

## **URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes: May 14, 2024**

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, May 14, 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 Mike Thornson for Therese Brown
- Member Mike Fruchey
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Rick Kruchten for Steve McMichael
- Member LaTasha Thompson for John Metzinger
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Patrick Zaharako

The following were not present:

- Member Chris Beebe
- Member Jason Kaiser
- Member Paul Lagemann
- Member Stephanie Belch (non-voting)
- Member La'Kesha Stewart (non-voting)

Staff members present were Dan Avery, Executive Director; Jeff Bradtmiller, Senior Transportation Planner; Matt Vondran, Senior Planner and Debbie Magsam, Administrative Assistant. Wendy Reust and Tinisha Weigelt were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of the March 5, 2024, minutes. Mr. Hartman moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Kruchten gave the progress report for the City of New Haven. PL funding was received for the roundabout project at Rose Avenue and Linden Road. A design kickoff meeting was held on March 8, 2024, for the South Maplecrest Road Phase I and II projects. The surveys are complete for both projects.

Mr. Zaharako gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. VS Engineering has been short-listed for selection for the Ardmore Avenue project. The project will go from Covington Road to Lower Huntington Road and is anticipated to have three phases. PE (preliminary engineering) is 30% for the Tillman Road Bridge project and BLN submitted 30% plans. The project will cost approximately \$2.9 million. American Structurepoint completed the survey for the North Clinton Road project

and 30% design plans are in progress. Drainage design is complete for the Hillegas Road project and right-of-way services (RW) are in progress. Stage 3 has been completed for the Bluffton Road Bridge project and awaiting one permit. Stage 3 has been completed and submitted for the Goeglein Road Bridge project. The bidding will be delayed due to funding shortfalls.

Mr. Hinderman gave the progress report for the airport. A new hangar is under construction at Ferguson Road and Ardmore Avenue and is expected to be complete this October. It is anticipated that the Terminal project will be completed in August 2025. The second level restrooms and restaurant will be open this August. The Taxiway Charlie 2 project is awaiting funding from the FAA. The economy parking lot is being expanded and is anticipated to be finished in July 2024. Reconfiguring the entrance road is a project they would like to explore. Mr. Gunawardena asked if they would consider a roundabout for the reconfiguration of the entrance road. Mr. Hinderman said he would consider it, but funding and property acquisition might be a problem.

Mr. Hartman gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. The Grabill Road Bridge #29 project has an increase of approximately \$111,000 in the estimated overall project cost and construction estimate. PE is at 95% and currently awaiting INDOT ILA proposal to fund the Clay Street signalization. RW is at 40% and PE is at 90% for the Fogwell Parkway project. The letting date has been moved from July 10, 2024, to September 11, 2024. PE is at 90% for the Antwerp Road Bridge #15 project. PE is at 85% and the construction inspection contract has been executed and ready to go for the Amber Road Bridge #226 project. There has been a decrease in the estimated overall project cost of approximately \$308,000. The environmental document is approved and RW acquisition is underway for the Monroeville Road Bridge #277 project. PE is at 85%. PE is at 90% for the Slusher Road Bridge #141 project and the construction inspection contract is executed and ready to go. PE is at 60% for the Monroeville Road-Wayne Trace project. Delays in the environmental documentation have delayed RW acquisition and caused a loss of \$80,000 in federal RW funding. There has been an increase in the estimated overall project cost and construction estimate for the Hamilton Road Bridge #242 project of \$335,000 and the Van Zile Road Bridge #32 project of \$178,000. PE is at 60% and RW is at 20%. Environmental process requirements could strain the schedule on the Coverdale Road-Indianapolis Road-Winters Road Intersection project. PE is at 40% for the Woodburn Road Bridge #51 project. Consultant selection is underway for the Ferguson Road Bridge #404 project. It is currently in the design phase with a letting date of September 12, 2029. There were three change orders for the South County Line Road Bridge #271 project.

Ms. Thompson gave the progress report for Citilink. Citilink has issued an RFP for the Bus Storage Roof Replacement project and expected construction in September. Citilink is finalizing contract details with Token Transit to install fare

validation equipment on the fixed route fleet. Turnstone Center is building a new road and pedestrian infrastructure from Clinton Street to allow Citilink to serve the location. Depending on grant funding availability, a new universally accessible shelter is planned for this location. The League will also receive a shelter (the concrete pad is ready at this site) funded by the AWS Foundation. Currently, Citilink is at 96% ridership recovery.

A handout was distributed with the progress report for INDOT. The Drainage Ditch Correction project along I-469 was awarded to Yardberry Landscape Company on March 20, 2024. The new signal at SR 3 and Shoaff Road project was awarded to E & B Paving, LLC on April 18, 2024. The Bridge Replacement project on US 24 over Aboite Creek was awarded to Milestone Contractors on April 18, 2024. The letting date for the Intersection Improvement at SR 3 and Cedar Canyons Road and several Small Structure Replacement projects has been moved from August 2024 to January 2025. The letting date for the Pavement Patching SR 101 project has been moved from April 2025 to January 2025. The letting date for the Intersection Improvement at SR 37 and Notestine Road has been moved from October 2024 to February 2025. Two projects have been added to the list a HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance on SR 14 and several Small Structure Replacement projects.

The first item of new business was the 2023 Safety Update presented by Mr. Avery. The 2023 crash data is for all of Allen County and includes the number of crashes involving a fatality or incapacitating injury. The Toward Vision Zero goal is to reduce the 2017-2021 average of fatal and serious injury crashes by 50% by the year 2045. The 2017-2021 average number of fatal crashes is 35.4 and the average number of incapacitating injury crashes is 832. The 2041-2045 average target for fatal crashes is 17.7 and the average target for incapacitating injury crashes is 416. Crash rates are based on vehicle miles of travel (VMT). The 2023 VMT has not been received from INDOT. The VTM was estimated for the 2023 crash rates. Mr. Avery showed a table with the number of fatal crashes, rolling average, and rate rolling average for 2011-2023. The number of fatal crashes in 2023 was 40 increasing the rolling average from 35.8 to 38.4 and the rate rolling average from .759 to .780. Next, Mr. Avery showed a table with the number of incapacitating crashes, rolling average and rate rolling average from 2011-2023. The number of incapacitating crashes in 2023 was 379 lowering the rolling average from 739.8 to 638 and the rate rolling average from 16.175 to 13.537. Mr. Avery also showed the vulnerable road user data and trail counts. Mr. Hinderman asked how Allen County's crash rate compares to other counties in Indiana. Mr. Avery stated that he did not know, but he would look into it.

The next item of new business was the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan presented by Mr. Avery. The Coordinated Plan is a federal requirement that primarily deals with Section 5310 funds. Section 5310 funds are

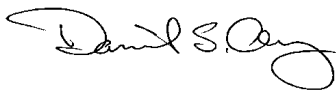
to enhance mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Citilink is the designated recipient of section 5310 funds for the urbanized area. Section 5310 fund projects must be derived from a Coordinated Plan. The Coordinated Plan will assess transportation needs for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and persons with limited incomes. It will also inventory available resources/services, identify redundancies, identify services gaps, define strategies to address gaps, and prioritize implementation strategies. NIRCC will be holding two public information sessions on May 15, 2024, regarding the draft of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. The plan is available for public review on the NIRCC website until June 7, 2024.

The next item of new business was the FY2023 Annual Report presented by Mr. Avery. Mr. Avery gave a brief overview of the Transportation Summary Report FY2023 which is available on the NIRCC website.

The last item of new business was the FY 2024-2028 TIP Amendments. There was one transit amendment, an amendment regarding the Advanced Traffic Management System, an amendment regarding the Ferguson Road Bridge #404 project, and two amendments regarding INDOT projects. The INDOT projects were HMA overlay/preventive maintenance on SR 14 and HMA overlay/minor structural on SR 37. Mr. Gunawardena asked if federal funds could be used for preventive maintenance. Mr. Avery stated yes if you have a federally approved roadway asset management plan. Mr. Hartman moved to approve the TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried.

At this point, Mr. Gunawardena asked for public comment. Mr. Fruchey expressed concern about pedestrian safety along the trail crossings. He stated the flashing lights at the trail crossing on Hathaway Road were not functioning properly this morning. The overgrown vegetation at this crossing causes a sight distance problem which makes the lights not functioning a serious issue. He would also like to see the flashing lights activated to the fastest trail users and thermoplastic striping at trail crossings.

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 fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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