



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Bradley G. Mills, P.E., Executive Director

EVANSVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular meeting held at 10:00 a.m. in Room 318
Civic Center Complex – Administration Building
Evansville, Indiana

September 7, 2006

The Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. with introductions presented by attendees.

Members Present:

Nick Hall, KYTC; Sandy Gray, EARC; Kent Cutchin, METS; Nelson Bailes, Evansville Chamber of Commerce; Mike Feltz, Commonwealth Engineers; Glenn Boberg, Parks Department; Emmanuel Nsonwu, INDOT; Patrick Keepes, City Engineer; David Matthews, Evansville Chamber of Commerce; Khalil Dughaish, INDOT; John Stoll, Vanderburgh County Engineer

Others Present:

Byron Rohrig, Evansville Courier & Press

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

Brad Mills, Seyed Shokouhzedah, Craig Luebke, Laura Lamb, Dytana Heard

Mr. Keepes: Thank you all for attending. We'll get started. First item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes. Do we have any comments on the minutes?

Mr. Mills: I have a comment. In last month's technical meeting, on page 5, Emmanuel had talked to us about the requirement for the TIP amendments to go from the LPA's to INDOT and then to us. We had some question on that and Emmanuel, I guess, spoke to Carter and emailed us back the day after that clarifying that the process that we were using was correct, that the amendments come from the county and city to the MPO and then we forward them to INDOT. I believe there was some confusion on that the rural... is the stuff you were telling us is what the rural does.

Mr. Nsonwu: All of the projects that are within the Evansville MPO, the urban area. The LPA's can make the amendments directly to you guys and then you guys will now send those after you have made the amendment. But if they're within the MPA, that is areas

outside the urbanized area and if they're rural areas, then those will be request that will come from INDOT to you guys. But for LPA's within MPO urbanized Evansville MPO area can go to you guys now, right, and then you guys can send it to INDOT after it's been amended.

Mr. Mills: I just wanted to make sure that that was clarified, because the minutes didn't reflect that change, so I'd like that to be incorporated with the recurring of this meeting that we were doing it correctly for the MPO boundary area and for the rural area we would need to go through INDOT.

Mr. Nsonwu: That's correct.

Mr. Boberg: I had one thing regarding the Greenway, the construction on Phase 3-C1. The minutes have the correct completion date of June 1st, but there was an asterisk next to that on the "Notice to Proceed" and a revised completion date is due to issuing a "Notice to Proceed" is October 25, 2007. So, if we could make that clarification on that.

Mr. Keepes: What page is that?

Mr. Boberg: It's on page 2 under Transportation Enhancement Projects. It says the proposed completion date is June 1st. According to this, that is on the "Notice to Proceed", but also on that there is an asterisk that says that the revised completion date is October 25, 2007. And I brought a copy of that for the MPO, so that you can have that in your file.

Mr. Mills: Thanks.

Mr. Keepes: Okay, thank you. Anything else? If not, do we have a motion for approval of the minutes with those changes?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Emmanuel Nsonwu moved and John Stoll seconded the motion to approve last months Technical Committee Minutes with changes. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT UPDATE

VANDEBURGH COUNTY

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects

Green River Road (CN FY'06)

Ms. Lamb: A supplemental agreement with consultant DLZ was approved by the County Commissioners at their August 22, 2006 meeting for the design of Section C2 phase 2 of this project (Hirsch Road to Heckel Road). DLZ is currently the design consultant for Section C2, phase 1 (Lynch Road to Hirsch Road). This agreement would bring the design contract amount for phases 1 and 2 to \$1,168,000.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects

Green River Road – Millersburg Road (RW FY'06 & CN FY'07, Clark Dietz)

Ms. Lamb: The County Commissioners approved a supplemental agreement with consultant Clark Dietz for right-of-way engineering and services at their August 8, 2006 meeting for the sum of \$207,000.

Local Projects from the Transportation Plan

Green River Road – Lynch Road (PE Beam, Longest and Neff, LLC; CN FY'06)

Ms. Lamb: The County Commissioners awarded the contract for the construction of this project to JBI Construction at their July 25, 2006 meeting for the sum of \$472,632.28. Construction has begun and is expected to proceed through October, 2006.

WARRICK COUNTY

Bridge Projects

Warner Road Bridge (CN FY'06, R.W. Armstrong)

Ms. Lamb: A notice to proceed has been issued by INDOT and construction has begun.

INDOT PROJECTS

US Highway 41 School Crossing Flashers (CN FY'06)

Ms. Lamb: This project is complete and the flashers are in operation.

SR 57–Boonville–New Harmony Road (CN FY'06, URS)

Ms. Lamb: The proposed letting date for this project has been pushed to March, 2007.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects

SR 62/Morgan Avenue – Oak Hill Road Intersection (RW FY'06, QK4)

Ms. Lamb: The Preliminary Field Check held on August 17, 2006 was attended by MPO staff, and the issue of project coordination was raised. The consultant has proposed to meet with the City Engineer and the consultants for the Oak Hill Road widening project to work out the coordination details. When this meeting is scheduled, we will notify our INDOT District partners that have voiced an interest in attending.

SR 66/Lloyd Expressway – Stockwell Road (CN FY'07, URS)

Ms. Lamb: The proposed letting date for this project has been pushed to March, 2007.

Corridor Assessments

I-69 Corridor Location and Ohio River Bridge Crossing (HNTB)

Ms. Lamb: A meeting was held September 6, 2006 with the consultant HNTB, KYTC, INDOT, FHWA and the MPO to determine the steps necessary to meet the required January signing of the FEIS.

KYTC PROJECTS

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Projects

US 41A/Green Street – KY 136/Sand Lane (CN FY'07)

Ms. Lamb: Appraisals are being prepared, and a new letting date of January, 2008 is being projected.

US 60, US 41A to KY 425/Henderson By-Pass (CN FY'04, PDR)

Ms. Lamb: Utility relocation continues, and the project is on track for an August 2007 letting for construction. And that would be it for the Project Updates. Does anybody have any questions about those projects or any of the other projects, anything to add or...?

Mr. Mills: I asked Laura this morning when we do the Project Update for next month to go through this list to see if we can't clean up some of the projects that have been on there for some time that might not be active, or not really proceeding and see if we can't remove those from our list. Also, I had the idea that as we do these changes, and we put this as kind of a running list of what's going on with the projects, to maybe add the date

at the end of these changes, so that whenever you go through the list of projects you can see something that was done on I-69, but it's not black at this point, so we're not reading it, when was that last update done, so you can see that that item was changed at that certain update, it wouldn't necessarily be for all of them, but as they would run forward we could keep a running tally of that, so you can have an idea of what's happened. I mean, you can look at a project and say, "We haven't done anything on this project for a year as far as our update is concerned." You'll think that would be beneficial? (Response given from committee members) We'll do that then.

Mr. Keepes: Any questions for Laura about any of those projects? If not, thank you all. We'll move on. It doesn't appear we have any New Business, is there any Other Business?

Mr. Matthews: There was an economic luncheon that several of us attended last week and one issue that came up, one of the speaker's recommended that there be a regional, everything's going to regional, planning organization. And that this organization, they'd be the one that investigate that, and I'm talking about land use planning, transportation planning primarily, but that creates land use issues. So, it's something to throw out and start thinking about should this group expand and has it expanded through certain parts of Indiana to improve land use planning, what areas should be industrial in the future and what would be commercial and residential, or in wetlands, or whatever. Nobody's really handling that on a regional basis, I don't think. This is the primary regional planning organization, so I bring that up only for discussion.

Mr. Keepes: Any sentiments on that?

Mr. Nsonwu: I think it's a very good idea because on the northwest side of the state (inaudible 11:44), so I think it's something that you guys might start thinking about, to use a regional plan approach. (inaudible 11:53)

Mr. Matthews: Of course the region...how big is the region? I guess we have the same boundaries as the MPO here.

Mr. Mills: We do, I mean, we have Vanderburgh, Warrick and Henderson is our official MPO counties as we do rural planning for Gibson and Posey, so we can include that, expand to that, so Spencer or...

Mr. Matthews: Spencer's has a good investor bank over there.

Mr. Mills: That's pretty close to us, so I don't know; do we need to jump over in Illinois? That would open up a whole new dynamic of what's going on as you add another state. I wouldn't be opposed to it. I think it's a good idea and would be happy to listen to the ideas and work with the communities. If there's willingness, obviously the counties would have to agree to join into that.

Mr. Matthews: There are certain chambers that are expanding on...they're bringing in other counties; the realtors have done this, so we're now kind of a regional area. And also the Evansville Chambers have been meeting with the Henderson County Chambers. so that would be...we are not really dealing with Illinois, as far as I know, but Henderson would be a possibility. This can be pretty tough, we can see we're giving Spencer County a new road, there is no downside there, but (inaudible 13:20). But if we say you can't develop any industrial property over here because we're doing it here. That's going to create a problem, so there's going to be some real issues, but someone needs to be looking at the big picture if we're going to be competitive in the future, in the region.

Mr. Keepes: Thank you for those thoughts David, but this something that we probably ought to consider. This committee might be the appropriate committee for that. It probably would be appropriate for something like that.

Mr. Matthews: I'm not sure what the next steps are, but we've got to start thinking about it and see where we go from there.

Mr. Mills: We would really need to get our...my counter, my APC counterparts from Warrick and Henderson, the other Counties to get a little more involved.

Mr. Matthews: Because Gibson doesn't have county wide zoning.

Mr. Mills: Right.

Mr. Keepes: One of the first things we have to do is define the boundaries of the areas involved.

Mr. Matthews: Define the interest, also. You've got a lot on your plate already Brad, but this is important for us as an area to be competitive with the rest of the nation for attracting industry and proper housing. Somebody needs to be looking beyond the county boundaries. This organization already is. It seems logical that we would move into that role as just an advisory role. But there use to be, and I guess there still are, land use plans out there. And we just kind of expand over the borders and say, "Okay, we would like to include what you're doing" and maybe just getting everybody together and get a big pile of votes, so we see what everybody is thinking and that's a way of trying to smooth out the borders by the area who has most the impact on us.

Mr. Keepes: Okay, any Other Business?

Mr. Boberg: I just wanted to report on the Greenway, the trail from the canoe, the Heidelberg Canoe launch and First Avenue, those trail areas that were being repaired or have been finished or have been completed. Doman Construction, under the direction of INDOT, did a great job and we really appreciate the cooperation and assistance that INDOT did on that project. We're real pleased with that. And then Deig Brothers just finished the repairs on the other section near Garvin Park. So I just wanted to let

everyone know that section will be open today, but it will be officially opened tomorrow.

Mr. Keepes: I think there was an article in the paper about that.

Mr. Boberg: Yes, I noticed that in the paper today.

Mr. Keepes: Anything else? If not, thank you all for attending. We're adjourned.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.