



McLean County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Technical Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2020

10:30 am

Government Center, Room 345

115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois

Attendance:

(includes representation by proxy)

Raymond Lai	MCRPC, Executive Director, Technical Committee Chair
Kevin Kothe	City of Bloomington, Director of Public Works, proxy for Tim Gleason
Jerry Stokes	McLean County Highway Department, County Engineer, proxy for Camille Rodriguez
Wayne Aldrich	Town of Normal, Director of Public Works, proxy for Pam Reece
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	by proxy Martin Glaze, Connect Transit General Manager,

Not Present:

Carl Olson	Central Illinois Regional Airport, Executive Director
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Others Present:

Luke Hohulin	McLean County Highway Department
Jonathan Seiden	Hile Group
Brian Trygg	IDOT, District 5
Jennifer Sicks	MCRPC, Senior Transportation Planner

Call to Order

Mr. Lai called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Sicks conducted meeting administration, beginning with attendance, for which a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Public Hearing & Comment

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

Minutes

With a spelling error noted by Mr. Stokes corrected, he offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2020 meeting of the Technical Committee, as modified, and was seconded by Mr. Aldrich. The motion was unanimously approved.

Items for Action & Referral to the Policy Committee

Approval of Amendment #4 to the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Sicks noted that the amendment refers to a funding change in funding for project no. MBPM, consisting of an increase in state and federal NHPP funds for the project, for bridge deck and joint replacement or repair.

Mr. Otto offered a motion approving Amendment #4 for referral to the Policy Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Amendment #5 to the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Sicks noted that Amendment #5 refers to the McLean County portion of a District - wide project, Number 70E60, which consists of the installation of smart work zone technology traffic control at high accident locations throughout District 5. Of the total project cost of \$500,000 derived from HSIP and state funds, \$83,000 has been allocated to locations in McLean County. Mssrs. Magee, Trygg and Nelson noted aspects of the technology, where typical installations may include message boards and other devices to enhance safety in construction zones.

Mr. Stokes offered a motion approving Amendment #5 for referral to the Policy Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Magee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Items of Information or Discussion

Vision Zero

Jonathan Seiden of the Hile Group presented information regarding the current status of the Vision Zero study, noting that the project is aimed at producing the right mix of strategies to improve the safety culture of the area. The Hile Group, with experience in guiding organizations to a better integration of safety culture, is interested in pursuing the public outreach element of the project, to build a forum for consensus and a general public understanding of the benefits and implementation of a Vision Zero-style mindset. The facilitated discussions and other outreach tools will aid in launching a larger community process, with the project steering committee available to advise and assist projects that grow out of the current study. The Committee discussed the

structure and possible membership of the Vision Zero steering committee, and the immediate steps for assembling that group and beginning a series of meetings and outreach efforts. MCRPC staff will collect and relay information about suggested committee members and work with the Hile Group to expedite the process. Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Nelson volunteered to be included on the steering committee.

The Committee further discussed potential steering committee members for the steering committee. Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Otto noted that both ISU and the bike/ped advocacy groups could provide volunteers. Mr. Nelson noted that law enforcement was also an important group to include. Mr. Kothe noted organizations such as LIFE-CIL and IWU should also be involved. Mr. Stokes noted that the County is involved in an FHWA pilot project regarding local roads standards, which could indicate some participants. IDOT itself should have a presence, and it was suggested that Rivian and State Farm would have useful perspectives. Committee members made additional suggestions and agreed that they would forward their candidates to MCRPC and the Hile Group for consideration.

Mr. Lai noted that the Regional Planning Commission is still getting acquainted with the Vision Zero project and purposes, noting further that to avoid confusion, contacts with the Commission are best coordinated through himself and Ms. Sicks.

STP-U and Federal Funding Allocation

Noting previous discussions in Committee meetings in recent months, the Committee began a focused dialogue regarding the process for allocation STP-U funding, and the development of regional policies to guide the use of this and other federal resources to best sustain the regional transportation system. Mr. Aldrich noted efforts to obtain support from other sources, including BUILD, INFRA and other funding programs.

The Committee considered means to more closely involve the Policy Committee in establishing a framework for the use of STU funding as well as project categories for which STU should not be a primary funding element. The Committee discussed ways in which to directly involve the Policy Committee members, particularly the mayors, in formulating such policies and establishing guidelines for their implementation in the budget and TIP process.

One suggestion was that the preparation for the annual One Voice trip to Washington should be integrated with and informed by the initial budget efforts of the local jurisdictions and the anticipated focus of projects in and likely to be added to the TIP. In turn, the local project development process would be guided by the priorities established for One Voice. Mr. Lai noted that discussions with the EDC should begin to

bring about that integration, and the Committee agreed that Mr. Lai should be included in the One Voice effort.

Staff from District 5 noted the current status of local and state projects in terms of available funding allocated through IDOT, noting that as previously discussed by the Committee, there are constraints on the quantity of funding that can be allocated in a given year. Mr. Trygg noted that the available funds are never lost, but that funding must be balanced among the District MPOs to equitably fund projects across the District.

Next Meeting and/or Public Hearing

The Technical Committee will next meet on March 20, 2020 at 10:30 am.

Adjournment

Mr. Stokes moved for adjournment and was seconded by Mr. Kothe; the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



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