

## **URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes: February 4, 2025**

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 220, Citizens Square, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The following attended the meeting in person:

Members (voting):

- Member Shan Gunawardena-Chair
- Member William Hartman-Vice Chair
- Member Chris Beebe
- Member Wendy Reust for Therese Brown
- Member Emily Grabill for Mike Fruchey
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Jason Kaiser
- Member John Metzinger
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Hannah Walker
- Member Patrick Zaharako

The following attended the meeting virtually via Teams:

- Member Stephanie Belch (non-voting)
- Member La’Keshia Stewart (non-voting)

The following were not present:

- Member Lindsey Hammond
- Member Rick Kruchten

Staff members present were Dan Avery, Executive Director, Jeff Bradtmiller, Senior Transportation Planner and Debbie Magsam, Administrative Assistant. Paige DeBold, Tim Ehlerding, Bill Etzler, Mason Gamble, Philip LaBrash, Donya Larue, Patrick Rorick, Chad Salzbrenner, LaTasha Thompson and Tinisha Weigelt were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of January 7, 2025 minutes. Mr. Hartman moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Kaiser gave the progress report for INDOT. The contract award is pending for the Pavement Patching project on SR 101 in Woodburn. On January 23, 2025, Brooks Construction Company, Inc. was awarded the contract for the Drainage Ditch Correction project on I-69. Two new minor projects were added a Small Structures & Drainage Construction project on US 24 and a Scour Protection Project on the SR 14 Bridge over the Beal-Taylor Ditch. Both projects have a letting date of August 2026.

Mr. Metzinger gave the progress report for Citilink. Mr. Metzinger introduced Patrick Rorick, who was recently hired as the Grants Coordinator. Mr. Rorick will be representing Citilink at the UTAB meetings. Six buses have been ordered, three fixed route hybrid buses and three minibuses. Citilink was awarded a Low-and No-Emission Grant in the amount of 11 million in the summer of 2024 to replace buses with hybrid buses.

Mr. Hartman gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. The Monroeville Road Bridge #277 project is waiting for utility relocation. RW funds for the Cloverdale Road-Indianapolis Road-Winters Road Intersection project have been moved to FY2026. A pre-construction meeting for the Fogwell Parkway project is scheduled for February 13, 2025. Milestone Contractors, LP, was the lowest of four bidders for the Slusher Road Bridge #141 project. The bid came in at approximately \$600,000 under the estimated overall project cost.

Mr. Zaharako gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. The notice to proceed was received from INDOT for the Ardmore Avenue project. The Tillman Road Bridge project is in design and the geotechnical evaluation was completed. The North Clinton project is in design. The Hillegas Road project is in right of way (RW) acquisition. Phase I is anticipated to be bid in September 2025. The plans are complete for the Goeglein Road Bridge #113 project. Construction has begun on the Bluffton Road Bridge project.

Mr. Hinderman gave the progress report for the airport. The airfield project at FWA will be started this spring. Work is continuing with the terminal project but the completion date is delayed.

Ms. Walker gave the progress report for Huntertown. Carroll Road reopened in January 2025. There are still a few minor things that need to be done and the project should be completed in March 2025. INDOT held a preconstruction meeting for the Kell Road Bridge project in January 2025. The project is anticipated to be completed in August 2025. A request for proposals for construction engineering was published for the Carroll Road Roundabout project. Huntertown requested that the letting date for the Carroll Road Roundabout project be moved from September 2025 to December 2025.

Mr. Kruchten was unable to attend but did send the report for the City of New Haven. Stage 1 plans were received for the Rose Avenue and Linden Road Roundabout project on December 23, 2024. Stage 1 plans were received for the South Maplecrest Road Phase I project on December 13, 2024. The City of New Haven is exploring adding a pedestrian bridge or a pedestrian lane to the existing bridge over the Trier Ditch instead of reconstructing the bridge saving approximately 2 million dollars for the South Maplecrest Road Phase II project.

The first item of new business was the election of officers. Mr. Hartman made a motion to elect Mr. Gunawardena as Chair. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried. Mr. Gunawardena made a motion to election Mr. Hartman as Vice Chair. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried.

The next item of new business was the Monthly Factors and VMT Report presented by Mr. Avery. The expressways are counted each year and INDOT collects the data for the freeways every two years. Mr. Avery went over the average daily traffic totals for each month and the monthly factor. The monthly factor is used to adjust the traffic counts to get the annual average daily traffic volume. The VMT for 2024 were shown and compared for the freeway, expressway, arterial, and collector roads. VMT increased 1.88% in 2024. The freeway had no increase or decrease, the expressway had a 1.72% decrease, the arterial roads had a 3.42% increase, and the collector roads had a 1.59% increase in VMT. A chart was shown comparing the VMT and population from 2019 to 2024. Gas prices and snowfall are charted to see if they impact VMT. Mr. Hinderman made a motion to approve the Monthly Factors and VMT Report. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion and it carried.

The next item of new business was the Intersection Analyses presented by Mr. Bradtmiller. The performance of six unsignalized intersections was evaluated. The intersections include Aboite Center Road/Homestead High School (PM), Homestead Road/Indian Meadows Drive (AM), Airport Drive/Airport Expressway (PM), Jefferson Boulevard/Jefferson Park Office (PM), Maplecrest Road/Parrott Road (AM), and Page Road/Witmer Road (PM). The Aboite Center Road/Homestead High School intersection had LOS (level of service) of A for eastbound and westbound and B for the northbound. It did not meet signal warrants. The Homestead Road/Indian Meadows Drive intersection had a LOS of F for the eastbound, E for westbound, and A for northbound and southbound. It did not meet signal warrants. The Airport Drive/Airport Expressway intersection had a LOS of A for eastbound and westbound and D for northbound. The Jefferson Boulevard/Jefferson Park Offices had a LOS of F for westbound and A for northbound and southbound. Signal warrants were met for this intersection. The Maplecrest Road/Parrott Road intersection had a LOS of E for eastbound, F for westbound, and A for northbound and southbound. Signal warrants were met for this intersection. The Page Road/Witmer Road intersection had a LOS of A for eastbound and westbound, and a LOS of B for northbound and southbound. It did not meet multiway stop warrants. Mr. Hinderman said plans are underway to move the exit at the airport to exit on Airport Drive. He said the LOS might change in a year or two when the new exit is completed. Mr. Spoelhof moved to approve the Intersection Analyses. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried.

The next item of new business was the FY2026-30 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Schedule presented by Mr. Avery. The draft for the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) should be ready for approval at the March 4, 2025 UTAB

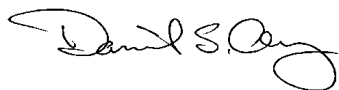
meeting. The open house is scheduled for March 12, 2025. It is anticipated that TIP will be approved at the April UTAB meeting. A State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) public meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2025.

The next item of new business was the Road Funding Update presented by Mr. Avery. Mr. Avery did a recap of last month's update. Mr. Avery asked Mr. Metzinger if there were any transit related bills. Mr. Metzinger answered that House Bill 1085 has a provision where it would allow counties to enter interlocal agreements to expand regional transit and reduce the age for a CDL operator from 21 to 18. Mr. Avery gave a brief recap of House Bill 1085. The highlights of House Bill 1461 were discussed. These highlights include allows INDOT to submit request to FHWA for a waiver to toll lanes on interstate highways, allocates responsibility for bridges in a county between that county and a municipality based on the size and location of the bridge, allows a county fiscal body to pledge to levy ad valorem property taxes for certain transportation related purposes, provides for the distribution of unused Community Crossing Matching Grant Funds, provides for enhanced grant amounts for certain local units, reduces the required local matching amount applicable to certain local units, subjects a condition on a township's total reserves relative to their annual budget and requires excess funds be transferred to a fund for improving and maintaining roads and infrastructure in the township, provides that a county fiscal body may adopt a county option retail delivery fee.

The last item of new business was the TIP Amendment presented by Mr. Avery. The amendment was for soil nail repairs on MSE failures at various locations in the North District. Mr. Hartman moved to approve the TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. Metzinger seconded the motion and it carried.

At this point, Mr. Gunawardena asked for public comment. There were no public comments.

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, stylized initial "D".

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