



## McLean County Regional Planning Commission Transportation **Technical** Committee

### Minutes

Friday, May 17, 2019

10:30 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
Jim Karch	Kevin Kothe, as proxy for <i>Jim Karch</i> and <i>Tim Gleason</i>
Jerry Stokes	McLean County Highway Department, County Engineer, and as proxy for <i>Bill Wasson</i>
Wayne Aldrich	Town of Normal, Public Works Director, and as proxy for <i>Pam Reese</i>
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	Martin Glaze, as proxy for <i>Isaac Thorne</i> , Connect Transit
<i>Carl Olson</i>	Central Illinois Regional Airport, Executive Director

### Others Present:

Luke Thoele	City of Bloomington Engineering
Jennifer Sicks	MCRPC

### Call to Order

Ms. Gadhiraju called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

### Public Comment

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

### Minutes

Mr. Aldrich offered a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2019 meeting of the Technical Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Stokes. The motion was unanimously approved.

## Items for Action

### *Approval of the FY 2020 Unified Work Program*

Ms. Gadhiraaju reminded the Committee that the Unified Work Program is now one of two annual budget documents that MCRPC now prepares; the Overall Work Program operates on the County calendar year. The Unified Work Program contains the transportation projects, and continues to use the IDOT fiscal year of July 1 to June 30. Otherwise there is little change from last year, and the annual funding mark remains the same. MCRPC is dropping the indirect cost plan, and billing everything directly.

Mr. Kothe offered a motion to refer approval of the FY 2020 Unified Work Program to the Policy Committee and was seconded by Mr. Otto. The motion was unanimously approved.

### *Approval of the FY 2020-2024 Draft Transportation Improvement Program for Publication*

Ms. Sicks noted that as of this morning she has been apprised of a change in the project list. She reviewed the base spreadsheet, noting that it contains both fiscally constrained and illustrative projects. She noted that the IDOT program has not yet been released. She asked that the Technical Committee allow approval in advance of updates to the draft before the Policy Committee meeting.

Ms. Sicks noted that there are options to handle a late release of the IDOT project information, and every effort will be made to incorporate the projects before the public hearing or the final action by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Aldrich noted concerns about Hamilton Road project, some having to do with dealing with Norfolk Southern (NS) for this last segment of the project. Mr. Kothe noted that NS is still causing delay in the project process, and that the City is pursuing federal funding other than STU funds. Mr. Aldrich noted his concern about possible blocking of crossings elsewhere. Mr. Thoele noted that it remains difficult to communicate with NS.

Mr. Aldrich also raised the funding to be used for the project, noting that for the purpose of discussion on use of federal funding it would be helpful to have the city managers attending the Technical Committee meetings, and the principals of the Policy Committee. Mr. Aldrich suggested that the principals be reminded of the importance of this topic and the discussion in the transportation committees. Ms. Sicks noted that the project prioritization form is intended to assist in local decisions about the allocation of federal funding to eligible projects.

Ms. Gadhiraju noted that a formal assessment by the committees, as is done in the Tri-County process, would be helpful. Ms. Sicks suggested a work session with the principals would help to ensure that all the participants have a common understanding about how the funding process works, and the level of funding available.

Mr. Stokes asked about future funding intended for use on Hamilton Road. Mr. Magee advised that the annual STU allocation to the MPO is roughly \$1.5 million. He also noted that the large ticket STU-funded projects will be very difficult to program, and suggested that it would be useful to have some smaller eligible projects to slot into place if the larger projects must be phased or pushed back. He further noted that the District only receives about \$9 million annually in STU, so some flexibility in the schedule would be helpful. Ms. Sicks noted that the nuances of the funding program are not understood by the local government senior staff and elected officials, and providing a basic understanding of the process at the District is clear to the principals as they assess the proposed projects.

Mr. Glaze noted that the proposed transit center Downtown could be included as an illustrative project. Ms. Sicks will consider how to do that in the transit section of the TIP. The Committee agreed that the illustrative projects should be listed separately in the TIP, and provide additional context on these projects.

Ms. Sicks confirmed that the TIP for publication would include the revisions discussed in this meeting.

Mr. Aldrich offered a motion to refer approval of the FY 2020-2024 draft TIP for publication to the Policy Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Items of Information or Discussion

#### Status of TIP Content

See discussion above on page 2. Ms. Sicks noted that it is necessary to identify projects to the performance measures from the state and local transportation plans.

#### Next Meeting and/or Public Hearing

The Technical Committee will next meet on June 21, 2019 at 10:30 am, and will include consideration of the FY 2020 Unified Work Program, and a draft of the FY 2020-2024 TIP for approval to forward to the Policy Committee for publication.

Adjournment

Mr. Karch moved for adjournment and was seconded by Mr. Stokes. Ms. Gadhiraju adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.



Jennifer A. Sicks  
Senior Transportation Planner  
McLean County Regional Planning Commission