

Terre Haute MPO (West Central Indiana Economic Development District, Inc.)
INDOT Meeting Notes for 2010 Long Range Plan
Held at INDOT Central Office on March 25, 2010
1:15 PM to 2:00 PM

In Attendance: Merv Nolot, WCIEDD, Inc. Executive Director
Ron Hinsenkamp, WCIEDD, Inc. Chief Transportation Planner
Roy Nunnally, Manager INDOT Modeling Section
Steve Smith, Manager INDOT Urban and Long Range Planning
Geraldine Lampley, INDOT Modeling Section
Mark Albers, INDOT Crawfordsville District via telephone
Randy Walter, INDOT Urban and Long Range Planning

Steve Smith opened the meeting and noted that INDOT is updating the 2007 Long Range Plan (LRP) in 2010. The planning horizon for the LRP will be extended from 2030 to 2035. The LRP update will not be project specific after 2020, but it will instead be needs oriented. The target for adopting the LRP update is July 2010.

The meeting's purposes were noted:

1. Share the results from the statewide modeling process for 2020 and 2035 traffic projections for the Terre Haute / Vigo County area and offer the opportunity to identify any anomalies the MPO staff may detect, including the number of lanes and level of service projections.
2. Review the Major Moves information for projects in the Terre Haute / Vigo County area presented on the INDOT website, including the most recent 2009 update of projects.
3. Discuss any projected needs the MPO has identified.

The two maps for 2020 and 2035 from the statewide model showing traffic projections for the Terre Haute / Vigo County area were presented. Geraldine Lampley indicated that the medium level of socio-economic assumptions was used in the modeling process and that the base year traffic count data is from 2006. It was also noted that the planning staff reviewed the maps for any anomalies or errors (such as the number of travel lanes). These review comments will be evaluated to see if adjustments to the model are needed.

The maps show congestion on I-70, and it was acknowledged that added lanes are needed but funding is not available. INDOT planning staff noted the I-70 truck lanes study currently underway which could have a future impact should additional federal funds be made available. The "Corridors for the Future" concept was noted; however, the new federal administration is more focused on livability issues. Also, re-authorization of the federal transportation legislation is still in the future.

In addition to I-70, some spot congestion appears to exist at perhaps Fruitridge and Locust and at 25th and Wabash. The MPO noted that their traffic projection numbers and INDOT's have been tracking very close.

Concerning Major Moves Projects the following information was discussed:

SR 641 (Corridor 36) for a new bypass of Terre Haute is the only project in the area but it is a substantial investment with four lanes and limited access from US 41 to I-70. The route is on new alignment except at the eastern end where it overlaps with SR 46. The project will reduce travel time and relieve congestion for through travelers on I-70 westbound to US 41 southbound and US 41 northbound to I-70 eastbound. It will also reduce congestion at the current I-70 and US 41 interchange. The current completion date is anticipated for 2014.

The INDOT planning staff noted that the US 41 added travel lanes project from 0.19 mile north of I-70 (Margaret Avenue) to SR 63 (Hulman Street) would likely be shown as a need, given that it is after 2020 in the 2007 LRP. Added travel lanes on I-70 would also likely be identified as a need but no funding is available.

The MPO noted a new master plan for Indiana State University that is nearing completion and the additions made to Union Hospital. Both are impacted by truck traffic on US 41. The MPO will be meeting with the Crawfordsville District to discuss this issue. The MPO also noted they are in discussion with the district about relinquishment of US 40 from US 41 to SR 46.

The MPO also noted the possibility of re-routing part of US 150 with a connection over to SR 63 north of West Terre Haute. This would not require an additional river crossing of the Wabash and get the US 150 alignment out of West Terre Haute. The District agrees this has good project potential.

The meeting adjourned at about 2:00 PM.