GREATER LAFAYETTE AREA TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT STUDY
TECHNICAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2021

Due to the public health emergency, the meeting was held partially virtually. Members of the public may watch the livestream of the meeting at:

https://www.facebook.com/TippecanoeCountyIndiana or
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ML2Ev6HmOY

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT
Scott J. Chandler (proxy for Bill Smith)  INDOT
Jon Fricker                                 JTRP
Jeromy Grenard                              City of Lafayette
Adam Keyster (proxy for Adam Baxmeyer)     Purdue University
Jason Philhower                            West Lafayette Police Department
Mitch Lankford                             City of West Lafayette
Randy Anderson                             CityBus
Scott Anderson                             Lafayette Police Department
Stewart (Stu) Kline                        Tippecanoe County Highway Engineer

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT
Adam Baxmeyer                               Purdue University
Bill Smith                                   INDOT

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT
Tonya Agnew                                  CityBus
David Griffey                                Lafayette City Engineer
Colin Sullivan                               BFS
David Hittle                                 Area Plan Commission
Aria Staiger                                 Area Plan Commission
Doug Poad                                    Area Plan Commission
Tim Stroshine                                Area Plan Commission
David Hittle                                 Area Plan Commission
Michael Thompson                            Area Plan Commission

Jon Fricker called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM and called the roll to establish members present.

Jon Fricker noted there was a unanimous approval by the show of hands for Randy Anderson to be the representative for CityBus at this meeting.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jon Fricker asked if any corrections need to be made to the October 20, 2021 meeting minutes.

Scott Chandler said he has a correction to make in Section III, Access Permits, the statement regarding the permit for Yeager Road being denied, it wasn’t a denial of permit. It was a letter of notice of denial. He said it was a small point, but he just wanted to correct that.
Jon Fricker noted the correction to the October 20, 2021 minutes. The correction is in Section III, Access Permits, and should state a notice of denial was sent regarding the Yeager Road access request.

Jeromy Grenard moved to approve the minutes with the noted correction from the October 20, 2021 Technical Transportation Committee meeting. Scott Chandler seconded, and the minutes as amended were approved by unanimous voice vote.

II. ACCESS PERMITS

Scott Chandler said there are two permits. The existing permit 151762 which is the permit with West Lafayette with their Yeager Road project. Last week’s discussion of that and the letter of notice of denial was turnover related, and our prime contact with the consultant that was turnover as well. With that lack of communication, things just got dropped, and all of that has been rectified. The permit is moving forward, and we expect that permit to be approved very shortly.

Scott Chandler said there is a new permit on SR 38. He doesn’t have a lot of details as to the status of the permit. It is new, and it is east of Creasy.

Jeromy Grenard said Tim Watson has been reaching out to him to have a discussion about the sidewalk for that one.

Scott Chandler said those are the two permits that he has that are major in the county. He stated he had a general question primarily for Lafayette, West Lafayette, and the county. First, are there any local developments that may or may not be in close proximity that could have an effect on state highway that we need to be aware of, for example, there is a housing development that comes-in within a quarter mile that could have an impact on an intersection. If there isn’t, I do request that we add this specialty to this group; would it be an acceptable conversation to have in meetings in the future.

Jon Fricker said you would like an advance warning before it becomes a need to formalize.

Scott Chandler agreed, and said really the only reason is to help with partnership and coordination.

Jon Fricker said I don’t think anyone would object to giving you an advance warning, am I right.

Jeromy Grenard agreed.

Jon Fricker said this would be an appropriate place to exchange ideas on that.

Jon Fricker asked Scott Chandler if any other actions are needed by this group other than the access issues you mentioned.

Scott Chandler said no.

III. AMEND THE FY 2020-2024 AND FY 2022-2026 TIPS

Doug Poad stated we have received a request from the INDOT Crawfordsville District Office to amend the Transportation Improvement Program. For a side note, this will be for the 2020 and 2022 TIPS. We had a meeting yesterday with INDOT and the MPOs around the state, and an updated STIP is moving forward. The drafts will be released soon, and public meetings will happen at the beginning of next month. Regarding the 2022 TIP, it is still being reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration. We are one of two MPOs that are first along in the process. The other MPO is Columbus. We have a really good TIP, and it is fairly small compared to Indianapolis and South Bend. That is where we stand on the 2022 TIP. Back to the request, this again is for one project. It is located at Sagamore Parkway, Special US 52, and Northwestern Avenue interchange; basically, the southbound right lane before the Sagamore Parkway and Northwestern Avenue split, and it is a simple small structure and drain construction project. The
specific details are preliminary engineering will be this year and construction in 2024. The APC staff is asking for your recommended approval of this amendment to the policy board. He asked for any questions.

Stu Kline said he has heard that INDOT has some additional funding for FY 2024 available. Does any of that weed down to MPO when they have additional funds.

Doug Poad said yes, sometimes that does happen. Several years back we did receive what we called the bonus funds. It was roughly $230,000, and we did take advantage of that and obligate it. He said he would look into it and report back.

Stu Kline made a motion for recommended approval to the policy board. Mitch Lankford seconded, and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

IV. APC PROGRESS REPORT
MPO Update

2021 MPO Conference Videos

Tim Stroshine said we had the 2021 MPO Conference here virtually at the end of last month, and we are just about finished uploading all the sessions from that on to YouTube, and links will also be posted on our website as well. The theme of the conference was about sustainability and resilience in transportation planning and going forward. We had several speakers about that topic, and there were some good sessions. Some of the sessions might be of some interest to this group, so if any of you missed that, they are available for free. He asked for any questions.

South Shore Clean Cities Update

Tim Stroshine said this is another item we have been working on. We talked to the policy board about partnering with South Shore Clean Cities, and we brought it up at this committee as well. They gave us the authorization to start talking to South Shore Clean Cities about figuring out if we want to get a partnership with them where they would help us apply for some grants. This could especially be relevant with the new Transportation Legislation funding available, so that is certainly going to be something we are going to want to dive into to see if maybe they could help us with some of that money locally. We will have to figure out how we are going to pay them for that service and what funding we would use to do that. In the past this community has worked with them on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis. I know Lafayette worked with them to get electric garbage trucks. We are looking at partnering with them. We would like to start small and do a pilot of sorts to see if this is a service we enjoy being in. We have a meeting with them later this week where we are going to talk about that, and at that time, we will put some of this information together to see if this is something that is worth pursuing, and what we would have to do funding wise. It is something we are working out, but it is something that is still a little bit down the road. I just wanted to give you some information on this and make you aware that this is something that is happening, and there might be some funding available through some grants.

Federal Funding Obligation

Doug Poad said it is that time where we start looking at how our federal funds have been obligated for this fiscal year. We have our first report, and it is the similar format to the previous ones. At the top is some information we have received from INDOT in their monthly reports, and on the bottom is our tracking. You can see we have already obligated a substantial portion of federal funds. If you look at the bottom part, we only have two projects that we still need to address. One project is the Morehouse Road Right-of-Way project, and there are some funds for that, and the other project is the Sagamore Parkway
Trail, and that is for construction. It is a significant amount, and right-now that project is scheduled for a March 2022 bid letting. If everything goes well, we should obligate all our funds as we have in previous years. He asked for any questions or comments.

INDOT 18-Month Letting List

Doug Poad said we have a lot of things coming up on the letting list. The first project, the district wide patching project, when we sent this information out with the packet, at that time, the low bid was over the engineer’s estimate, but since then, because it was within 15 percent of the engineer's estimate it was awarded. It was awarded to Reith Riley.

There are a lot of projects on today's letting. Project 2, a bridge replacement project over Indian Creek, this is just west of Klondike Road. The maintenance of traffic for this is US 52 will remain open. The bridge will be replaced in portions, one side first and the other side will remain open, so two lanes in either direction will be down to just one lane. Again, they are going to do one side of the bridge first and the other side after.

Projects 4 through 14, I-65, hopefully, we will have some information on that soon. For the big project looking at the maintenance of traffic, Phase 1 construct temporary pavement on northbound and southbound I-65 on the outside shoulders, using nightly lane closures, install temporary traffic barriers on bridges, close local roads below bridge construction, construct outside half bridges, new lanes, and shoulders. Phase 1 install temporary traffic barriers on roadways, construct inside half of roadway. Phase 2 relocate temporary traffic barriers on bridges, shift northbound southbound I-65 traffic to newly constructed inside shoulder and lane, construct outside half of bridges and roadway. Phase 3 open local roads below bridge construction, remove temporary traffic barriers on I-65, and then shift the northbound southbound traffic on I-65 to the newly constructed lanes. That is the phasing of that project. It is a very significant one.

Doug Poad stated for the December letting there are several projects; a couple on SR 26. These are located on the far western side of Tippecanoe County. The three I want to point out are on SR 38. This is going to be an interesting process next year, because these three projects are going under construction, in addition to, the project that was let that will improve the road on the eastern part of Dayton. It is going to be a full closure April 2022 to November 2022. The official detours are I-65, SR 26, US 421, and there will be some unofficial local detours depending on which parts they are going to be working on. There is going to be a lot of work on SR 38 next year. Project 22 moved from a January to a March letting. Project 26, Concrete Pavement Restoration project, at SR 38 interchange, that has been moved to an April 6th letting, and that is because of the maintenance of traffic that is occurring for the SR 38 projects. Project 32, New Signal Installation, at SR 28, currently, there is a temporary signal, but that is going to become a permanent signal. Project 35, US 231 Auxiliary Passing Lanes, we are going to have two locations within Tippecanoe County; the most northern location will be just south of CR 800 South, and the second location will be just south of CR 1200 South. Projects 38 and 39, Yeager Road and the McCutcheon Pedestrian Safety Project. That is a quick overview of what is coming-up and what will be happening with traffic. He asked for any questions or comments.

V. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Tim Stroshine said we are going to go through the county projects first. Regarding the Klondike Road project, have all the purchase orders been submitted, and how many purchase orders are still open.

Stu Kline said there is only one purchase order still open.

Tim Stroshine said regarding the Lindberg Road project, we noted the project costs were lowered. Are there any further changes anticipated.
Stu Kline said Lindberg Road has re-opened.

Tim Stroshine said the next project is the North 9th Street Road Bridge. This one is still in the early-phase, but do you have an anticipated timeline for consultant selection?

Stu Kline said a consultant contract has been drafted, and a contract should be in place by the next quarterly report.

Tim Stroshine said our next project is River Road and 500 N. We didn’t have any comments about this project. He asked if Stu Kline would like to add anything.

Stu Kline said it is on schedule and should be completed in the next construction season.

Tim Stroshine said just a note for Morehouse Road, some of the cost estimates have changed because of the project split. That is why those costs decreased by a significant amount. The other part of this project, this is the split-out phase that we are just starting to get reports on, do you anticipate any further cost changes to this or do you think the numbers are close.

Stu Kline said it has been split into two projects, and the highway department is working with APC to sort out the funding amounts for each phase.

Tim Stroshine asked when will FMIS request for right-of-way funds be submitted.

Stu Kline said they are in appraisal now and scheduled estimates next spring.

Tim Stroshine said regarding Yeager Road, this one did have a cost increase. What caused the cost increase.

Stu Kline said there were a couple of issues with the original estimates for the storage/storm sewers.

Tim Stroshine asked regarding the Pedestrian Safety Project, is the right-of-way phase on track to be completed by June 2022.

Stu Kline said yes.

Tim Stroshine said next are the bridge projects. Bridge #64, the environmental report is due in April; we are showing 20 percent complete; are we expecting that to be completed by April.

Stu Kline said yes.

Tim Stroshine asked regarding Bridge #65, the environmental report is due in April; are we expecting that to be completed by April.

Stu Kline said yes.

Tim Stroshine asked regarding Bridge #527, will Stage 2 Design be completed by June.

Stu Kline yes.

Tim Stroshine said the next project is County Bridge Inspections. Has the consultant selection been completed for the next cycle of bridge inspections.

Stu Kline said INDOT is reviewing documentation for the consultant selection for the next cycle.

Tim Stroshine said next is Lafayette’s projects. The first project is Twyckenham Boulevard Reconstruction. I know Jeromy has made comments the project is in the process of being closed out, so are all the purchase orders closed at this point or are some still open.

Jeromy Grenard said they are still open, but by this time next quarter, they will be closed.
Tim Stroshine said the next project is Park East Boulevard Extension. We have not had any comments on this. Tim noted Jeromy’s comment regarding the completion date being moved back from October 31 to December 14.

Tim Stroshine said the next project is Concord Road Trail Lighting. This is very close to being closed out. Jeromy notes it is anticipated it will be closed out by next quarter. We do not have any comments on this.

Tim Stroshine said the next project is South 9th Street. This one looks like it is progressing very well. We do not have any comments on this. Anything we need to know Jeromy.

Jeromy Grenard said no.

Tim Stroshine said next is West Lafayette’s projects. Soldiers Home Road Phase 1 we did note some cost increases in this. What caused the cost increases.

Mitch Lankford said what the PE contract came in at, we estimated lower than what we ended up settling on with the designer. The rest of that was updated for right-of-way which we talked about at previous meetings.

Tim Stroshine said the last project is the Sagamore Parkway Trail. He thanked Mitch for working with us on this. With this project we had some issues with the letting. Several things came up throughout the process that weren’t anticipated when we started, but Mitch was very helpful, and we worked with INDOT on this as well. I know we had a meeting with INDOT regarding this project to make sure it gets let this fiscal year, so we don’t lose the funding. It looks like the letting will be moved to March of 2022, and the final tracings will need to be submitted by the end of the month. My only question is there was a small cost increase on this; can you tell us what caused that.

Mitch Lankford said the cost increase was caused by an updated engineer’s estimate based on current prices.

Tim Stroshine asked Mitch Lankford if he had anything to add.

Mitch Lankford said no, not on this project. It seems like we are making progress on those permits, so I think we will be able to hit our dates.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Jon Fricker said the next meeting will be December 15th.

Randy Anderson said he has two items to talk about in West Lafayette along Sagamore Parkway, and that is the new Popeyes development at the Culvers location. We have had a number of requests over the last several months for the ability to drop-off and pick-up passengers. Some of them are employees at Culvers and others just want to frequent the restaurants; now with additional developments going-in at that location, there is no good way for our vehicles to pull off. There is no shoulder. The next best thing we can do is drop them off near the Walmart location, and they can walk to that location. I don’t know what is in the plans right-now for some more shoulder or right-of-way being available. The other item is
we have seen a number of routes now coming into the West Lafayette Walmart; we initially put-up a shelter there a number of years ago, but we are now stacking up four to five busses within a parking lot. It is at the point we are blocking parking spots; it is causing problems with the trucks delivering services as well; we are now evaluating if we need to create a secondary depot on that location. It is a nice area to be in, because we are at the right distance from our downtown depot here in Lafayette. The Cumberland Avenue roadway is tough to get in-and-out-of because of blind spots from tree growth and other things in that area.

Jon Fricker asked from the Walmart lot.

Randy Anderson said yes, from the Walmart lot. I was trying to understand any potential development that might be taking place on Cumberland Avenue by West Lafayette Walmart and try to strategize where would make sense for a location either the westside or the eastside of Sagamore Parkway to potentially build a secondary depot for servicing that area.

Jon Fricker said it is important how you handle that, because you wouldn’t want busses turning around by Culver’s.

Randy Anderson said we would need a turn-around location.

Jon Fricker said we also don’t want busses coming to a stop on Sagamore Parkway.

Randy Anderson agreed.

Mitch Lankford said at the Sagamore Commons Development, there is a Cumberland Avenue access road in the works that is fairly imminent. It will be in-between the hotel and the White Horse Church. We were granted right-of-way a few years ago as part of that development agreement. They will be building the road soon. It will go off Cumberland Avenue up to the development as it continues to develop further towards the third detention pond to the west.

Randy Anderson said we can look at land that is available, and that could always be a location for a depot. I don’t know what is planned or zoned right now.

Jon Fricker asked for anything else. There was no response.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Ewen
Recording Secretary

Reviewed By,

David L. Hittle
Executive Director