

URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes: January 2, 2024

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 220, Citizens Square, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The following were present:

Members (voting):

- Member Shan Gunawardena-Chair
- Member William Hartman-Vice Chair
- Member Mike Thornson for Therese Brown
- Member Mike Fruchey
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Jason Kaiser
- Member John Metzinger
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Philip LaBrash for Patrick Zaharako

The following were not present:

- Member Paul Lagemann
- Member Steve McMichael
- Member Stephanie Belch (non-voting)
- Member Kari Carmany George (non-voting)
- Member Erica Tait (non-voting)

Staff members present were Dan Avery, Executive Director; Jeff Bradtmiller, Senior Transportation Planner; and Debbie Magsam, Administrative Assistant. Megan McClellan, Wendy Reust, Dawn Ritchie, and Eli Samaan were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of the November 14, 2023, minutes. Mr. Hartman moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Kaiser gave the progress report for INDOT. The letting date for the Bridge Replacement project on US 24 over Aboite Creek has been moved from December 2023 to February 2024. The letting date for the Drainage Ditch Correction project along I-469 has been moved from January 2024 to March 2024. Several new bridge projects along I-69 and I-469 have been added to the list. They are currently in the design phase and have a contract letting scheduled for July 2025.

Mr. Hartman gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. Construction is complete for five of the seven phases of the Bass Road Overall project. Construction is underway for the last two phases. PE (preliminary engineering) is at 80% for the Fogwell Parkway project. The Grabill Road Bridge #29 project has had an increase in the estimated overall project cost and construction estimate of approximately \$900,000 and the construction inspection contract has been signed. The Antwerp Road Bridge #15 has had an increase in the estimated overall project cost of approximately \$40,000. The Bluffton Road Bridge #257 project has shifted from design to

construction. RL McCoy was the lowest of three bidders and was 38% below the engineer's estimate. The South County Line Road Bridge #271 project is complete and was opened to traffic on December 7, 2023.

Mr. LaBrash gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. BLN is working on the design plans for the Tillman Road Bridge #550 project and the plans are 30% complete. Stage 3 will be complete in approximately 30 days for the Bluffton Road Bridge #358 project. USI has been selected for construction inspection. The project is scheduled to be let in October 2024. Stage 3 is in review for the Goeglein Road Bridge #113 project and A & Z Engineering has been selected for construction inspection. The project is scheduled to be let in September 2024. The Hillegas Road project is in the drainage design phase. Right-of-way services are commencing, and the city is working on supplemental agreement #2. The project is scheduled to be let in October 2025. American Structurepoint is completing surveying for the North Clinton Road project. The project is in design plans and 30% complete.

Mr. Hinderman gave the progress report for the airport. Construction for the terminal project is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed in June 2025. Work on Gate 4 has started.

Mr. Metzinger gave the progress report for Citilink. Two fixed-route buses and four minibuses have been ordered and are anticipated to be delivered in a few weeks. The roof of the barn where the fuel is stored will be replaced this year. The alternative propulsion study has been completed and the findings are that it is not cost effective to convert the entire fleet to electric at this time.

There was no progress report for the City of New Haven.

The first item of new business was the Local Roadway Safety Update by Mr. Avery. The data in the Local Roadway Safety Plan covers all of Allen County. The data involves crashes that resulted in a fatality or an incapacitating injury. The private property crashes are removed. The targets will remain at 50% of the 2017-2021 targets for 2041-2045. The crash rates are based on the daily VMT (vehicle miles of travel). The daily VMT used is county wide and from the INDOT website. Mr. Avery showed a table with the VMT from 2011–2022. Mr. Avery showed a table with the 2017-2021 data showing the number of incapacitating injury crashes. There were 44 fatal crashes in Allen County in 2022. There was a private property crash and an intentional crash that resulted in fatalities. These two crashes were removed from the totals leaving 42 fatal crashes in Allen County in 2022. There were fewer incapacitating injury crashes in 2022. The data for the crashes involving pedestrians and vulnerable road users was shown. There were 47 non-motorized fatal or incapacitating crashes in 2022. The pedestrians were put into two categories active and non-active. The crash rate rolling averages for 2018-2022 were shown.

The next item of new business was the Federal and State Grant Awards. Mr. Spoelhof spoke about the grant received from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The FRA awarded the City of Fort Wayne and their partners a grant from the Corridor Identification and Development Program for passenger rail service between Chicago, Fort Wayne, Columbus, and Pittsburg (\$500,000). The funds will be used to put together a Service Development Plan.

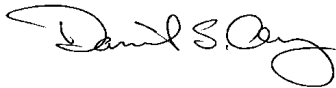
Mr. LaBrash spoke about the Safe Streets For All Grant the City of Fort Wayne received from the Federal Highway Administration for Broadway and Taylor Street Corridor Improvements (\$5,646,400). A roundabout will be constructed at the Broadway and Taylor Street intersection. Sidewalks will also be added. The total project cost will be about 7.06 million.

Ms. Ritchie spoke about the Next Level Trail Grant the City of Fort Wayne received from Indiana Department of Natural Resources for Illinois Road Trail from Rockhill Park to Getz Road (\$1,000,000). The new trail will be 1.97 miles and cost \$4,447,210. The City of Fort Wayne will be contributing \$3,425,000. Fort Wayne Trails will contribute \$6,000 and assisted the city in getting a grant for \$1,000. There were two donations for \$1,000 each. One of the parcels of land that would have needed to acquire was donated to the city. It has a value of \$12,400. Ms. Ritchie talked about the connectivity of the new trail.

The last item of new business was the FY 2024-2028 TIP Amendments. The TIP Amendments were the three grant projects that were discussed at this meeting. Mr. Spoelhof moved to approve the TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion and it carried.

At this point, Mr. Gunawardena asked for public comment. Mr. Samaan asked if lighting could be added to the St. Joe Road and Flutter Road intersection. He said it is difficult to see the median in the evenings or rainy days.

There being no further business, Mr. Gunawardena adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Avery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "A".

Daniel S. Avery, Executive Director - Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council