



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

Minutes

Friday, June 21, 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)

<i>Vasu Gadhiraju</i>	MCRPC, Executive Director, Technical Committee Chair, by proxy Jennifer Sicks
<i>Jim Karch</i>	City of Bloomington, Director of Public Works, Kevin Kothe, as proxy for <i>Tim Gleason</i> and <i>Jim Karch</i>
<i>Jerry Stokes</i>	McLean County Highway Department, County Engineer, Luke Hohulin, as proxy for <i>Camille Rodriguez</i> and <i>Jerry Stokes</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
James Kyte	FHWA
Martin Glaze	Connect Transit
Jennifer Sicks	MCRPC

Call to Order

Ms. Sicks called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Public Comment

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

Minutes

Mr. Kothe noted that Mr. Karch was present for the May meeting. Mr. Otto offered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2019 meeting of the Technical Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

Ms. Sicks opened the public hearing regarding the FY 2020-2024 TIP, and requested that anyone present with comments offer them to the committee. She noted that one comment was received via email, and has been incorporated into the proper TIP appendix.

No one present offered comments.

Ms. Sicks closed the public hearing.

Items for Action

Approval of Amendment #5 to the FY 2019-2023 TIP

Ms. Sicks noted that Amendment #5 to the outgoing FY 2019-2023 TIP consists of the addition of project D082 in FY 2020, overlay on I-55 Bus in Bloomington, from 0.1 west of Morris and .3 mile east of U.S. 51. This project also appears in the new TIP. Mr. Nelson noted that the project is for a special letting in July.

Mr. Hohulin offered a motion to refer approval of Amendment 5 to the FY 2019 – 2023 TIP to the Policy Committee and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Sicks noted that as of today, and as noted above, one was comment was received with respect to the draft TIP. She further noted that the comment period continues until next Thursday.

It was further noted that the draft TIP does not include the anticipated program of District 5. The current draft is complete with the exception of the eventual District program, which Mr. Nelson advised could be another six weeks before publication. Ms. Sicks reviewed several project description and funding changes made in the last week, and other insertions consistent with past practice.

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

Items of Information or Discussion

Meeting Schedule for FY 2020

The Committee reviewed and accepted the proposed schedule for the Technical and Policy meetings for the coming fiscal year. Ms. Sicks noted that the Policy meetings will be held on the fourth Friday of each month.

Next Meeting and/or Public Hearing

The Technical Committee will next meet on July 19, 2019 at 10:30 am.

Discussion Regarding Connect Transit Concerns

Mr. Nelson asked if Connect Transit has an ADA plan. Ms. Sicks noted that it is under discussion, and that there is an ongoing ADA compliance update program called Better Bus Stops. She further described the status of current discussions between Connect Transit and various advocates and riders addressing the proposed fare changes and the closure of the Olive route.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to the use of shelters at bus stops. Ms. Sicks noted that some stops have shelters and benches, and others have smaller seating arrangements. She further noted that priorities are driven by calculations regarding the volume of riders using particular stops and discussion with the municipalities regarding coordination for the purpose of carrying out stop location improvements.

Mr. Glaze noted that Connect Transit exists under local ordinances starting in the 1970s. The mayors may appoint trustees, who have certain delineated management tasks. Until 2015, local funding was for operating use, and in 2016 local capital funding was added. The current approach is not sustainable without some continuity.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to the use of an ADA plan for compliance. Mr. Glaze advised that the plan can be produced, but that it was not part of the triennial review. He further noted that there is controversy over the definition of compliance. Mr. Nelson inquired as to the additional cost for premium paratransit service. Mr. Glaze noted that the fare is allowed under FTA regulations. He also noted that Connect Transit is now a Medicaid provider, currently going through the state; to date there have been over 5,000 Medicaid rides. There will be CPR training for drivers soon.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to the solar panel discussed. Mr. Glaze noted that Connect received a grant under Sec. 5339 for the solar panels, which funding cannot be shifted to pay for bus stop improvements. He further noted that priorities are established by

the use of the stops, the condition of the existing stop locations and similar factors. Mr. Glaze noted that the fixed stop locations were established in FY 2016; it was expected that there would be adjustments in the stop locations as the system is tested.

Adjournment

Mr. Otto moved for adjournment and was seconded by Mr. Hohulin. Ms. Sicks adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.



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