

**AREA PLAN COMMISSION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

DATE.....March 09, 2022
TIME.....6:00 PM
PLACE.....Tippecanoe Room (Virtual)
County Building
20 North 3rd Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gene Kroeschen
Jim Beaty
Deanna McMillan
Amy Krzton-Presson
Steve Clevenger
Larry Rose

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Stroshine
Aria Staiger

Tim Stroshine called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He conducted a roll call of the members present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deanna McMillan moved to approve the minutes from the December 08, 2021 meeting. Steve Clevenger seconded, and the minutes, as submitted, were approved by a roll call vote.

II. PROGRAM

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Tim Stroshine said the big item is the update for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This does have to be adopted by the end of the fiscal year which is by the end of June. We will need to start the adoption process at our May meeting, so we can get approval from our committees in order to get this adopted into the Comprehensive Plan at the June APC meeting. This plan touches on a variety of topics. The Transit Section is completed. CityBus did review it, and they signed off on it, so it is ready to go. The Environmental Resilience/Sustainability Section is something we feel has not been appropriately addressed in previous plans. The draft for this section is almost completed; we are anticipating it to be finished by next week. Additionally, we have a Safety Section, and the draft for this section is in progress. Those are a few of the significant sections we are working on.

The Transportation Project Survey is something we distributed to the public and asked for their feedback about several different topics. The primary focus of this was to look at different methods of transportation and what could be done to enhance transportation in that specific mode. All the comments have been logged and will be in the final plan. For the 9-question survey, they received a total of 243 responses; some people answered all the questions and some only answered specific questions they were interested in. We asked about how to get projects for roads, transit, trails, and sidewalks/bicycle lanes.

Some of the feedback we received were suggestions on roads/intersections with congestion. South Street and Creasy Lane intersection is an example that was highlighted by many respondents. We received suggestions on new roads. For example, converting gravel roads to paved roads. Then we had

suggestions on road maintenance, and this focused on pavement repair such as potholes and cracking. Soldiers Home Road was an example brought up a lot.

George Bittle, Facebook Question, asked if there were any suggestions about the area by Harrison Highschool, Burnett Creek Elementary, and Battle Ground Middle School. Specifically, 600 N at 50 W.

Tim Stroshine said we did get some comments about roads in that area. For both 500 and 600 N, and we do have some project plans in the works for that. We expect in the next several years there will be some improvements in that area. Some of the feedback we received for the transit projects were suggestions on bus shelters/amenities for example, more stops need shelters. There was a clear desire from people to have a space where they could wait for the bus. Also, to make sure the stops were accessible for anyone with mobility challenges. Additionally, they received some suggestions of locations for new shelters. For example, South Street we heard several of those stops are missing shelters, and those stops would benefit having a shelter. He noted they are working with CityBus to get some more shelters and amenities in place.

The next category for feedback was about trails. A lot of people had a lot of general suggestions for example more trail connectivity for longer trips on trails. There were suggestions for trail maintenance and suggestions on locations for new trails. Respondents want trails near state parks and parks in general.

Deanna McMillan asked if there is a collateral burden on utilities, police, and security when you connect those trails. Is there collateral impact on different departments.

Tim Stroshine said a lot of people are concerned about safety or the impact on safety when a new trail comes in near their area. In his opinion, there hasn't been any evidence that trails increase crime. He said it is important to keep trails well lit.

Sidewalks/bicycle lanes was another category for feedback. We received many general comments. For example, bicycle lanes may not be effective in all cases. There were suggestions on sidewalk maintenance. For example, many different areas where tree roots are pushing up sidewalks. We had suggestions on locations for improved sidewalks, and Soldiers Home Road was mentioned by respondents.

Tim Stroshine said we have generated some project lists. There are a few ways they sorted through this. They were sorted by different types of projects; for example, Highway, Transit, and Bicycle/Pedestrian. As well as, sorted by the sponsoring jurisdiction for the projects; for example, Local, INDOT, and CityBus.

For the local project lists, they asked for feedback from the community, and they also worked with the local government engineers. For the local bicycle/pedestrian projects list, they worked with stakeholder groups, and for the local transit project list, they worked with CityBus.

For the INDOT project lists, this involves coordination with INDOT. There has been a change in philosophy from previous plans. With this plan, INDOT requested we include what they call Committed Projects Only. These are projects they know that they have the financial resources to be able to construct. He said they held a coordination meeting with INDOT, FHWA, and FTA to discuss how they want to approach this, and to discuss funding estimates for projects. He said they are still waiting on project information from them, and they are hoping to get it this week.

Public Coordination meetings will be the next phase. Currently they are trying to wrap-up a few things as he said in his presentation, and they would like to take the information to the public for their feedback. These meetings will likely take place in April. At this moment, they are evaluating different sites to hold the meetings, and they are trying to get sites that will cover a wide range of the population. Then we need to figure out how to reach out to people. He said they will be advertising this. They will be posting it on their social media sites and making physical notices also. He asked for suggestions for groups to coordinate with getting this information to the public.

Gene Kroeschen suggested the neighborhood associations and Nextdoor.

Tim Stroshine said Nextdoor is a primary resource we use for reaching out and advertising, and it is a valuable platform.

George Bittle, Facebook Question, asked if anyone has reached out to the schools.

Tim Stroshine said they have not specifically reached out to them, but we have included them in other coordination efforts.

George Bittle, Facebook Question, said they might have facilities where you could hold forums.

Deanna McMillan asked if any biking groups exist on campus, and if he has contacted Ivy Tech for a place to meet or for a forum for students to comment on the projects.

Tim Stroshine said he believes there is a Purdue Cycling Club. He has not had too much success reaching out to them. He said we have a list of locations we want to reach out to, but don't have any secured yet. We are still in the planning process.

Amy Krzton-Presson suggested emailing the township trustees, town managers, or town treasurers.

George Bittle, Facebook Question, suggested Aaron Madrid, he is listed as Coordinator of Alternate Transportation at Purdue.

III. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Aria Staiger said there were no public comments on the streams.

Tim Stroshine said the next meetings are June 8th, September 14th, and December 14th.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Tim Stroshine adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Ewen
Recording Secretary

Reviewed By,



David Hittle
Executive Director