

**MPO POLICY BOARD  
Minutes  
May 13, 2021  
2:00 pm  
Tippecanoe County Office**

*Due to the public health emergency, 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/channel/UCJleeA9ZQo9E11GdZTdjurQ/featured>*

**Members Present**

John Dennis	Mayor, City of West Lafayette
Tom Murtaugh	President, County Commissioners
Peter Bunder	President, West Lafayette Council
Jackson Bogan	Area Plan Commission
Shane Spears	INDOT
Cindy Murray	Lafayette Board of Works
Ben Murray	Chair, GLPTC

**Absent Voting Members**

Tony Roswarski	Mayor, City of Lafayette
Kevin Underwood	President, County Council
Ron Campbell (proxy for Melissa Williamson)	President, Lafayette City Council

**Non-Voting Members Present**

David Hittle	Executive Director, Area Plan Commission
Doug Poad	APC
Tim Stroshine	APC
Aria Staiger	APC
Maureen McNamara	APC
Karstin Carmany-George	FHWA
Martin Sennett	GLPTC

John Dennis called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and conducted a roll call of members present.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the minutes from the April 08, 2021 meeting. Jackson Bogan seconded, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**II. Resolution T 2021-05: Resolution to amend the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Doug Poad said that this request is from Tippecanoe County to replace the bridge deck over the Wabash River on N 9<sup>th</sup> St. Last September INDOT released a notice of funding availability for group IV federal funds, which are similar to our urban funds but for rural areas. This past March, the project was chosen for the award. The county will be receiving just under \$6,000,000 for construction and construction engineering, and was awarded another \$533,306 for preliminary engineering (PE). The project will include both travel lanes as well as a sidewalk along one side of the bridge. In the future this will be a connection for the Wabash Heritage Trail.

Doug Poad said that the Technical Transportation Committee reviewed this request at last month's meeting and recommended approval. APC is also asking for approval.

Cindy Murray asked if there will be a designated bike lane.

Doug Poad said that it will be a similar design to the bridge over the Wabash River at Sagamore Pkwy. There will be a separate sidewalk, but it will be 6' wide. It cannot be wider because of the structural design of the bridge.

The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **III. Resolution T 2021-06: Resolution to amend the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Doug Poad said that this request is from the City of West Lafayette. They are requesting additional federal funds for the PE phase of the Sagamore Pkwy Trail. Engineering is occurring right now, and it is scheduled to be let for construction in January of next year. The terrain of the area created additional challenges for designing a trail, especially in crossing a creek and maintaining Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Normally APC would look at existing federal funds and see if funds could be switched around, but all funds are already obligated. However, earlier this year APC was awarded \$462,317 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds. This request is to use \$187,000 of those funds. Several months ago, the Technical Transportation Committee allocated these funds to the Soldiers Home Rd PE project in FY '22. The Committee recommended approval of this amendment. The Committee also recommended revisiting the allocation, which it did last month.

Doug Poad said that INDOT requested that APC change the description of the project to match that of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. That change is included in this amendment.

Jackson Bogan moved to approve the resolution. Cindy Murray seconded, and the resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **IV. Resolution T 2021-07: Resolution to Adopt the FY '22-'26 Transportation Improvement Program**

Doug Poad said that APC has been working on this since last October. APC sent out requests for projects and funding amounts first in January, second when APC received the CRRSAA funds, and finally last month due to the change in PE funds for the Sagamore Pkwy Trail project. APC found out that there will be more federal funds available in FY '22 and beyond, and that change was included in last month's request for projects. The document has gone through the public participation process. There was a public hearing at the Citizens Participation Committee (CPC) in March.

Doug Poad said TIP document is the same format as it has been in the past. There is a review of Environmental Justice (EJ), ADA, Complete Streets, Red Flag Investigation, federal funds allocation and financial plan, performance measures, CityBus, and public comments. FHWA has made comments, which APC has addressed and sent back. There was one comment about performance measures. FHWA wanted to see a table showing each project and which performance measures were addressed by that project. APC made changes to resolve the comment, and APC feels has provided even more than was asked in addition to that change.

Doug Poad said that this was presented last month at the Technical Transportation Committee. The Committee recommended approval. APC is also asking for approval. If there are any other comments from INDOT or FHWA, APC will bring those before the Board.

Tom Murtaugh moved to approve the resolution. Jackson Bogan seconded, and the resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **V. APC Update**

Tim Stroshine said that in regards to the last item, there may be a situation where we have two TIPs because of when the STIP is adopted.

Doug Poad said that INDOT produces their own State Transportation Improvement Program, called the STIP. INDOT is running behind, and just recently completed all of their public meetings. They will be submitting their draft document to FHWA and FTA in the next week or two. They are anticipating that the review will take place in 2-3 weeks. If they do get any comments or questions, that will delay the adoption. If that delay occurs, APC will have to work under the '20-'24 TIP, even though we will have adopted the '22-'26 TIP. APC hopes the adoption goes quickly. Once the new STIP is adopted, the new TIP will be adopted shortly after.

#### **a. Thoroughfare Plan - Curb Design**

Tim Stroshine said that for a long time, Tippecanoe has had different standards on what curbs are used in subdivisions in the city versus in the county. Stu Kline came to APC and suggested putting together a pros and cons list of what would change if the city and county standards were made to match.

Stu Kline said that this started with discussions of tree ordinances. The County and Lafayette allow both mountable and barrier curbs in developments. Trees are not allowed behind mountable curbs because that's within the clear zone [ed: the area where a vehicle can leave a road without conflict], which is a safety situation. The document describes pros related to safety and ADA considerations. Many of the disadvantages are associated with costs and inspections.

Tim Stroshine said that non-mountable curbs allow for more flexibility in where drives can and cannot be during the planning/ design stage of a subdivision. There are sustainability benefits to being able to have tree lawns. There are drainage benefits. But, there are cons, with cost and time being the two biggest. They require additional inspections for drives when they're put in. County Highway estimated that if non-mountable curbs were required, it would increase the number of site inspection visits by an average of two per driveway cut. Non-mountable curbs give the most benefit in locations where sidewalks or trails abut the curb, on internal collector streets without driveway connections, streets with restricted parking, streets with trees, and locations of platted No Vehicular Access (NVA).

Tim Stroshine said that today APC wanted to get initial thoughts from the Board on this before moving forward with this, because it would require a change in the county's standards. There does not need to be a final vote on this today, because APC wants to go to the development community and get their thoughts and feedback on this as well. APC wants to know if the Board wants to move forward with this, or if it's not worth moving forward with at all.

Tom Murtaugh said that he has heard from several members of the development community, who have concerns about the cost of new standards. He has heard that County Highway has serious issues with trees in the area between sidewalks and the curb because of sidewalk buckling and snow removal. He suggests taking it under advisement and discussing more at the next meeting.

John Dennis said that West Lafayette has a lot of non-mountable curbs and trees. A lot of the design work in West Lafayette usually gets the guidance to use non-mountable curbs anyway. West Lafayette supports them, but this is a bigger picture than just West Lafayette.

Cindy Murray said that Lafayette would like to think it through. Tony Roswarski should also get to take a look at it.

Tim Stroshine said that he agrees that everyone should get a chance to think about it. APC is introducing it now so that everyone has time to look over it and bring it to their constituents, and not make any rash decisions. The document today is being provided to give everyone a baseline and some information about what is being considered and why it's being considered.

#### **b. UPWP INDOT Approval**

Tim Stroshine said that APC got its UPWP adopted at its last meeting. APC also got INDOT approval. CityBus has a planning project that needs to be included in the UPWP, which was not in the version

approved by INDOT. APC is looking into the process to make an amendment, and should have something for that at next month's meeting. At that time, APC will be asking for the Board's approval of amending that into the UPWP.

#### **c. Federal Funding Obligations**

Doug Poad said that it was reported last month that all FY '21 federal funds have been obligated. APC made its deadline, and is well underway. Eight of the fourteen other MPOs have obligated all of their funds. The others mostly either at 80% or higher or 90% or higher. Terre Haute has obligated only 8% and Bloomington is at 46%.

#### **d. Bike To Work Day**

Doug Poad said that it is time to dust off your bicycles. May is national bike month. Tippecanoe will have a celebration on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, which is Bike to Work Day. It will be held on the John Meyers Bridge at 7:30am. A proclamation will be read from the two cities and county. The ceremony will have free coffee and snacks, and drawings for gift cards and things for bicycles. This event started in 1956, so it has been held locally for many years. APC hopes everyone can make it out for the event.

#### **e. Big 4 Trail**

Doug Poad said that APC is excited to see this project starting. In terms of its history, the Farm Heritage Trail was supposed to connect Indianapolis to Lafayette using the old Big 4 rail corridor, which over the three counties has been extensively abandoned. Clinton and Boone counties and the small towns and cities in those counties have been constructing portions of that trail. The two remaining portions of that trail that did not have a hard surface did receive funding earlier this year from the Next Level Trails program. Maybe next year, if you want to bike from the town of Colfax to Indianapolis you can, using the Big 4 Trail as it is called now.

Doug Poad said that the next step is to look at what's going to happen with that trail in Tippecanoe County, and extend it northward. The City of West Lafayette applied for special funds from the Indiana Department of Health to put together a master plan for this, and the Cities of Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County have joined in. The three jurisdictions have hired BF&S to look at this, and they are using Health By Design to hold their public hearings. There was a stakeholder meeting several weeks ago, and the first public open houses were held a bit ago and last night. There were a lot of good comments. A public survey will be rolling out either later this week or early next week, and will be concluded in the early part of June. Additional public open houses will be held when the draft document has been prepared. Possible routes and amenities are being looked at right now. APC hopes that this project will occur.

### **VI. INDOT 18-Month Letting List**

Doug Poad said that the first four projects were let this past April. The ADA Sidewalk Ramp Construction project was awarded to Milestone Contractors. The Debris Removal project on SR 38 was awarded. The estimated completion date is listed as April 15, 2021, but that is probably a typo and it should be April 15, 2022. The third project went to Rieth Riley. The fourth pavement project is currently pending. The fifth project that was originally on the April schedule was pavement patching on I-65. That has been moved to a May letting, which happened on the 5<sup>th</sup>. That project was awarded to Reith Riley at a cost of \$1,673,000. The other project in May, the traffic signal modernization only had one bidder, Michiana Contracting at just under \$700,000. There is a new project, number eight, a district-wide bridge project that's on an August letting. Project fifteen is part of the I-65 widening which will be occurring between north of the Wabash River bridges to approximately 725 N.

Doug Poad said that project 26 is new, a small structure on I-65. Projects 29, 30, and 31 were changed, with Sagamore Pkwy Trail being on a January bid letting. There are two other new projects, one for rumble strips and the other for an ITS program.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There was a thirty second pause to allow for public comments. There were none.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Tom Murtaugh moved to adjourn. Cindy Murray seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aria Staiger  
Transportation Planner

Reviewed By,



David L. Hittle  
Executive Director