

Transit Development District Steering Committee meeting November 20, 2019

Location

Purdue Tech Center, Crown Point, IN

Present

Lynn Eplawy, Rich Murphy, John Cannon, Mike Barry, Scott Jefferson, Carolyn Saxton, Brian Poland, Bernard Doyle, Richard Morrisroe

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the August 21, 2019 were unanimously approved.

Regional Development Authority Update

Sherri Ziller provided an update on the West Lake and double track projects. Since the previous meeting, progress on West Lake was significant. The project had received permission from FTA to “enter into engineering,” the phase in which all design and engineering is finished (and the cost of that work is eligible for federal matching dollars) and the final phase before negotiation of a full funding grant agreement (FFGA) with FTA. The only projects that have reached this point and not received federal funding are ones that have been withdrawn by their sponsors.

On double track, Michigan City had finalized its contribution since the last meeting and NICTD was expecting positive word on a rating in early 2020.

Lynn Eplawy asked what the time frame was for a FFGA on West Lake. Sherri replied that RDA and NICTD were looking at Q2-Q3 to hit that milestone.

Spotlight on TDD Community Process

Team members from MKSK and KPMG walked the steering committee through the process we are using to work with communities to draw the transit development districts (TDDs), with both community leadership and the public at large. For a full review, please see the attached presentation.

During the presentation, there was a question re slide 20 about forecasting demand and absorption and whether that took into account a possible post-rail-constriction boo. The answer was that there was flexibility of a community through growth numbers will be higher.

Lynn Eplawy questioned who would be presenting at the public meetings. Sherri replied that it would be a collaborative effort and that there would be a pre-meeting to discuss everyone's roles and make sure everyone was comfortable.

Dave Reynolds from Policy Analytics provided insight on slide 28 about statutory requirements and fielded a question about local approval. He noted that there is no statutory requirement that the TDD boundaries be approved locally but local governments still retain control of zoning and construction permits in the TDD.

There was also a question about the RDA's use of bonding based on the incremental tax revenues it would receive from the TDD and whether that would be limited to each TDDs revenues. The answer was that the statute requires any funds generated by a specific TDD to be spent in that TDD, but the RDA could in theory supplement that with other funds.

The meeting calendar for 2020 was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.