

MPO POLICY BOARD Minutes
February 09, 2023 • 2:00 pm
Virtual / Tippecanoe County Office Building

The meeting was held virtually. Members of the public may watch the livestream of the meeting at <https://www.facebook.com/TippecanoeCountyIndiana> or <https://www.youtube.com/c/TippecanoeCountyGovernment>

Members Present

Tony Roswarski	Mayor, City of Lafayette
John Dennis	Mayor, City of West Lafayette
Tracy Brown	Tippecanoe County Commissioner
Perry Brown	Lafayette City Council
Cindy Murray (proxy for Gary Henriott)	Lafayette Board of Works
Gerald Thomas (proxy for Peter Bunder)	West Lafayette City Council
Larry Leverenz	President, Area Plan Commission
Julie Ginn	Chairman, Board of Directors for CityBus
Shane Spears	INDOT

Absent Voting Members

Kevin Underwood	President, County Council
-----------------	---------------------------

Non-Voting Members Present

Stu Kline	Tippecanoe County Highway
Bryan Smith	CityBus
Jeromy Grenard	City of Lafayette
Dave Griffiee	City of Lafayette
David Hittle	APC
Doug Poad	APC
Tim Stroshine	APC
Aria Staiger	APC

Tony Roswarski called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM and conducted roll call of the members present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Dennis moved to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting. Tracy Brown seconded, and the minutes, as submitted, were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION FOR THE FY 2022-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

A. January 19, 2023

Doug Poad said when a modification to the Transportation Improvement Program is made, it is presented to this Board. Several months ago, INDOT gave us our federal funding marks, and in the monthly report they show two new federal funding projects; Carbon Reduction and PROTECT funding. These are new categories from the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act. No new funds for these categories were created, but instead were pulled from the STBG funds. This modification aligns our funds with INDOT's Central Office information.

III. APC PROGRESS REPORT

A. MPO UPDATE

i. Reschedule March Policy Board Meeting

Aria Staiger suggested a change in the March meeting date due to scheduling conflicts of a few members. It was proposed to move the meeting to Thursday, March 16th instead of the regularly scheduled March 9th meeting. A calendar invite will be sent with the revised date.

ii. AMTRAK Passenger Rail

David Hittle said with the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, there is an unprecedented level of funding available for passenger rail service expansion, bolstering and improvements. A couple of months ago, a group of Lafayette area stakeholders met with the Economic Development team from the City of Lafayette and with Amtrak. From that meeting, a group was formed to explore the possibility of pursuing the available funding. The idea has really taken off amongst other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) throughout the state. The group met with INDOT's Multimodal Department, which oversees statewide passenger rail activity, and they are very moved by the level of enthusiasm being shown at the local level by the MPO's. There will be an effort to dramatically enhance the viability and performance experience of passenger rail service along a path from Louisville to Dyer, Indiana. What would be a 3.5-to-4-hour trip, subject to all kinds of problems, would become a very reasonable 2.5-hour trip with a lot more trains, more stops, and much better service. We are looking at two application submissions. One would be for the southern leg, Louisville to Indianapolis, under the auspices of the Louisville Metro MPO. The second would include INDOT partnering with our MPO for the leg from Indianapolis to Dyer, Indiana. The applications are due April 7th. This is developing quickly because we did not realize there would be such unanimous enthusiasm amongst the MPO's along the route. We also did not know there would be such enthusiasm from the Multimodal team at INDOT. The APC staff is not terribly familiar with passenger rail service but are learning quickly. Updates will be provided as this moves along.

Tim Stroshine added the most exciting thing is how many different organizations are involved and how unanimous the buy-in has been. People see the value of this, and it aligns well with some of the goals set out in our Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He is glad to see the swell of support. Good people are involved, not only planning organizations, but several elected officials, including state legislatures, expressing their support. He believes we are in a good position to be competitive for some of this unprecedented level of funding.

Tony Roswarski asked Shane Spears if he had anything to add from the State and INDOT's perspective.

Shane Spears said he believes David Hittle presented more detail than he knows. He understands funding is available and he thinks everyone is interested in studying those corridors.

Tony Roswarski said it is exciting. Our community is very interested in potentially being a part of this and what it could mean. The City worked on it several years ago and this looks to be a strong opportunity. He thanked everyone who is working on this very important program.

iii. FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Update

Doug Poad provided an update to the development of the TIP, the document where our federal gas tax funds are allocated for the next five years. At the January Technical Transportation Committee meeting, the members reviewed the allocation of funds (transportation, alternative, and safety funds) and compared them to the projects that are currently in the works and to those that engineers would like to start. The good news is there is enough federal funds to pay for the construction of the big three projects: South Ninth Street, Phase 1 of Soldiers Home Road, and Morehouse Road. There are extra funds to do other project requests. Safety funds will be used to move forward with traffic signal preemption for emergency vehicles in Lafayette. There were enough funds to increase the project scope to include the City of West Lafayette. This is one of the twenty-five programmatic projects that INDOT's safety committee looks at and recommends. There were residual STBG funds that we could use or obligate to other projects and the decision was to move forward to work on the first project of the Big Four Trail in the City of Lafayette. The draft TIP document was finished February 9th and is now available on the website. Paper copies of the document can be provided. The draft document has also been submitted to INDOT's Central office for their review. March 8th will be a public hearing with the Citizens Participation Committee. Beginning in April we will move through the adoption process and hopefully present the document to this Committee in May.

iv. Census Urban Area Boundary Comparison

Doug Poad began by reminding the group of the population results for the urban area that were presented at the January meeting. The 2020 urban area population was a pinch over 175,000 persons and seems puzzling that it only grew by 10,000 persons since the 2010 census. The Federal Transit Administration has a map showing the urban area. The map was presented on screen. The pink shaded areas are new to the map for 2020 census results. The purple shading shows areas that were within the 2010 and 2020 census results. The green shading shows areas only included in the 2010 census. Looking at this map, the town of Battle Ground is no longer considered to be in our urban area but would partially explain why our urban area population did not grow as much. This map is on a GIS line file and can be provided to anyone who wishes to use it for comparisons with city boundaries.

Tracy Brown said this is tied to a fireworks ordinance that is in place within these boundaries, so they will need to update that. He asked if we could find out why Battle Ground is not included. He asked if they changed the definition of the numbers required to get in the boundary.

Doug Poad said they changed the formula in how they calculate what is in and not in the urban area. His team will look at the specific details to understand why the town was not included.

v. Federal Funding Obligation

Doug Poad stated the MPO begins to keep track of federal funds this time of the year to make sure they are all obligated by the end of the fiscal year. He referred to the report, showing information from INDOT that outlines what has been obligated. The report shows funds and specific projects, illustrating the funds that have been obligated and what is still available. Remaining funds are tied to the Yeager Road project. The disappointing news for this project, is that it was on a January bid letting and unfortunately the bids came in too high, and the project has been rescheduled for a March 2023 bid letting. If the project is awarded in March, all our 2023 federal funds we be obligated.

Tony Roswarski asked if there would be any changes to design or value engineering or anything else for that project. When the project is rebid, maybe it would make the threshold.

Doug Poad said it was his understanding that Stu Kline has been working on what can be done to bring it down and considering the possibility of using more local funds. He added that Stu Kline may be able to provide a better update.

B. INDOT 18-Month Letting List

Doug Poad began with the January bid letting results. The Yeager Road project, as previously discussed, came in with three bids, with the lowest from White Construction for \$9.4 million. The project was moved to a March 2023 bid letting. The two projects on US 231 (auxiliary lanes and HMA overlay) were awarded to Rieth Riley Construction for \$15 million and is estimated to be completed by October 31, 2025.

Tony Roswarski asked what the parameters were for the US 231 project.

Doug Poad explained the area would be just north of SR 28 to four miles north of I-74. They will be constructing passing areas. Two areas for these new lanes are within Tippecanoe County: the far south side of the county and just south of CR 800 S.

Doug Poad said the repair and replacement of joints on I-65 was awarded and anticipated to be complete by April 15, 2023. The last project on January's bid letting, a district wide traffic signal modernization project, was not awarded. There was one bid that was above the engineer's estimate. There are three projects on February's bid letting, including two for SR 43 related to bridges, and one on SR 225 for a drainage structure. In April there are three projects of US 52, one involves the construction of acceleration and deceleration and turn lanes at various locations. May bid lettings will be the last projects in this fiscal year.

Project 22 is the Morehouse Road project, Phase 1. Project 23 is Bridge #527 on Old US 231.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A one-minute pause took place to allow for comments. There were none.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

John Dennis moved to adjourn. Tracy Brown seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristina Lamb
Recording Secretary

Reviewed By,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hittle". The signature is stylized with a horizontal line under the first name and a vertical line for the last name.

David Hittle
Executive Director