

## **URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Minutes: May 6, 2025**

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, May 6, 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 Mike Fruchey
- Member Jason Kaiser
- Member Rick Kruchten
- Member Patrick Rorick
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Patrick Zaharako

The following attended the meeting virtually via Teams:

The following were not present:

- Member Therese Brown
- Member Lindsey Hammond
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Hannah Walker
  
- Member Stephanie Belch (non-voting)
- Member Erica Tait (non-voting)

Staff members present were Dan Avery, Executive Director, Jeff Bradtmiller, Senior Transportation Planner and Stephen Senior, Associate Transportation Planner. Mason Gamble, Landon Grogg, Aaron Isch, Donya Larue, Wendy Reust, Eli Samaan, and Kyle Winling were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of April 1, 2025 minutes. Mr. Hartman moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Kruchten gave the progress report for the City of New Haven. The stage 1 plans for the Rose Avenue and Linden Road roundabout project were received on December 23, 2024. Stage 2 plans are to be delivered next month and a preliminary field check is scheduled for June 27, 2025. There are no new updates for the South Maplecrest Road Phase I and II projects.

Mr. Rorick gave the progress report for Citilink. The Bus Barn Roof project is complete. The Equans CAD/AVL (computer aided dispatch/automatic vehicle location) project is ongoing. The fare increase went into effect on April 1, 2025. The Access Plus consists of a fare increase for service beyond the minimum of the ADA. The increase is from \$3.00 to 4.50 and scheduled for July 1, 2025. Citilink posted an RFP to determine if privatizing paratransit and microtransit services is a viable option to preserve service levels while reducing cost. The proposals are due June 13, 2025.

Mr. Zaharako gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. PE is 2% for the Ardmore Avenue project. Surveying is ongoing and expected to be complete next month. PE is 60% for the Tillman Road Bridge project. Surveying is complete and review of the 30% design plans are underway for the North Clinton Road project. The first letting date is planned for November 15, 2028. PE is 23%. ROW services are mostly complete for the Hillegas Road project. The bid documents are complete for the Goeglein Road Bridge #113 project. The Bluffton Road Bridge project is ongoing and in phase I.

Mr. Kaiser gave the progress report for INDOT. Contract B-44533 was added to the list. This contract will replace the superstructure on Minnich Road NB Bridge over I-469. Contract B-44534 was added to the list. This contract is several bridge deck overlay projects along I-69. Contract B-44535 was added to the list. This contract is for two bridge thin deck overlay projects along I-469 and signal installation on SR 1 and the I-469 ramps. Contract B-45582 was added to the list. This contract is for pavement patching along I-469. The contracts added have a November 2026 letting date.

Mr. Hartman gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. A RFP for CE Services is due at the end of May for the Monroeville Road-Wayne Trace project, Hamilton Road Bridge #242 project and the Van Zile Road Bridge #32 project. A NTP was issued to Lochmueller Group on April 23, 2025 for the Corbin Road/Union Chapel roundabout project. A NTP was issued to ERI on April 23, 2025 for the Countywide Sign Inventory project and the Un-Signalized Intersection Sign & Marking Visibility Implementation project. The C.R.O.S.S Scott Road Railroad Crossing Design Study project was added to the list. The proposed project is a grade separation on Scott Road south of Bass Road and is funded by the Federal Railroad Administration. Concrete pavement installation will begin next month for the Bass Road Phase 3B and 3C project. The northbound lane will be removed this week as part of the Fogwell Parkway project. All the superstructure has been removed and new beams will be installed in June for the Grabill Road Bridge #29 project

There was no progress report for Huntertown.

There was no progress report for the Fort Wayne International Airport.

The first item of new business was the Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) presented by Mr. Avery. Handouts of the public participation comments, Air Quality Documentation, project list for Local, INDOT and Transit were distributed. The Air Quality Documentation was posted with the TIP. It covers the Transportation Plan as amended and the 2026-2030 TIP. Mr. Beebe moved to approve the Air Quality Documentation with the finding that it conforms to the air quality regulations. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried. Mr. Spoelhof moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion and it carried.

The next item of new business was the Department of Planning Services 2024 Annual Report presented by Mr. Beebe. A handout of the data section of the 2024 Annual Report was distributed. The complete report is available on the Department of Planning Services website. Mr. Beebe went over the number of Plan Commission public hearing petitions. The public hearing petitions include development plans, plat, rezoning, vacations and other and if they were in the city or county. The number of new single family lots approved increased from 857 in 2023 to 1020 in 2024. The number of new multi-family units approved increased from 822 in 2023 to 1621 in 2024. A chart showing the number of acres rezoned was shown. Allen County had the highest number of acres rezoned and that was for single family housing. In 2024, the Board of Zoning Appeals heard 282 petitions. The majority of appeals were for development standards variance in the city. There were 5,676 permit applications in 2024. These permits included certificate of use, fence permits, improvement location permits, swimming pool permits, sign permits, single and two-family dwelling permits, and site permits. Maps showing the location of single and two-family permits and multi-family units were presented and included a breakdown of permits between Allen County, the City of Fort Wayne and the Fort Wayne City Council Districts.

The next item of new business was the Ewing Street Bridge Project presented by Mr. Zaharako. The bridge is two separate bridges with two lanes each. There is no longer a need for the four lanes because adding additional lanes to Wells Street is no longer being considered. Since the bridge needs maintenance and there is no longer a need for four lanes, the city hired ERI to explore options. The findings are to make the west bridge for vehicles and the east bridge for pedestrians. Mr. Zaharako showed multiple renderings of the proposed changes. The City of Fort Wayne will be applying for federal grants for design and construction.

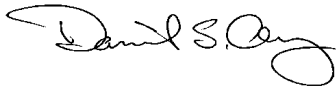
The next item of new business was the Legislative Update- Transportation presented by Mr. Avery. Mr. Avery gave an update on House Bill 1390 and 1461. The Governor signed House Bill 1461 on May 1, 2025. At the time of this meeting House Bill 1390 has not been signed. House Bill 1390 will allow a PTC or Citilink to expand its services to outside its typical service area. Mr. Avery went over the Community Crossings Fund portion of House Bill 1461. House Bill 1461 will also have a PASER

certification program, a section on low water crossings, requires waiver submittal to toll lanes on interstate highways and remove 75-mile buffer, and an annual operations report will be required for local units with population above 5,000.

The last item of new business was the TIP Amendment presented by Mr. Avery. There were three amendments including the Airport Expressway and Norfolk Southern Railroad project, the Scott Road and Norfolk Southern Railroad project, and the Ewing Street Bridge project. Mr. Kaiser moved to approve the TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion and it carried.

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