Minutes
McLean County Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Technical Committee

Friday, December 7, 2018 10:00 am
Government Center, Room 345
115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois

Committee Members:
(bold indicates members attending or represented by proxy; italics members not present)

Vasu Gadhiraju  MCRPC, Executive Director, Technical Committee Chair
Kevin Kothe  City of Bloomington, City Engineer, & as proxy for Tim Gleason and Jim Karch
Jerry Stokes  McLean County Highway Department, County Engineer, and as proxy for Bill Wasson
Wayne Aldrich  Town of Normal, Public Works Director, as proxy for Pam Reese
Ryan Otto  Town of Normal, Town Engineer
Robert Nelson  IDOT District 5, Planning & Services Chief
Dan Magee  IDOT District 5, Federal-Aid Coordinator
Isaac Thorne  Connect Transit, General Manager
Carl Olson  Central Illinois Regional Airport, Executive Director

Others Present:
JD Stevenson  FHWA
Scott Neihart  IDOT, District 5
Curtis Jones*  IDOT, OP&P
Jennifer Sicks  MCRPC
*by telephone

Call to Order
Ms. Gadhiraju called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment
Ms. Sicks advised that no request for public comment was received, nor were any comments submitted in advance.

Minutes
Mr. Thorne offered a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2018 meeting of the Technical Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Otto. The motion was unanimously approved.
Items for Action

**Approval of Amendment #1 to the FY 2019 Unified Work Program**

Ms. Gadhiraju noted that the amendment revises the UWP to include only transportation projects and the related information; the full MCRPC budget and activities will be included in the MCRPC Overall Work Plan. She further noted that past practice has been not to include the HSTP grant in this category.

Mr. Thorne offered a motion to refer approval of Amendment #1 to the Unified Work Program corrected as noted, and was seconded by Mr. Magee. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Items of Information or Discussion**

**Beaufort Street Crossing**

Mr. Aldrich noted that the crossing at University Street is a concern due to long trains stopped so as to block intersections for varied periods of time. This sometimes results in persons crossing through (or under) the stopped trains despite the danger, especially as the location has two active tracks. Union Pacific has made some operational changes and is aware of the issue, but there are still stoppages blocking the University-Beaufort intersection. Intersections can be blocked by the trains for as long as one half-hour, inclining students (and others) located south of the tracks to risk crossing to reach the main ISU campus, and vice versa.

**Funding Availability**

Mr. Magee noted that a call for projects will be issued in the next two weeks, when IDOT Central Office will provide Local Roads with what funding will be available in the next year and beyond. He suggests that anyone with projects currently in view over the next 1 to 2 years provide him with a description of what is planned. Mr. Magee can then look at all the potential projects and determine what can be funded and on what time scale. The District is usually allocated about $9 million per year, and Mr. Magee believes that additional projects are needed to utilize the funding. Mr. Otto asked Mr. Neihart if Main Street might be on that list; Mr. Neihart responded that it would not be in the Local Roads allocation, but on the state side of funding.

Ms. Gadhiraju asked is the District had examples of a state route analogous to Main
Street designated as a transit corridor or including bike lanes. Such a project was carried out in Rantoul on Route 45, which added bike accommodation, which Mr. Nelson was extensively involved. This is also a feature of current discussion of Route 9 in Bloomington.

Next Meeting and/or Public Hearing
The Technical Committee will next meet on March 15, 2019, if required.

Adjournment
Mr. Thorne moved for adjournment and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. Ms. Gadhiraju adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Jennifer A. Sicks
Land Use/Transportation Planner
McLean County Regional Planning Commission