

URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes: July 11, 2023

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 440, Citizens Square, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The following were present:

Members (voting):

- Member Shan Gunawardena-Chair
- Member Brian Sechler for William Hartman-Vice Chair
- Member Therese Brown
- Member Jason Kaiser
- Member Rick Kruchten for Steve McMichael
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Judi Wire
- Member Philip LaBrash for Patrick Zaharako

The following were not present:

- Member Mike Fruchey
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Paul Lagemann
- Member John Metzinger
- 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. Lara Dorsett, Anthony Goodnight, Eli Samaan, Jeff Weaver, and Tinisha Weigelt were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of the May 16, 2023, minutes. Ms. Brown moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Wire seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Kaiser gave the progress report for INDOT. The contract for the Small Structures & Drains Construction, SR 3 various locations, project was not awardable on the March 2023 letting. The re-let is scheduled for September 2023. The contract letting for the Interchange Modification, I-469 at US 24, project has been rescheduled for November 2023. The contract letting for the Intersection Improvement, SR 930 at Maplecrest/Adams Center Road, project has been rescheduled for February 2024. Three new projects have been added to the list including a Bridge Thin Deck Overlay project on I-469, a Repair or Replace Joints SR 3 bridge over Willow Creek Branch project, and the Drainage Ditch Correction along I-69 project.

Mr. Sechler gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. There were no major changes from last month's progress report.

Mr. Kruchten gave the progress report for the City of New Haven. The City of New Haven is currently meeting with consultants regarding the Rose Avenue/Linden Road project. The RFP (request for proposals) for this project closes on July 21, 2023.

Mr. LaBrash gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. The City of Fort Wayne is currently evaluating (LOIs) letters of interest for inspection services for the Bluffton Road Bridge project and Goeglein Road Bridge project. The Bluffton Road Bridge project has some environmental issues that need to be addressed. GAI Consultants was selected for right-of-way services for the Hillegas Road project. The City is negotiations with Structurepoint on a contract to begin PE (preliminary engineering) services for the North Clinton Street project. Mr. Gunawardena asked how much right-of-way for the Hillegas Road project. Mr. LaBrash responded approximately 70 parcels.

Mr. Avery gave the progress report for Citilink. Citilink was awarded \$1.28 million to replace the aging roof on the vehicle storage facility and replace underground fuel storage tanks with an above-ground fuel storage system.

There was no progress report for the airport.

The first item of new business was the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Document presented by Mr. Avery. A public comment period was held June 6 – July 5, 2023, and an open house was held June 28, 2023. A handout of the public comments received was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Mr. Spoelhof asked how the comments/responses change or affect the plan. Mr. Avery answered that many are already part of the planning process, and the comments will be part of the final draft in the Public Participation section. Mr. Gunawardena said many of the comments were about bicycle infrastructure and the believe that if changes are not adopted systemwide they have little value. He said when they have a project and receive comments from the localized area, they are not asking for bicycle infrastructure. The comments they receive are for trails, sidewalks, parking, and landscaping and that it is up to the sponsor of the project to balance the comments and decide what is best. Mr. Spoelhof said it is important that there is some continuity across the environment. Mr. Avery explained the data used in the decision process for the plan and the source of the data. Mr. Avery presented the list of funded projects and unfunded projects. The transit and bicycle/pedestrian sections were presented. Ms. Brown moved to approve the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with the finding that it conforms to the air quality regulations and the approval of Air Quality Conformity Document. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

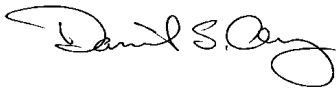
The next item of new business was Intersection Analysis presented by Mr. Bradtmiller. The performance of 9 intersections was evaluated. Six of the intersections were signalized and three were unsignalized. The signalized intersections include Airport Expressway/Fairfield Avenue, Broadway/Taylor Street, Evard Road/St. Joe Road, Getz Road/Illinois Road, Maplecrest Road/Nelson Road, Maplecrest Road/St. Joe Center Road. The unsignalized intersections include Bethel Road/Dupont Road (AM), Clinton Road/Wallen Road (PM), and Meijer Drive/St. Joe Center Road (PM). The signalized intersections are all operating at acceptable levels and have a LOS (level of service) of D or higher. The Bethel Road/Dupont Road intersection had a LOS of F for westbound and southbound, a LOS of C for eastbound, and LOS of D for northbound. The Clinton Road/Wallen Road intersection had a LOS of F for the eastbound and LOS of A for

northbound and southbound. The Meijer Drive/St. Joe Center Road had a LOS of E for the northbound and a LOS of A for eastbound, westbound, and southbound. Signal warrants were performed on the three unsignalized intersections. The Bethel Road/Dupont Road intersection did meet Warrant 2. The Clinton Street/Wallen Road intersection did meet Warrant 1A, Warrant 1B, Warrant 1A & 1B, and Warrant 2. The Meijer Drive/St. Joe Center Road intersection did meet Warrant 2.

The last item of new business was three FY2022-26 TIP Amendments presented by Mr. Avery. The FY2024-28 TIP is in process of being approved. The first TIP amendment was a new project, the St. Mary's Riverbank Stabilization project. This project will need to be amended into both the FY2022-26 TIP and the FY2024-28 TIP. The second TIP amendment was a roundabout at Coverdale Road/Indianapolis Road/Winters Road intersection. The third TIP amendment was a roundabout at the Rose Avenue/Linden Street intersection. The last two projects are in the FY 2024-28 TIP but need to be amended into the FY2022-26 TIP. Ms. Wire moved to approve the FY2022- 26 TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. LaBrash seconded the motion and it carried. Mr. LaBrash moved that the St. Mary's Riverbank Stabilization project also be amended into the FY2024-28 TIP once it is approved. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

At this point, Mr. Gunawardena asked for public comment.

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 loop at the end of the last name.

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