AREA PLAN COMMISSION OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES

DATE..September 8, 2021
TIME…………………………………………………………………………6:00 PM
PLACE.. Tippecanoe Room (Virtual)
County Building
20 North 3rd Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

ATTENDEES NAME	**STAFF**
Gene Kroeschen	Tim Stroshine
Deanna McMillan	Doug Poad
Jim Beaty	Aria Staiger
Amy Krzton-Presson	Michael Thompson
Steve Clevenger	

Tim Stroshine called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. He took a roll call.

I.   APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Clevenger moved to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting. Deanna McMillan seconded and the motion was approved by roll call vote.

II.   PROGRAM

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Doug Poad gave a presentation about the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. He said that this plan focuses on the transportation needs of three groups: people who are elderly, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. People in these groups often cannot travel around using their own vehicles, so they rely on other means of transportation. The first time this plan was adopted was in 2008, and it needs to be updated every five years.

Doug Poad said that this plan follows the same format as previous plans. The first part of the plan identifies transportation providers in Tippecanoe County, the second part contains analysis of demographic data to look for areas in the county with a high percentage of people in the three groups, the third part identifies transportation challenges these groups face, the fourth part identifies solutions to these challenges, and the fifth part discusses projects that can help to meet these challenges.

Doug Poad said that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has some funding that is available for the projects in this plan. However, a project must be in this plan to be eligible to receive this funding. CityBus and Area IV are two agencies in the county that use some of these funds.

Doug Poad said that we reached out to over 130 transportation agencies that provide services to the three groups. APC conducted a survey that asked about agency mission statements, clients served, trip destinations, service area, agency operation time, what vehicles were in the agency's fleet, fares, and eligibility requirements for people to use each agency's services. As a side project, the staff put together a transportation resource guide, which is a brochure that gives people information about these service providers in Tippecanoe County. This document was also translated into Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Swedish.

Doug Poad talked about the demographic analysis that was performed for this plan. He referred to several maps from the plan, which were displayed on-screen. Data was analyzed for people who are elderly, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. Other information was included in this analysis, such as employment status, vehicle ownership, veteran status, and many more types of information. The data for this analysis came from the American Community Survey. This data is only available at the census tract level, it is not broken down into data by census block group.

Doug Poad talked about the plan addresses gaps, barriers, and challenges for people who are elderly, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. We did this with a stakeholder meeting. We looked back at previous plans as a starting point. Some of these issues still exist. Other issues have changed a little bit. Some have been addressed, and were removed from this plan.

Doug Poad talked about strategies to address these gaps barriers and challenges. This was also accomplished with a stakeholder meeting. The group went through each need and identified strategies that could address the outstanding issues. There are two main strategies that were identified as the highest priority in this plan. The first strategy is providing additional service, and the second is to get additional funding to help provide that service. Other strategies that were identified were then "assigned" to different agencies to complete.

Doug Poad said that this plan is going through the adoption process. The Tech Committee recommended adoption to the Policy Board. It is up for public comment and questions. If any questions or comments are received that require major changes, adoption will be delayed. Doug asked the committee if they have any questions.

Jim Beaty said that the plan was very thorough. He said that there were thousands of Purdue students that can't afford a car. How does that impact the demographic analysis in this plan?

Doug Poad referred to a map in the plan with information about renter occupied housing units with a household income of less than $15,000. He referred to the area on the map that included Purdue's campus, which had a high concentration of these renter occupied housing units. Doug said that CityBus provides extensive service in the campus area. There are also routes that can take students to apartment complexes in other areas of West Lafayette.

Jim Beaty asked about how scooters were factored into the report. Jim shared an anecdote about a young man that wanted to live in a city and get around without having to use a car. The young man said that he would like to get around using either public transportation or a scooter. Jim also asked how many scooters were registered.

Doug Poad said that scooters never came up in the stakeholder discussions. The stakeholders were more focused on other issues.

Tim Stroshine said that the companies that provide the scooters negotiate with the cities about how many units they deploy. The companies pay a per-unit fee for each scooter they deploy. The numbers of units deployed is not constant, it fluctuates. For example, during the winter, fewer units are deployed. Tim also noted that scooter providers are also required to have a program where they have reduced fees for people with low incomes.

Tim Stroshine also noted that there is a statewide committee about scooters and ADA issues. He said that if scooters are parked in such a way that they block the sidewalk, it can be a big challenge for people in wheelchairs to use the sidewalk. The committee is looking at best practices for scooter ordinances. Tippecanoe County may be able to use that to refine our existing ordinances.

Amy Krzton-Presson asked if issues for rural communities came up during the stakeholder meetings.

Doug Poad said that there are some rural areas with concentrations of one of the three groups. He referred to Figure 5 in the plan, which was displayed. On the eastern side of the county, there is a large

concentration of people who are over 65 and have a disability. CityBus does not serve these areas, so any transportation services that are provided must be provided by other companies. Doug said that Area IV has increased the service that they provide. Area IV has received some federal funds, which has allowed them to increase their service. There is demand for this type of service, however, Area IV is somewhat limited by the number of drivers they have. Lack of drivers is an issue for many transit service providers, so it is not a challenge that is unique to Area IV.

Gene Kroeschen asked if climate change and carbon footprints were addressed in this plan.

Doug Poad said that this is a short-term plan, and that these items were not addressed in this plan. Climate change and carbon footprints were not brought up by the stakeholders as issues for this plan. If these items come up as issues the next time that APC is revising this plan, they will be addressed at that time.

Tim Stroshine said that climate change is addressed in our Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Climate change is an area of increased emphasis in the latest version of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. APC is working on that plan right now, and it will be presented to the CPC committee at a future meeting.

Steve Clevenger asked how APC gets up-to-date demographic information, especially for poverty and disabilities, for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

Doug Poad said that when we started this plan, the 2017 five-year American Community Survey estimate from the US Census Bureau was the most accurate information that was available. For the next update, APC will use the 2020 decennial census information. Doug said that we did receive the employment data from a private vendor. APC worked with the Indiana Department of Transportation to get this employment data. Doug also mentioned that the source data for each map in the plan is listed at the bottom of the map.

Amy Krzton-Presson asked if any of the recommendations in the report were ranked or prioritized in any way.

Doug Poad said that individual strategies were not ranked, but the two key strategies are to provide additional service and obtain additional funding for service. All the other strategies were "assigned" to different organizations to be implemented. However, APC does not control how those organizations implement the strategies, that is left to the discretion of each organization.

2021 MPO Conference

Tim Stroshine said every year a different MPO from around the state will host a conference, which has a different theme. This year, it is Tippecanoe County's turn to host. The theme is about planning for climate change. The conference will be on October 28. APC is working on getting speakers in place for this conference. All of the sessions for this conference will be recorded, and posted on the Tippecanoe County website. Tippecanoe County also hosted a similar conference last year, and those sessions are currently available to view on the Tippecanoe County Website.

Transportation Project Survey

Tim Stroshine said that this is a survey that is currently open. Tim said that he would send this survey out to the committee e-mail distribution list. The survey is divided into different categories. We are seeking input on roads, bus stops, trails, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. For each section there are opportunities for people to type comments and help us identify areas with issues in Tippecanoe County. The results of this survey will be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. APC will be working with the local government engineers to translate the feedback from this survey into project lists.

III.   QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Tim Stroshine asked if there were any comments from the committee or any public comments.

Deanna McMillan asked how COVID impacted future transportation plans.

Tim Stroshine said that we have been able to get through most of our regular transportation planning activities by modifying our processes. We have still been able to get public feedback on these plans, although a lot of that feedback has come through online platforms instead of from in-person interactions. Tim also said that APC does not have control over what policies other organizations put in place. For example, APC does not control mask mandates on public transportation systems or work from home policies. APC can adjust where we spend our federal funding if there is a shift in traffic patterns. APC has been monitoring traffic volumes, and traffic is currently close to pre-COVID levels, especially on larger roads.

Tim Stroshine said we will meet again on December 8th. This meeting will be virtual. All future meetings will be virtual, and held at 6:00 P.M.

IV.   ADJOURNMENT

Tim Stroshine adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Stroshine
Assistant Director