



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization

Civic Center Complex, Room 316, 1 N.W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Evansville, IN 47708-1833
PH: (812) 436-7833 FAX: (812) 436-7834 www.evansvillempo.com

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

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

January 7, 2010

ROLL CALL

Members Present (voting):

Jack Corn, Don Walker, Jonathan Weinzapfel, Ed Ziemer, Steve Melcher, Greg Meyer, Joe Kiefer, William Hubiak, Russell Sights, Don Williams, Pam Drach, Kevin McClearn

Members Absent (voting):

Cynthia Burger

Members Absent (non-voting):

Michael Reed, Robert F. Tally, Scott Deloney, Marisol Simon, Andy Minyo, Jose Sepulveda, Bernadette Dupont, Joe Prather, Keith Damron, John Gowins, Janice Osadcuk

Evansville MPO Staff Present:

Brad Mills, Craig Luebke, Laura Lamb, Rob Schaefer, Vishu Lingala

Others Present:

Mark Rigney, Jim Wilsbacher, Ted Miller, Robert Howard

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Corn: I would like to call to order the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy meeting. The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes from the previous meeting. Is there a motion for approval? (Motion was made by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Melcher.) **SO ORDERED.**

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT UPDATE

CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Oak Hill Road: Phase 1 (US 41 to Pigeon Creek)

Ms. Lamb: According to INDOT's website, this project was let for construction on December 9, 2009 to JH Rudolph & Co. of Evansville for a low bid of \$6,897,229.30. This was about a million dollars less than the engineer's estimate of \$7,846,000.

Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage Project: Phase 3C-2 (Franklin Street to Lamasco Park at Maryland Street)

Ms. Lamb: The letting date for this project was postponed to allow for the submittal of additional documentation. The city has indicated all necessary documents have been filed with INDOT and expects the project to be posted in February for bids.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

University Parkway: Phase 1 (Upper Mt. Vernon Road to Marx Road)

Ms. Lamb: According to INDOT's website, this project was let for construction on November 4, 2009 to Weddle Bros. Highway Group for a low bid of \$6,105,492.10, again, about a million dollars less than the engineer's estimate of \$7,330,000.

Green River Road – Millersburg Road:

Ms. Lamb: This project is essentially complete with only minor issues to be addressed. The traffic signal installed is currently set for an all-way stop flashing condition, but should be fully operational within the next couple of weeks.

Baseline Road, CSX Overpass:

Ms. Lamb: This project is now complete and open to traffic.

TOWN OF NEWBURGH

Rivertown Trail: Phase 2 (Old Lock and Dam Site to New Lock and Dam)

Ms. Lamb: According to INDOT's website, both sections A and B of this phase were let for construction on December, 9, 2009 to Ragle, Inc. of Newburgh for a low bid of \$2,594,204.08. This was significantly lower than the engineer's estimate of \$3,900,000.

WARRICK COUNTY

Oak Grove Road in Warrick County: (Section 1: County line at I-164 to Libbert Road)

Ms. Lamb: A preliminary field check meeting was held December 17, 2009. A public meeting is anticipated for this spring.

Bridge #43 and #44 Replacements:

Ms. Lamb: This is on Seven Hills Road over Pigeon Creek and the Wabash and Erie Canal. Completion of this project has been postponed and is expected to continue into the spring, though the roadway is currently open to traffic.

INDOT PROJECTS

SR 66 in Warrick County: (Phase II: SR 261 to French Island Trail)

Ms. Lamb: The contractor has requested an extension to the contract for completion of this project citing weather related delays. This request is currently under review at INDOT.

KYTC PROJECTS

US 41A/Green Street – KY 136/Sand Lane:

Ms. Lamb: This project was let for construction on December 10, 2009 to Hazex Construction, Inc. of Henderson for a low bid of \$1.02M. This was approximately \$52,188 higher than the engineer's estimate.

US 41 at Watson Lane:

Ms. Lamb: Bids received for this project at the December 10, 2009 letting have been rejected. The project will be posted again for letting later this month.

Mr. Corn: Any questions?

Mr. Kiefer: Just out of curiosity, I notice that in Indiana, a lot of the bids came in under the engineer's estimate. Is that attributable to what, just over-estimating from the engineer's side or just so competitive out there that people are competing so much for construction?

Mr. Mills: Basically, what has happened is with the economy being as poor as it is now, there are a lot of contractors out there that are hungry and are trying to get their prices as low as they can in order to secure the project, so that is basically what is happening. Also, in the past, we have had record inflation with gasoline prices being the highest they were and are now seeing favorable prices in that regard, so a number of those factors have brought some of the material prices down as well. So, these are based off of estimates and figures we have been experiencing. We had record growth there for awhile, and now we are getting a little bit of that back.

Mr. Kiefer: I am happy about it.

Mr. Corn: Thanks Laura.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2008-2011 TIP Administrative Modification

Mr. Luebke: We have one TIP administrative modification for the current TIP. The change was a revision to the METS ARRA program of projects. When their projects went out to bid, some of the dollar figures came in differently than they had initially proposed. According to FTA, they need that project to match up exactly with their program of projects. So we are revising the specific line items, but the overall dollar figure remains exactly the same at 2.6M and some change. This is an information item and I don't need a motion to approve that.

Mr. Corn: Are there any questions? (None.) Thank you.

B. New Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Project Review and Selection

Mr. Luebke: We also have CMAQ project applications. You may recall a couple months ago we had an approval for a project solicitation and prioritization process. Working with the local public agencies, we sent out a request for projects. We did have only one project that came back for submission at this point. That was also from METS. They requested CMAQ program funding totaling \$84,000 for transit awareness, free fare program and route map improvements to move forward in fiscal 2010. The project includes free fare date promotions during the summer air quality alert season to increase awareness of ridership in the METS program for the community, and development and printing of new route maps for riders, as well as the transfer station for downtown. Both elements will also be supported by a prior CMAQ award for ozone and public education campaign administered by the Evansville EPA. The total project cost for the program is \$105,000. Federal participation is 80%. Of that dollar figure, \$10,000 is projected for route map development and printing of the routes. Then fare replacement for up to 20 days. We anticipate 13 Fridays and seven potential air quality alert days is projected at \$95,000. We did work with the city on getting the project application, and as you might expect, the project that we bring to the new program does not exactly fit the mold that was developed because it was generally for road projects. This project being a transit project did not score in a way that you might expect because some of the things simply were not project questions that did not apply to this type project. So a point total of 12 out of 51 possible points really is not indicative of a project that is a quality project. Also, we then have provided raw emissions data showing what we anticipate the emissions reductions would be based on car-based vehicle trips reduced by increased transit ridership through the program.

Mr. Corn: Any questions? (None.) I would entertain a motion to approve. (Motion was made by Mr. Kiefer and seconded by Mr. Meyer.) SO ORDERED.

C. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Update: Addition of Downtown Evansville Signal Modernization Project

Mr. Luebke: We have the project that falls under the purview of the ITS architecture moving forward in downtown Evansville. That is the traffic signal modernization. It is an update to the near downtown area. The project must be included in the mobile ITS architecture in order for it to be eligible for federal funding. This updated section does integrate the project into the overall architecture of the city of Evansville. Dave Savage with Traffic Engineering is getting the details resolved to get this in there, one of the items that must be approved by Federal Highway in order for that project to move forward for letting in a few months.

Mr. Corn: Any questions? Motion to approve? (Motion was made by Mr. Ziemer and seconded by Mr. Melcher.) SO ORDERED.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. REZONINGS:

Docket No: R-2009-12 1601 Fountain Avenue

Mr. Mills: This is a request to downzone from M-3 to R-1 for single family residence. This would have no significant impact on the transportation network.

Docket No: R-2009-13 1301 W. Lloyd Expressway Old Evansville Brewery Development, LLC, Owner

Mr. Mills: This is in the city of Evansville at 1301 W. Lloyd Expressway. This is a request to rezone from M-1 and C-4 to M-2 for offices and warehousing. This is located just to the west of Fulton Avenue. Our comments were that access should be designed and maintained in accordance with the MPO's access management manual. The site should be designed to provide for sufficient on-site maneuverability to prevent larger commercial vehicles and semis from backing into or in from the public street right-of-way. At this location, they are eliminating access from the Lloyd Expressway which you can see from the bottom left screen as a part of the construction of the Fulton/Lloyd interchange.

Mayor Weinzapfel: Do you know what they are planning to do there?

Mr. Mills: I don't know that they have a specific plan. I think what they are trying to do is to maximize their opportunities.

Docket No: R-2009-14 1813, 1821, 1905 Shadewood Av. Habitat of Evansville, Owner

Mr. Mills: This is in the city of Evansville. This is a request to rezone from C-4 and M-2 to R-2 for a new single family residence. This is the Habitat for Humanity area. They have set up part of that for subdivisions. They were able to acquire the area in white on the screen and they are going to demolish those buildings and have that be a continuous subdivision from Sweetser all the way down to Bayse, which is right next to Glenwood School. Our comments were that it would have no significant impact in the transportation network. Sidewalks should be installed due to the proximity to the school.

Docket No: VC-10-2009 15901 Petersburg Road T & T Development, LLC, Owner

Mr. Mills: This is in Vanderburgh County. This is a request to rezone from C-2 with a use and development commitment to C-4 with a use and development commitment for an unattached storage trailer. This is the old Sportsmen's Club. They had an area where they wanted to put a trailer in and it is not allowed in a C-2 zoning. So they have to rezone a portion of the site that encompasses their storage trailer. That would have no significant impact on the transportation network.

Docket No: R-2009-15 1143-1147 Adams Avenue James P. Sutton, Owner

Mr. Mills: This is in the city of Evansville. This is a request to rezone from R-2 to C-4 for unspecified commercial use. Our recommendation is that off-street parking and loading areas should be designed and maintained in such a way that prohibits vehicles from backing into or from the roadway for ingress and egress. My understanding on this one is this is the area just south of the new CVS on Washington and Highway 41 and they are just trying to maximize their ability to sell the property as well.

Docket No: R-2009-16 5531 E. Indiana Street Robert Bulkley, Owner

Mr. Mills: This is in the city of Evansville. This is a request to rezone from C-4 with a use and development commitment to an unrestricted C-4 to allow higher signs. That would not have an impact to the transportation network.

Docket No: R-2009-17 2012 Graham Avenue Irene Martin, Owner

Mr. Mills: This is a request to downzone from C-1 to R-1 for single family residence. Once again, no impact to the network.

Docket No: VC-1-2010 7419 Oak Hill Road James McCune & Randall McCune, Owners

Mr. Mills: This is a downzoning from CO-2 to R-1 for single family residence. This had been contingent upon the owner of the property staying there and they are moving and selling the property. So, as a result, they are downzoning the property back to single family. It would not have an impact on the network.

B. CITIZENS REQUESTS

Request #709101901

Mr. Mills: This is in the Town of Newburgh at State Street, Old SR 261 and Bell Road, the traffic signal just to the south of the post office. This is a request to convert the northbound left lane to a left turn lane only. Our comment was that there would be no significant impact to the efficiency as expected. But it could eliminate some confusion, however.

Complaint #109111201

Mr. Mills: This is in the City of Evansville between Diamond Avenue and Lloyd Expressway. This was a request to review the overall speed limit and reduce speed at Uhlhorn. We looked at that location and the data indicated the speed limit of 40 mph would be appropriate for the corridor. A reduced speed limit of 20 mph, which is posted for the southbound traffic north of Uhlhorn, could be removed. It appears that it had little or no affect on the traffic speed at the intersection and accident data does not indicate a hazardous condition exists. The speed limit on that facility is 30 mph.

Request #109090801

Mr. Mills: This is in the City of Evansville on Broadway and Tekoppel Avenues. This is a request to review for an all-way stop right-of-way control. Based on the traffic numbers, it did not warrant a change at this time.

Request #109121401

Mr. Mills: This is in the City of Evansville at Riverside Drive and Aztar Pavilion. This is a request to review for a mid-block at-grade crosswalk installation. It is recommended to the City that Aztar design and install a median barrier such as an ornamental steel fence to encourage the use of the existing pedestrian skywalk. There is a skywalk that goes from the hotel over to the casino that the majority of the patrons use that would prevent accidents of pedestrians being hit by cars. Also, we recommended posting additional

signs on both sides of the roadway directing pedestrians to use the skywalk. I spoke with the facilities manager at Aztar and I believe they already have those signs up. I haven't been out there to look at them personally. They were in agreement with it and thought it was a good idea.

Request #409112301

Mr. Mills: This is in the City of Henderson. This is a CSX rail crossing on Kimsey Lane. This is a request to review for the necessity of active warning devices. Based on the traffic counts and accident data and current conditions at the crossing, the installation of the active crossing devices such as gates are not warranted at this time.

Complaint #209129191

Mr. Mills: This is in Vanderburgh County at Stonewick Drive and Curran Drive. This is a request for an all-way stop control speed. Our recommendation is that no change in right-of-way control is warranted at this time; and post a speed limit of 30 mph and coordinate with law enforcement for monitoring.

Complaint #209120102

Mr. Mills: This is in Vanderburgh County at Daylight Drive near St. John Catholic Church. This is a request to reduce the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph. Based on our data that we collected, no reduction in the speed limit is recommended at this time. We recommended that a speed limit of 45 mph be posted and coordinate with law enforcement. On a side note, I did speak with Deputy Wedding in regard to the conditions there and provided him with a detailed breakdown of the traffic by hour and by five-mile per hour increments which they were happy to see and would help them with enforcement so they can see when they are having the most problems with speeding. The 85th percentile speed was about 53 mph. So based on that, we kept it at 45 mph.

C. Henderson Site Development Plan

Mr. Mills: We have one site development plan for the City of Henderson. This is for the Family Video complex at the northeast corner of Green and 5th Streets. Our recommendation was to install appropriate signs and pavement markings to deter left turns at the Green Street exit; and, if possible, to widen the access and channelize the median to physically prohibit left turns. Also, we recommended to close the access to the public alley to the north to prevent bypassing the right only exit situation provided on the site. Access this site and the proposed loading areas for larger commercial trucks does appear to be difficult for the trucks backing into and out to the street, which we don't want to do. That truck turning template should be used to indicate that the truck path for entering or exiting the property and loading areas.

D. 2010-2012 Holiday Schedule

Ms. Lamb: We are asking approval for the 2010-2012 holiday schedule. This schedule does match the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County schedule that they have released.

Mr. Corn: I would entertain a motion to approve. (Motion was made by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Ziemer.) SO ORDERED.

E. 2010 Evansville MPO Technical and Policy Meeting Schedule

Ms. Lamb: This is a schedule of our meetings for 2010 so you can plan ahead.

F. Evansville MPO FY 2009 Audit Report

Ms. Lamb: We have the Auditor's report for the fiscal year that ended July 31, 2009.

Mr. Corn: And the important part is that no matters are reportable. So our people are doing a good job.

Ms. Lamb: If you have any questions about that, you can contact Kari.

G. FY 2010 First Quarter Reports

Mr. Mills: You have the quarterly reports in front of you. Typically, we try to get these out a little bit earlier. But we were busy this past month. You will be seeing the next quarter soon as well. If you have any comments or questions, you can ask myself or Kari.

H. EMPO Open House Meeting

Mr. Stensaas: As you know, we completed the draft update of the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program last month. Currently, there is an open public comment period for that that began on December 28th and runs through the 26th of January. The copies of the draft TIP can be found at three of our local libraries: Central Library, the library at Bell Road in Newburgh, the library in downtown Henderson, and the MPO office, and the Henderson Plan Commission office. We have scheduled an open house meeting for the general public to come in and talk to us about TIP projects if that is what they are interested in. But we are going to let the public have an open-ended discussion with us on any kind of projects that we normally deal with. We will have information for them on what's going on with different kinds of project proposals in the pipeline right now. We will leave this up on the screen for all our fans watching at home. The meeting is in Room 301, the Council chambers in the Civic Center at 4:00 p.m. Any questions?

Mr. Corn: Thanks Dave.

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mr. Corn: I will entertain a motion to approve bills. (Motion was made by Mr. Melcher and seconded by Mr. Hubiak.) SO ORDERED.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Meeting adjourned.