



Minutes

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Transportation Policy Committee

Friday, February 28, 2020

11:30 a.m.

MCRPC, Suite M-103

115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois

Attendance:

(includes representation by proxy)

Mary Kramp	Chair, Transportation Policy Committee and McLean County Regional Planning Commission
William Caisley	Chair, McLean County Board Transportation Committee, by proxy Jerry Stokes
Chris Koos	Mayor, Town of Normal, by proxy Wayne Aldrich
Tari Renner	Mayor, City of Bloomington, by proxy Kevin Kothe
Scott Neihart	IDOT District 5

Others Present

Tom Caldwell	IDOT, OP&P	Raymond Lai	MCRPC
James Kyte	FHWA	Jennifer Sicks	MCRPC
Jonathan Seiden	The Hile Group		

Call to Order

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Public Comment

Ms. Sicks advised that no request for public comment was received, and no one is present to offer comment.

Minutes

Mr. Kothe offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2020 meeting of the Policy Committee, and was seconded by Mr. Stokes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Items for Action, as forwarded by the Technical Committee

Amendment #4 to the FY 2020-2024 TIP; Public Comment

Ms. Kramp asked that Ms. Sicks advise the Committee regarding the status of the amendment. Ms. Sicks noted that the amendment would revise the funding level of project no. MBPM 2020-1, for bridge deck repairs and joint replacement, on I-55 over I-74 north of the Market Street



interchange. Mr. Neihart noted some technical details of materials and techniques used.

Mr. Aldrich moved for the approval of Amendment #4, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion carried unanimously.

Amendment #5 to the FY 2020-2024 TIP

Ms. Sicks noted that Mr. Neihart noted that the project represents an ongoing contract to work on portable message signs and other intelligent transportation system components to manage traffic issues. These can be adjusted remotely as needed.

Mr. Stokes moved for the approval of Amendment #5, and was seconded by Mr. Aldrich. The motion carried unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion

Vision Zero Action Plan

Ms. Sicks noted that the project, while it mentions Vision Zero, is also expected to consider the parameters of similar programs in use in the United States, including Toward Zero Deaths and Road to Zero, each of which have federal support. Mr. Jonathan Seiden spoke regarding the project, which is focused on the process of change in the safety culture of Bloomington-Normal. He noted the scope of the Hile Group's work in both private and public sectors, including Connect Transit's recent Connect to the Future initiative. The Hile Group expects that the outcome of the process to generate actionable and practical in the context of this community.

The Hile Group was looking for suggestions of people who would be suited to be part of the steering committee. Mr. Aldrich noted that law enforcement is an important stakeholder, and the Committee discussed others, as outlined by the Technical Committee.

Ms. Kramp asked about the nature of the guidelines that the project will develop, inquiring if the guidelines would be required actions. Mr. Seiden agreed with Ms. Kramp that the outcome will be a planning guidance document for the use of local governments and agencies as they move forward with traffic safety. The plan should align with the participating agencies and Mr. Kyte noted that traffic safety is always a primary concern for the FHWA, especially the rise of distracted driving, as well as the changes that may result from the presence of autonomous vehicles. Ms. Kramp noted that there is increasing incidence of pedestrian fatalities.

Mr. Aldrich noted that some years ago fatalities were declining, and the reversal of that trend recently is an important element of the safety record. Mr. Seiden emphasized that the project will look at safety both regarding existing conditions and potential changes in the system, such as the introduction of autonomous vehicles. Among the multiple approaches that the various programs suggest, the intent is to find the elements that are most likely to work for this community.



Ms. Sicks noted the initial discussions with the Hile Group found that a task for the steering and other committees was to look at the varied approaches with respect to our community, not as a part of a national movement.

Mr. Seiden noted that he will provide a summary of today's discussion with the Policy Committee and steps to be taken. Ms. Sicks asked that MCRPC staff be copied on direct communications with the Hile Group, so that there is an understanding of the ongoing conversation.

5G Installation Impacts on Transportation

Mr. Aldrich raised the issue of the 5G deployments, and the impacts of installing the equipment on transportation facility infrastructure and right of way. The availability of the 5G network is an important aspect of meeting infrastructure needs for autonomous vehicles.

Mr. Kyte noted that Bradley University conducted a study of the issue and worked with IDOT to provide policy guidance; he further noted the discussion about identifying the carriers as public utilities. Mr. Aldrich noted that there are problems with incentivizing preferred behavior by the carriers, and that the competition between the carriers creates additional pressure on local governments. Mr. Kothe noted the dual issues, first with the 5G equipment, and the fact that there are unobtrusive small cell installations of 4G that do not raise the same concerns. Mr. Kyte noted that there will be policies emerging as research continues. Ms. Kramp noted that there are some installations that are very obtrusive for residents and other system users.

Mr. Aldrich noted that there are several existing installations of the dedicated and larger poles, including along Main Street in Normal. Mr. Kyte noted that standards for such installations should be determined at least in part by local government.

Next Meeting

The Committee is next scheduled to meet at 11:30 am on March 27, 2020.

Adjournment

Mr. Stokes moved for adjournment, and was seconded by Mr. Neihart. Ms. Kramp adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer A. Sicks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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