

Transit Development District Steering Committee meeting minutes February 12, 2025

Location

Conducted via Zoom. A recording of the meeting may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FbqFJh6rWE>

Present

Chris Harris, Chuck Gardiner, Brian Poland, Geof Benson, Bob Thonpson, Tammy Watkins

Chairman

Chris Harris was re-elected as chair

Minutes

Minutes from the November 13, 2024, meeting were approved.

Regional Development Authority Update

Dave Wellman provided an update on the rail projects. On West Lake, design is approximately 96% complete and construction is about 88% complete. Delays in bridge construction may push back opening of the line into the summer.

On Double Track, as you know, that opened in May of 2024. Everything remaining can be attributed to the parking garage at 11th Street in Michigan City. That was scheduled to be completed in February. That has now been pushed back to March.

TDD Boundaries Update

Aaron Kowalski of MKSK provided an update on the outstanding TDD boundaries. Thanks to the officials from Beverly Shores and Pines we had an engagement session in Beverly Shores in January and have closed our comment period, so we are moving forward to confirm the boundaries. We had positive feedback from the process and appreciate everyone who came out.

For Valparaiso we will be reaching out to them to set up a meeting to continue the conversations. On South Bend we will be reaching out to the city and county to understand more about the economic development planning they are doing and how that could influence the boundaries.

Dave Wellman noted that Michigan City had announced a new project in the TDD, a \$200-300 million development at 5th and Pine, the old hospital site. We are very excited about this and hope it comes together. If it does that pushes the total investment in the TDD areas over \$700 million.

Discussion

Chris Harris noted that he had the opportunity to meet with the RDA's new development director AJ Bytnar and was very excited to work with him going forward.

Chuck Gardiner welcomed AJ and encouraged him to reach out to Munster to provide more education and more workshops about the TDDs.

The meeting was adjourned.