

INDOT ADA Community Advisory Working Group
October 10, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jan Myers, Mary Schaffer, Jim Allbaugh, Lenard Miller, Matt Norris, Barbara Salisbury and Lori Rushin

Members Absent:

Courtney Clark, Paul Chase, Sheri Caveda

Also in attendance:

Tiffany Mulligan, Heather Kennedy, Will Wingfield and Latosha Higgins of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Jay DuMontelle of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

I. Welcome

Latosha Higgins called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the College Avenue Branch Library located at 4180 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205.

II. Introduction of Working Group Members

The members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background and advocacy experience.

III. Federal Highway Administration Introduction and Comment

Jay DuMontelle of the FHWA gave a brief introduction of himself and FHWA's role. Mr. DuMontelle explained he was present at the meeting due to Mr. Kenneth Woodruff's, Civil Rights Specialist with FHWA, absence.

IV. Review of Charter

Ms. Higgins explained the working group charter and highlighted what INDOT hopes to achieve by using the working group to obtain feedback. Ms. Higgins explained that the working group would meet quarterly, throughout various parts of the state. The meetings will adhere to the open door law, and all meetings will be open to the public.

Previously, Ms. Higgins provided each group member with a copy of INDOT's transition plan to review and give feedback. Ms. Salisbury received a Braille copy during the meeting.

Ms. Higgins asked members to refrain from speaking on behalf of the group or on behalf of INDOT without permission from INDOT.

V. Explanation of Member Responsibilities

Ms. Higgins explained that INDOT wants the working group to provide feedback on INDOT's transition plan and wants the members to be liaisons between INDOT and the community and/or organizations with whom the members are affiliated. INDOT hopes to engage the public through the members.

VI. Overview of Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act

Ms. Higgins gave a brief explanation of the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. Specifically, Ms. Higgins addressed the requirement of an implementation plan and the applicable timelines. INDOT and its sub-recipients must identify the barriers and make sure their transition plans are effective to address these barriers.

VII. INDOT ADA Accessibility Accomplishments

Ms. Higgins explained INDOT accomplishments toward its ADA initiatives, such as: hiring an ADA coordinator in 2010; conducting a self inventory of INDOT's facilities; continuously updating INDOT's website with current ADA information; conducting 20 training events throughout the state for local communities in conjunction with FHWA; delivering ADA training in conjunction with the FHWA at Purdue Road School; presenting two Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility

(DPFA) trainings with FHWA; sending the ADA coordinator to train the trainer training in Boise, Idaho; and updating INDOT's transition plan.

VIII. Working Group Comments on INDOT Transition Plan

Each of the working group members shared some of their initial comments on INDOT's transition plan. Below is a summary of the comments shared and suggestions for INDOT regarding its transition plan:

1. INDOT should work with advocacy groups for training opportunities for the public.
2. INDOT should engage the disability community differently and change its method of targeting the disability community.
3. INDOT should contact agencies to assist in reaching a greater number of people. INDOT should advertise the working group meetings at specific agencies, such as cerebral palsy, ARC, Agency on Independent Living and caregiver groups.
4. INDOT and the Group should take comments on specific issues in the transition plan to receive better

input and attract people with an interest on a specific issue.

5. INDOT should advertise in more geographical areas, especially in rural areas.
6. INDOT should focus on pedestrians as well as vehicles.
7. INDOT should make the locals more accountable, and both INDOT and the locals need to be more involved with the projects.
8. INDOT should inventory more than state routes. There were concerns that INDOT's inventory pilot project did not include new construction or US routes.
9. Concerns with the aesthetics on the transition plan, such as the pie charts are hard to read with the black print on the dark blue and terms are missing in the index.
10. INDOT should raise the awareness of some people who do not appear to be disabled or are in denial of their disability.

11. INDOT should open up communication by making INDOT's internal Work Management System (WMS) open to the public.
12. INDOT should have someone from the hearing-impaired community on the Advisory Group in order to have a better cross representation of persons with disabilities.
13. INDOT's transition plan should discuss more nuts and bolts issues, such as: detectable warnings at intersections, turn radius, sidewalks, noise levels, aging community, width of center lines, and timing of lights. Additionally, INDOT should include a description of the means for inspection and monitoring in the transition plan.
14. INDOT should address issues involving roundabouts.

Ms. Higgins asked for topic suggestions for the working group's next regularly scheduled meeting. The following is a summary of the suggested topics:

1. Pedestrian access along major routes, sidewalks, ramps, intersections;
2. Public transportation;

3. Project Management within INDOT;
4. Address how INDOT will demonstrate its progress;
5. Jurisdictional questions;
6. Baseline of existing pedestrian facilities;
7. What is the pilot project and how is INDOT evaluating it? What is the time line for completion?
8. Communication – how is INDOT interfacing with locals? Reaching out to the disability community to ensure people with disabilities are involved.

The members suggested an adjustment to the timeframe for the Advisory Working Group in order to be more productive. The group suggested at least a two-hour meeting.

IX. Public Comments

No comments

X. 2013 Schedule

1. January 9, 2013 in Fort Wayne
2. April 10, 2013 in Vincennes
3. July 10, 2013 in West Lafayette
4. November 9, 2013 in Indianapolis

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The meeting of the ADA Advisory Working Group adjourned at 7:05p.m.