EVANSVILLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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EVANSVILLE URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Policy Committee Meeting
November 3, 2005

Members Present	Policy Members Absent	Others Present
Jack Corn	Phillip Baxter	WIKY
Steven Melcher	William Hubiak (NV)	FOX 7
Lloyd Winnecke	Bill Nighbert, KYTC (NV)	
Cheryl Musgrave	Robert F. Tally, Jr., FHWA (NV)	**Staff Present**
Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel	David Franklin, FHWA (NV)	Brad Mills
	Jose Sepulveda, FHWA (NV)	Pamela Drach
	Bernadette Dupont, FHWA (NV)	Dytana Heard
	Kevin McClearn, KYTC (NV)	

These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Recordings of this meeting are on file in the EUTS office.

Jack Corn introduced the Policy Committee's newest board member, Cheryl Musgrave.

Jack Corn called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Mr. Corn asked for a motion to approve the amended minutes from the October 6, 2005 Policy Committee meeting minutes. On a motion of Steve Melcher and seconded by Lloyd Winnecke, the amended Policy Committee minutes were approved. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT UPDATE-handout

Pamela Drach presented the Project Update.

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects

- St. Joseph Avenue (CN FY'06, BLA): This improvement project involves constructing a five-lane facility from Illinois Street to Maryland Street (Phase III) and a four-lane facility between Maryland Street and SR 66/Diamond Avenue (Phase IV),including the realignment of the Mesker Park Drive intersection to a 90-degree intersection. INDOT has given Design Approval. All but two parcels in Phase III are secure. The Consultant is preparing the Final Tracings and supporting documentation. All right-of-way for Phase IV is secure. *The Consultant submitted the Final Check Prints to INDOT.*

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Projects

- The Greenway Passage Project - Phase 3 (Phase 3C - CN FY'06 - BLA): Phase 3 of the Greenway Passage, approximately 12 miles of the trail linking Angel Mounds State Historic Site to the animal control shelter, is divided into four sections: A, B, C, D. A Public Hearing for Phase 3C was held on

October 12, 2004. *Phase 3C-1, from Casino Aztar to Franklin Street, was let for bids on October 19, 2005. None of the bids received were below the engineer's estimate, therefore, the project must be let for bid again.* Right-of-way acquisition is complete for Phase 3D, the abandoned Hi-Rail property along US Highway 41; however, two easements must be obtained.

TOWN OF NEWBURGH

Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) Projects

- Main Street, Jennings Street and Plum Street (CN FY'07, Commonwealth Engineers): The project includes the realignment of the intersection approaches to standardize the channelization of the traffic at this complex intersection. The Consultant is preparing the Preliminary Field Check Plans. *EUTS received approval of the Categorical Exclusion (CE).*

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Projects

- Rivertown Trail (PE FY'05, American Consulting/Green 3): The Town of Newburgh and Warrick County are partners in the development of a bicycle and pedestrian facility linking Angel Mounds Historic Site to the Overlook Park at old SR 662 and SR 66. American Consulting Engineers (ACE)/Green 3 are under contract to do the design and landscape architecture work for the project. *A preliminary alignment has been identified and the Consultants are preparing the Categorical Exclusion (CE).*

WARRICK COUNTY

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects

- Oak Grove Road (RW FY'07, BLA): The 2030 Plan recommended Oak Grove Road be widened from I-164 to Libbert Road. A Scoping meeting was held on October 26, 2004. *The Consultant is preparing preliminary plans for the section from the County Line to Epworth Road.*

Bridge Projects

- Warner Road Bridge (CN FY'06, R.W. Armstrong): The existing single lane iron truss bridge over Cypress Creek will be replaced with a 160-foot long concrete span bridge that will accommodate two lanes of traffic. Design Approval has been given by INDOT. *The Consultant is preparing the Final Tracings.*

Design Development Process for Federal Aid Projects

Indiana	Kentucky
Planning	Planning
Engineers Report/Project Development	Intermediate or Scoping Study
Select Design Consultant	Select Design Consultant
Grade Review Plans	Pre-Design Meeting
Preliminary Field Check Plans & Meeting	Preliminary Line & Grade Inspection
Environmental Document Approval	Draft Environmental Document Approval
Public Hearing Plans & Meeting	Public Hearing
Final Design Study Report & Hearing Plans	Design and Environmental Approval
Design Approval	Drainage Inspection and Submittal
Right-of-Way Engineering/Acquisition	Plan Submittal for Right-of-way Funds
Final Plan Submittal	Right-of-way Acquisition
Final Check Prints	Final Plan Review
Final Tracings	Bid Letting
Bid Letting	

Letter to INDOT on Burkhardt-Lloyd Interchange

Brad Mills: – In your packet there was a letter sent out on Oct 11th. As directed by the policy committee, I tried to phrase it in a polite way, maybe not as strong as we could have, but we basically stated to INDOT that we would like to see the modifications to Lloyd Expressway, and we'd like to have that before it goes to the public meeting, asking for them to work with us. We just met with them at 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. to discuss the same project with some local business owners, the Mayor, Mr. Bagby, Mr. Melcher, Senator Becker, State Representative Crouch, and Commissioner Musgrave. At that meeting, a couple of alternatives to their design were presented to us. There were three different things Sam Sarvis mentioned. He presented an alternative to keeping the signal there which state and federal highway standards design engineers were not in favor of. He talked about removing the cross trips across that intersection at Fielding where you would have a right in / right out on both sides and a left turn eastbound to northbound. So, coming from downtown to go to the north into Village Commons would be another alternative. A third alternative was a right in / right out at Fielding on the south and also on the north which would let you get into Village Commons and into the other businesses back there.

Steve Melcher: – …… We don't know what government standards are being used today. We don't know if they're using the same ones they used for the interchange at Green River Road…..(inaudible) new set of guidelines.

Mayor Weinzapfel: – It seems like there is a lot of concern about the plan that is on the table now. I'm not for sure where the point where we need to implode the entire process. First thing that is going to have to happen is this project gets indicated in the Ten Year Plan that was presented to us by INDOT, is that, this project isn't even possible unless the government gets his financial plan through the legislature in this next session. There is a lot that needs to happen before this project can actually move forward and money be attributed to it. I'm concerned about INDOT taking this to a public hearing at this point with the plan that they have on the table now. I think the reaction we are going to get from folks is going to be probably overreaching, probably more so than what….There is a way for us to come to some type of compromise on a design, but I'm afraid going to a public hearing now is going to make any type of compromise impossible.

Jack Corn: – When are they proposing the public?

Brad Mills: – He talked about doing it within the next thirty days or more. You have to give at least thirty days notice. So, by the end of the year, it sounded like.

Lloyd Winnecke: – I wasn't able to attend today's meeting, but does it make any sense to invite INDOT to this body to make a presentation, maybe short of an entire full blown public hearing, but bring their proposal as it is today, plus whatever alternatives are on the table to this body? Brad sent a letter on our behalf to INDOT, but I think it is important that INDOT get a feel for what this MPO… for what its true feelings are.

Brad Mills: - That's an opportunity.

Lloyd Winnecke: - Or is that overplaying our hands at this point?

Steve Melcher: – I don't think they are ready for any alternatives. I think this is the plan.

Mayor Weinzapfel: – The fear is that they want to have a public hearing to kind of move the process along. I guess the question is, does that actually just mean more inertia towards implementation with what they have

on the table or does this actually mean this is a formal process by which we want public input so that we can then use that as a basis for why we need to redesign it. I'm not sure which is the correct direction to go.

Steve Melcher: – As long as I've been on this board, Bob with INDOT did many many meetings, had to travel to Vincennes. Had some changes after that public hearing. It is not going to change. Once the public hearing starts, then that's where everybody focuses on from then on. If you make changes, its going to be small changes, it won't be anything that we would want. Like Lloyd said last time, "If it comes down to this plan, I don't know where the City and County is going to get all the money to do the infrastructure that it is going to take." What was brought up today by Mr. Kent was that there is probably 50 million dollars worth of investment on that side of the highway alone. This is a 25 million dollar project, and that's not counting the other side, and the infrastructure that we got to put in. When you look at the study that Brad did on the cars, it was almost even. It wasn't any reason to have it or not have it.

Brad Mills: – That was a very preliminary. Those numbers are going to increase. With the model that we have- please take that with a grain of salt.

Steve Melcher: – I understand that.

Cheryl Musgrave: – Could we ask them to come to this bodies next meeting and hold off on the public hearing until after that point? I'd also like for them to bring some these federal design folk who apparently make a lot of decisions and don't have to face the music.

Dave Franklin: – inaudible

Jack Corn: – Do we want to try these steps? How would we know when they set the public hearing?

Brad Mills: – They'll send us a notice.

Mayor Weinzapfel: – Sam Sarvis is planning on following up with Thomas Sharp, Commissioner of INDOT, probably this afternoon, based on conversation that took place in this afternoons meeting……

Brad Mills: – I could contact him and ask him to come and bring whatever representatives from state and federal that he would think would be appropriate and could answer our questions.

Lloyd Winnecke: – I think that's a great idea.

Jack Corn: – We kind of like to have them about January of next year.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

CITIZENS COMPLAINT-handout

Bradley Mills discussed the November Citizen Complaint with committee members.

Bradley Mills: - Our Bicycle Pedestrian Plan has been completed; however, we are waiting for any local agencies that can come up with the funding to facilitate any bicycle improvements. At this time, we do not have anything planned in the city where he was concerned. Basically we just don't have dollars. Our recommendation to him was that he speak with the city engineer, city councilman and the mayor and see what funding opportunities might be available.

Cheryl Musgrave: – inaudible…

Brad Mills: – It would depend upon the type of improvements that we would put in place. For example, we had an alternative for Lincoln Avenue on the east side, starting at 41 to Green River Road, doing a three lane option and then have bicycle lanes on the outside. That would be a re-striping project that could provide some bicycle lanes for that and would not be very expensive. If we are talking about doing bicycle lanes out in the County were we have a 20 foot wide road, its going to require some substantial improvements for putting in the physical pavement and buying a right of way or whatever might need to be done.

Cheryl Musgrave: – Does this body take action on….

Brad Mills: – We can do that. The members of that jurisdiction it falls in, I would speak with them first to see what their desires are, and if they wanted to have those bicycle improvements to proceed forward and try to find funding in their budgets to pay for those.

REZONING-handout

Bradley Mills discussed the November Rezonings with committee members.

SUBDIVISIONS-handout

Bradley Mills discussed the November Subdivisions with the committee members.

PAYROLL AND BILLS

Jack Corn asked for a motion to approve payroll and bills. On a motion of Lloyd Winnecke and seconded by Steve Melcher, the payroll and bills were approved. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.