

URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes: February 6, 2024

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 220, Citizens Square, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The following were present:

Members (voting):

- Member Shan Gunawardena-Chair
- Member William Hartman-Vice Chair
- Member Chris Beebe
- Member Therese Brown
- Member Emily Grabill for Mike Fruchey
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Jason Kaiser
- Member Rick Kruchten for Steve McMichael
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Patrick Zaharako

The following were not present:

- Member Paul Lagemann
- Member John Metzinger
- Member Stephanie Belch (non-voting)
- Member Kari Carmany George (non-voting)
- Member Erica Tait (non-voting)

Staff members present were Dan Avery, Executive Director; Jeff Bradtmiller, Senior Transportation Planner; and Debbie Magsam, Administrative Assistant. Anthony Goodnight, Megan McClellan, Angela Nicholson, Wendy Reust, Chad Salzbrenner, Eli Samaan, Mike Thornson, Tinisha Weigelt and Matt Yarian were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of the January 2, 2024, minutes with the correction of the letting dates for the City of Fort Wayne projects. Ms. Brown moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Zaharako gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. The Tillman Road Bridge project is currently under design. Surveying work for the North Clinton Road project should be completed later this month and then design work will begin. The Hillegas Road project from State Boulevard to Coliseum Boulevard is in the appraisal phase and the purchase of property will begin next month. The letting date for the first phase of this project will be in 2025. The stage three submittal for the Bluffton Road Bridge project will be later this month and a public meeting will be held this spring. The Goeglein Road Bridge project has been submitted for stage three and will

be bid in September 2024. Mr. Zaharako gave an update regarding the Safe Streets for All grant the City received for the Broadway and Taylor corridors. The Broadway and Taylor Street intersection will be a roundabout and corridor improvements in all four directions will be made. Mr. Hinderman asked when will the City apply for the grant to do the grade separation project on Airport Expressway. Mr. Zaharako responded that it will be later this year or 2025.

Mr. Hinderman gave the progress report for the airport. The terminal project is going well. Gate 4 and the grand area are scheduled to be completed in August 2024. Charlie 2 needs to be relocated due to no longer meeting the Federal Aviation Administration's design criteria. Funds need to be secured before this project can go forward. Fort Wayne International Airport broke a record for the number of passengers in 2023. The Air Show has been officially announced and will be on July 12 and 13, 2025.

Mr. Kaiser gave the progress report for INDOT. The Interchange Modification on I-469 at US 24 project was awarded to Milestone Contractors LP on January 26, 2024. The Small Structure Replacement project on US 24, 2.44 miles east of SR 114, was added to the contract and letting is scheduled for April 2024. The Pavement Patching on SR 101 in Woodburn, IN was added to the list and the contract letting is scheduled for April 2025.

Mr. Kruchten gave the progress report for the City of New Haven. The Edgerton Road Water Main Extension and Booster Station project contract was awarded to Bunn Excavating on February 6, 2024. The bid was under the engineer's estimate by approximately 30%. The survey is complete for the Rose Avenue and Linden Road roundabout. USI Consultants and First Group Engineering are doing the design work for the project. The Lincoln Highway Trail project from Green Street to Minnich Road is in the design phase and will be bid this spring. BF & S Civil Engineers is doing the design work. The Sanitary Sewer Replacement project will have nine sanitary sewer mains replaced. It is in stage two and Wessler Engineering is doing the design work.

Mr. Hartman gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. PE (preliminary engineering) is at 80% for the Grabill Road Bridge #29 project. PE is at 90% for the Antwerp Road Bridge #15 project. The estimated overall project cost and construction estimate have increased by approximately \$400,000. The estimated overall project cost has increased by approximately \$120,000 for the Amber Road Bridge #226 project and right-of-way (RW) acquisition is on hold pending the environmental document approval. A public meeting will be held for the Monroeville Road Bridge #277 project on February 8, 2024, at the Monroeville Library. The estimated overall project cost and construction estimate have increased by approximately \$70,000. The estimated overall project cost and construction estimate have increased by approximately \$680,000 for the Monroeville Road-Wayne Trace project. The Hamilton Road Bridge

#242 project and the Van Zile Road Bridge #32 project will have a combined bid on October 7, 2026. PE is at 30% for both projects and waiting for historic documentation approval. Coordination efforts are underway with the airport for the Coverdale Road-Indianapolis Road-Winters Road intersection project and PE is at 20%. PE is at 20% for the Cuba Road Bridge #24 project and utility investigation and coordination activities are underway. PE is at 20% for the Woodburn Road Bridge #51 project and there has been an approximately \$65,000 increase in the estimated overall project cost and the construction estimate. There was one change order for the Bass Road Phase 3B & 3C project. This change order adjusts the construction phasing with no change in project cost. There were two change orders for the South County Line Road Bridge #271 project totaling \$229,270 for log jam removal and causeway construction.

There was no progress report for Citilink.

The first item of new business was the Monthly Count Factors and Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) report by Mr. Avery. The data is collected from eight permanent counters for the collector and arterial roads. The expressways are counted each year and INDOT collects the data for the freeways every two years. Mr. Avery went over the average daily traffic totals for each month and the monthly factor. The monthly factor is used to adjust the traffic counts to get the annual average daily traffic volume. The VMT for 2023 were shown and compared for the freeway, expressway, arterial, and collector roads. VMT increased 2.98% in 2023. The freeway had a .64% increase, the expressway had a 2.70% increase, the arterial roads had a 3.81%, and the collector roads had a 4.92% increase in VMT. Gas prices and snow fall are charted to see if they impact VMT.

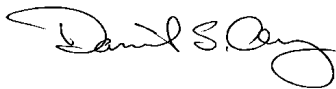
The next item of new business was the FY25-26 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The work program outlines the activities that will be performed by NIRCC. The Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration identify the PEAs. The FY25-26 PEAs are institutionalizing equity, accessibility, and safety, maximizing coordination, and the metropolitan planning area and urbanized area boundaries. The major planning initiatives for FY25-26 are the metropolitan planning area boundary, highway functional classification system review and modification, big data analytics, and the Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP). Mr. Avery went over the planning activities in the metropolitan planning area (MPA) and the Small Urban and Rural Planning-Transportation Program (SURTP). Mr. Spoelhof moved that the FY25-26 UPWP and FY25 Small Urban and Rural Transportation Planning Program be approved with the ability for staff to amend and modify as needed without additional policy board approval. Ms. Brown seconded the motion and it carried.

The last item of new business was the FY 2024-2028 TIP Amendments. The first amendment was adding the Illinois Road Trail to the TIP. There are no federal funds associated with the project. There were several amendments regarding INDOT projects adjusting the cost to reflect current values. There were two amendments

adding INDOT projects into the FY 2024-2028 TIP. These projects were in the FY 2022-2026 TIP but did not get carried over into the FY 2024-2028 TIP by mistake. Ms. Brown moved to approve the TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

At this point, Mr. Gunawardena asked for public comment. Mr. Samaan apologized and said he had a chance to revisit the St. Joe Road and Flutter Road intersection he spoke about at the January 2, 2024, meeting. He stated there is adequate lighting at the intersection.

There being no further business, Mr. Gunawardena adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Avery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Daniel S. Avery, Executive Director - Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council