Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council

Policy Committee

February 17, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Location: Indianapolis Traffic Management Center
8620 E. 21st Street, Indianapolis
Conference Rooms C, D, and E

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions	Lori Miser	
Items for Approval		
2. Minutes from the October 28, 2009 meeting	Lori Miser	5 min.
3. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Administrative Committee	Lori Miser	10 min.
4. Public Involvement Plan ***FOR PUBLIC HEARING***	Anna Tyszkiewicz	10 min.
5. Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program 1st Qtr Amendments: 2009-2012 ***FOR PUBLIC HEARING***	Steve Cunningham	10 min.
6. Revised Metropolitan Planning Area	Philip Roth	10 min.
7. Planning Studies	Philip Roth	10 min.
Status Reports		
8. High Speed Rail Update	Leigh Morris, INDOT	10 min.
9. Long Range Transportation Plan Update activities	Stephanie Belch	15 min.
10. Transit component of Long Range Transportation Plan ▪ **Bus Plan (formerly called the COA)** ▪ **Northeast Corridor** ▪ **Central Indiana Transit Task Force**	Lori Miser	15 min.
11. IRTIP Activities Update ▪ **ARRA Status** ▪ **TE/CMAQ/HSIP activities**	Cat Schoenherr Mike Dearing	5 min.
12. Data Activities Update	Andrew Swenson	5 min.
13. Administrative Activities Update ▪ **2010 Board Retreat: Topics, schedule**	Philip Roth	5 min.
Other Business		
14. **Announcements, other** *Upcoming meetings:* *Combined Policy and Technical Committees Retreat: April 14, 2010, INDOT Traffic Management Center, 8620 E. 21st Street, Indianapolis –* 8:30 to noon *Regular Policy Committee meeting: May 19, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Riverside Park, 2420 E. Riverside Drive, Indianapolis*	Lori Miser	

Materials are attached pertaining to agenda items: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13

Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2010
9:00 a.m-11:00 a.m.
INDOT Indianapolis Traffic Management Center
8620 E. 21st Street, Indianapolis Conference Rooms C, D, and E

Lori Miser-MPO	Philip Roth – MPO
Mike Dearing-MPO	Andrew Swenson-MPO
Cat Schoenherr-MPO	Stephanie Belch-MPO
Steve Cunningham-MPO	Tom Beck-MPO
Erika Hinshaw-MPO	Jeff Sheridan- Town of Cumberland*
Jeremy Moore- MPO	Tonya Galbraith -Town of McCordsville*
Anita Bjork- MPO	Gary Vandegriff- Johnson County*
Mike Hollibaugh – City of Carmel*	Mayor Paul Ricketts- City of Lawrence*
Tom Stevens - Hancock County*	Lesa Ternet-Hendricks County*
Kim Irwin- Health by Design	Gary Huff- Town of Fishers*
Donna Luley- City of Westfield*	Marc Applegate- Boone County*
Mike Terry -IndyGo *	Richard Carlucci- Town of Plainfield*
David Sherman – City of Indianapolis	Mayor Robin Thoman-City of Southport*
Mark Richards-City of Greenwood*	Ehren Bingaman- CIRTA*
Mayor Fred Paris – City of Franklin*	Dwane Myers-INDOT
Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis*	Brandye Hendrickson – INDOT*
Liz Currid – Sever Storey, LLP	Tom Sturmer
Larry Heil – FHWA	Irene Wagner – AARP
Devin Stettler – United Consulting	Joe Guerre – Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

* = Voting member or proxy

Welcome & Introductions
Lori Miser opened the meeting and thanked INDOT staff for hosting the meeting at the Traffic Management Center. She welcomed the IRTC members and visitors present. She allowed everyone to introduce themselves.

Items for Approval

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (SEEKING APPROVAL)*

Mayor Rob Thoman moved to approve the October 28, 2009 minutes.
Judith Essex seconded the motion.
The minutes of the October 28, 2009 IRTC Policy Committee Meeting were approved.

***ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE** (SEEKING APPROVAL)*
Christine Altman nominated **Greg Ballard** as the Chair, seconded by **Gary Huff**. **Mike Terry** nominated **Rob Thoman** as Vice-Chair, seconded by **Marc Applegate**.

- **Lori Miser** explained the purpose of an administrative committee and their responsibilities were clarified. The Chairman of the Policy Committee serves on the Administrative Committee and may designate the MPO Executive Director to act in the capacity of the Chair if the Chair is not able or unavailable to attend a meeting of the Administrative Committee. Discussion on the remaining slots ensued, with the assistance of a memorandum distributed by **Ms. Miser**, with the consensus that representatives from the City of Westfield, Town of Avon, Johnson County, and City of Lawrence would serve as the remaining members of the Executive Committee. **Mike Terry** suggested that a transit representative also be included on the Administrative Committee. The by-laws were amended to include a transit representative, with the motion

made by **Mayor Rob Thoman** and seconded by **Tonya Galbraith**, and approved unanimously. Either Mike Terry of IndyGo or Ehren Bingaman of CIRTA will provide the transit representation.

Christine Altman moved to close the nominations and moved to approve the nominated candidates.
Mayor Rob Thoman seconded the motion.
The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Executive Committee were approved.

Acting as Chair, **Greg Ballard** asked **Lori Miser** to continue directing the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE INDIANAPOLIS MPO PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN: PUBLIC HEARING

Anna Tyskiewicz explained that the public involvement plan is a requirement of the federal government for metropolitan planning organizations. She summarized a memorandum distributed in the meeting packet that outlined the public comment period for the public involvement plan, and outlined the comments that were received.

Lori Miser explained that the Policy Committee meeting served as a public hearing for the public involvement plan, and opened the floor to the public. There were no public comments.

Christine Altman suggested that the MPO post links to IRTC member websites, where appropriate.

Mayor Fred Paris moved to approve the public involvement plan.
Mayor Paul Ricketts seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF INDIANAPOLIS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 1ST QTR AMENDMENTS: 2009-2012: PUBLIC HEARING *(SEEKING APPROVAL)*

Steve Cunningham reviewed the list of proposed amendments to the 2009-2012 IRTIP for approval including emergency amendments. No public comment had been received on the amendments.

In summary, the majority of the proposed amendments did not affect the MPO's Group 1 STP funds. **Gary Vandegriff** asked about the Cultural Trail project; **Lori Miser** explained that the reprogramming was necessary to complete the Trail prior to the Super Bowl, and that the majority of the project remained privately-funded.

Lori Miser explained that the Policy Committee meeting served as a public hearing for the amendments, and opened the floor to the public. There were no public comments.

Rich Carlucci asked about the IndyGo amendments. **Mike Terry** responded that the amendments were necessary to maintain the vehicle fleet in the face of falling property tax revenues, which in turn freed up other sources of revenue for operations. A general discussion ensued; those participating agreed that STP funds did not constitute a long-term solution for transit operating funds.

The proposed amendments coupled with recent change orders to existing projects and administrative modifications results in an estimated balance of $2,335,164 in our SAFETEA-LU Group 1 Urban STP funds. The estimated balance of Group 1 Urban STP funds for the next transportation bill (FY2010-FY2015) is $68,039,128. The proposed amendment in its entirety was provided in his handout.

Mayor Rob Thoman moved to approve the amendments as detailed in the handout.
Donna Luley seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF REVISED INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA *(SEEKING APPROVAL)*

Philip Roth stated that, at the suggestion of the Federal Highway Administration, the Indianapolis MPO had engaged in discussions on planning area boundaries with its two neighboring MPO's (Anderson and Columbus) in preparation for the August 2010 planning certification review. This review had resulted in several "cleanup" items, one of which required Policy Committee approval: the transfer of a part of the Columbus Metropolitan Planning Area to the Indianapolis MPO. This area consists of two townships, one in southeastern Johnson County, the other in southwestern Shelby County. The act would eliminate the need to include the Columbus MPO in interagency air quality coordination, which all parties deemed beneficial. Mr. Roth also explained that communication had been made with the Town of Edinburgh, which resides in the area in question, and that they were neutral to the proposed action.

Mayor Fred Paris asked about INDOT projects that might be affected by the action; **Philip Roth** explained that the Indianapolis MPO currently develops travel modeling and air quality forecasts for the area in question, as well as conformity documentation, so the impact should be nil. **Donna Luley** asked if there were drawbacks to the proposed action; Mr. Roth explained that the action would make transportation facilities within the area eligible for application to the Indianapolis MPO's surface transportation funds, but that a competitive application from the area was not anticipated in the near term.

Christine Altman moved to approve the revised Metropolitan Planning Area and forward the definition to Governor Daniels, as detailed in the handout.
Gary Vandegriff seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PLANNING STUDIES *(SEEKING APPROVAL)*

Philip Roth explained that requests for utilizing the MPO's federal planning funds had been received. However, the project requests exceeded the MPO's available planning funds in 2010. He explained that one project, an interchange study at 106th Street and I-69, had been rejected following consultation with INDOT Central Office representatives. The other projects were deemed worthy, and Mr. Roth suggested using $1,000,000 of the MPO's STP funds to cover the cost of the planning activities.

Christine Altman asked about the rejected interchange study and asked if further communication with INDOT were possible to discuss alternatives for supplemental thoroughfare improvements for enhancing north-south access in the vicinity of the 96th and 116th Street interchanges; **Lori Miser** responded in the affirmative. A general discussion ensued. **Dwane Myers** outlined INDOT's rationale for rejecting the project.

Mayor Fred Paris asked if the program was expected to continue in future years; **Philip Roth** replied in the affirmative, although with the caveat that the amount of funds available for local planning studies would vary from year to year.

Jeff Sheridan moved to approve the planning studies as described in the revised handout, utilizing the MPO's Group I STP funds to cover the federal cost of the projects.
Gary Vandegriff seconded the motion.
The motion was unanimously approved.

STATUS REPORTS

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

Leigh Morris of INDOT was present to update Policy Committee members on the status of Midwestern High-Speed Rail, and of the State's involvement in the initiative. He gave a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed routes and recent activities. He noted that the northern portion of the State recently received a federal earmark for the Chicago-Detroit corridor, and he hoped that other corridors would advance further into planning and construction.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
Stephanie Belch gave an update on countywide coordination meetings that the staff had been conducting in each of the counties within the Metropolitan Planning Area. She reported on findings, and noted that the staff had been receiving good input into the development of a roadway alternative for the Update.

Joe Guerre of **Cambridge Systematics, Inc.**, under contract with the MPO to provide technical support for the Plan Update, provided an overview of the performance measure-based methodology underlying the Plan. He noted that performance measures were currently under development. The upcoming April retreat of the IRTC (combined Technical and Policy Committees) would serve as a forum for discussion for many of the technical and policy issues arising during the Update.

TRANSIT COMPONENT OF LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
Lori Miser gave an overview of *IndyConnect*, the initiative to solicit public involvement on the Transportation Plan, the first public meeting of which had occurred the evening before the Policy Committee meeting. She outlined the schedule for concluding IndyConnect, and identified how IRTC members could find further information on the topic. A decision on the Update, including fixed-guideway and local-bus transit components, is anticipated in December 2010.

A general discussion ensued. **Scott Keller** noted the opportunity provided to take the business community's vision (as expressed by the Central Indiana Transit Task Force) for regional transportation to the State legislature in 2011. **Rich Carlucci** and **Christine Altman** discussed the relative merits and demerits of county-wide versus region-wide referenda, and the resulting implications for a "pay-to-play" policy.

IRTIP ACTIVITIES UPDATE
Cat Schoenherr provided an update on the American Revitalization and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) monies that had been programmed for transportation projects. She noted that all funds had been programmed, and that all projects on the reserve list had also been utilized. **Christine Altman** asked if there had been any word on the TIGER grant applications. It was noted that decisions were anticipated that day.

Steve Cunningham indicated that there would be call for new urban STP projects on February 26th.

Larry Heil reported that a second jobs bill was in the works, and that if passed, would have similar transportation project funding implications to those of the ARRA. A general discussion ensued.

DATA ACTIVITIES UPDATE
Andy Swenson reported that the regional household travel survey had been completed, and the data had been received. Mr. Swenson briefly outlined anticipated data development activities for 2010.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES UPDATE
Philip Roth noted that a retreat of the combined Technical and Policy Committees of the IRTC had been scheduled for April 14th, at the same location (INDOT Traffic Management Center). The primary purpose of the retreat would be to discuss components of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, particularly its goals and objectives, performance measures, and starting scenarios.

Lori Miser moved to adjourn the IRTC Policy Committee meeting. Time: 11:06 a.m .

The next regular IRTC Policy Committee Meeting will be held
May 19th
9:00a.m. -11:00 a.m. @ Riverside Park, 2420 E. Riverside Drive, Indianapolis