamela Drach presented the Project Update.

### **CITY OF EVANSVILLE**

#### **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects**

- Green River Road – Lincoln Avenue (CN FY'07- Schneider Corporation): This intersection improvement project proposes the construction of left and right-turn lanes on westbound Lincoln Avenue and right-turn lanes on Green River Road. *The Consultant has received approval of the Preliminary Field Check plans and has been instructed to schedule a preliminary field check.*

### **VANDERBURGH COUNTY**

#### **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects**

- Lynch Road Extension (E&B Paving): The Lynch Road extension Phases 2B & 3 will extend the corridor from the I-164 interchange to SR 62. The low bid received at the October 19, 2004 letting did not meet the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal; therefore, the project must be let for bids again. *The project is scheduled for a March 16, 2005 bid letting.*

### **WARRICK COUNTY**

#### **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects**

- Epworth Road (CN FY'06, Crossroad Engineers): Epworth Road will be widened to four travel lanes between SR 66/Lloyd Expressway and Telephone Road. The County Commissioners held a Public Information Meeting on Monday, February 23, 2004. The Consultant has received Design Approval. Right-of-way activities are continuing. *Final Check Prints have been approved by INDOT. The Consultant will prepare the Final Tracings.*

### **INDOT PROJECTS**

#### **Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects**

- US Highway 41 - Lloyd Expressway Interchange (PE FY'05, Beam, Longest & Neff): Local authorities support the construction of a full interchange to better facilitate traffic flow on these two National Highway System (NHS) corridors. The Consultant is working on the environmental review and documentation. *Preliminary Field Check Plans are being developed for submittal to INDOT.*
- US Highway 41 (PE FY'05, RW Armstrong): The US 41 corridor from Eagle Creek Slough to SR 66/Diamond Avenue is currently programmed for pavement replacement. *The Consultant is conducting the field survey.*
- SR 261 (CN FY'07, DLZ): The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow and safety along the SR 261 corridor, from SR 66 to Jenner Road. The typical cross section from SR 66 to Oak Grove Road will consist of four travel lanes, two in each direction, separated by a 13-foot wide median/left-turn lane. From Fuquay Road to the north project limits, the typical cross section will

include one travel lane in each direction separated by a 13-foot wide median/left-turn lane. A Preliminary Field Check was held on August 27, 2003. State and local representatives met on January 21 and September 15, 2004 to discuss design options for the SR 261/Oak Grove Road/Casey Road area and the potential design impacts on school related traffic flows. The Consultant has requested INDOT approval for a change in scope to include the realignment of Casey Road. *A meeting was held on February 9, 2005 to discuss the Scope Change request.*

### **Corridor Assessments**

- SR 62/ Lloyd Expressway: Fulton Avenue to USI Interchange (Corradino Group): A corridor study was conducted on the upgrading of this section of the Lloyd Expressway to freeway status. The preferred alternative consists of constructing a third through lane in each direction from the USI interchange to Barker Avenue and making SR 62/Lloyd Expressway a fully controlled access freeway. A Public Information Meeting was held on February 26, 2004 to present preliminary design options and obtain public comment on the options. *INDOT will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the Mitchell Auditorium at USI. The purpose of the hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for the project.*

### **Design Development Process for Federal Aid Projects**

#### Indiana

Planning  
Engineers Report/Project Development  
Select Design Consultant  
Grade Review Plans  
Preliminary Field Check Plans & Meeting  
Environmental Document Approval  
Public Hearing Plans & Meeting  
Final Design Study Report & Hearing Plans  
Design Approval  
Right-of-Way Engineering/Acquisition  
Final Plan Submittal  
Final Check Prints  
Final Tracings  
Bid Letting

#### Kentucky

Planning  
Intermediate or Scoping Study  
Select Design Consultant  
Pre-Design Meeting  
Preliminary Line & Grade Inspection  
Draft Environmental Document Approval  
Public Hearing  
Design and Environmental Approval  
Drainage Inspection and Submittal  
Plan Submittal for Right-of-way Funds  
Right-of-way Acquisition  
Final Plan Review  
Bid Letting

### **Project Update Discussion:**

#### Diamond Avenue Project

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, said he knows the Diamond Avenue project is a two-year project, but he wondered if the Diamond Avenue project is on schedule, behind schedule or ahead of schedule. Pamela Drach said the last time we talked with the contractor, they were on schedule. As a matter of fact, some of the work they are doing at the intersections right now, they're doing to try to get a little bit ahead of schedule.

### **ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT**

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, said the Articles of Agreement will be tabled since the Policy Committee has not had time to work on this issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **HART FTA SECT. 5307 CAPITAL, OPERATING, PLANNING GRANT-handout**

Kari Akin presented the HART FTA Sect. 5307 Capital, Operating, Planning Grant. A copy of the HART FTA Sect. 5307 Capital, Operating, Planning Grant handout is attached to the Minutes.

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, asked for a motion to approve the HART FTA Sect. 5307 Capital, Operating, Planning Grant. On a motion of Lloyd Winnecke and seconded by Suzanne Crouch the HART FTA Sect. 5307 Capital, Operating, Planning Grant was approved. MOTION CARRIED.

### **HART FTA SECT. 5309 CAPITAL GRANT (2 GRANTS)-handout**

Kari Akin presented the HART FTA Sect. 5309 Capital Grant (2 Grants). A copy of the HART FTA Sect. 5309 Capital Grant (2 Grants) handout is attached to the Minutes.

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, asked for a motion to approve the minutes HART FTA Sect. 5309 Capital Grant (2 Grants). On a motion of Mae Mason and seconded by Suzanne Crouch the HART FTA Sect. 5309 Capital Grant (2 Grants) were approved. MOTION CARRIED.

### **FY 2005 UPWP AMENDMENT-handout**

Pamela Drach presented the FY 2005 UPWP Amendment. A copy of the FY 2005 UPWP Amendment handout is attached to the Minutes.

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, asked for a motion to approve the FY 2005 UPWP Amendment. On a motion of Phillip Baxter and seconded by Suzanne Crouch the FY 2005 UPWP Amendment was approved. MOTION CARRIED.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **CITIZENS COMPLAINTS-handouts**

The Policy Committee members discussed the two citizen's complaints.

### **REZONINGS-handout**

Pamela Drach discussed the March rezonings with the Policy Committee members.

### **SUBDIVISIONS**

Pamela Drach discussed the March subdivisions with the Policy Committee members.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTERLY REPORT FOR FY 2005-handout**

The Policy Committee members received a copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for FY 2005.

## **PAYROLL AND BILLS**

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, asked for a motion to approve payroll and bills. On a motion of Suzanne Crouch and seconded by Phillip Baxter the payroll and bills were approved. MOTION CARRIED.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Policy Committee Chairperson, Jack Corn, said if there is no further business the meeting is adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL**