

## **URBAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Minutes: August 6, 2024**

The Urban Transportation Advisory Board convened on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 220, Citizens Square, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The following were present:

Members (voting):

- Member Shan Gunawardena-Chair
- Member William Hartman-Vice Chair
- Member Chris Beebe
- Member Therese Brown
- Member Mike Fruchey
- Member Scott Hinderman
- Member Doug Burgess for Jason Kaiser
- Member Rick Kruchten for Steve McMichael
- Member Paul Spoelhof
- Member Patrick Zaharako

Member La’Keshia Stewart (non-voting)

The following were not present:

- Member Paul Lagemann
- Member John Metzinger
- Member Stephanie Belch (non-voting)

Staff members present were Dan Avery, Executive Director; Jeff Bradtmiller, Senior Transportation Planner; and Matt Vondran, Senior Planner. Tim Ehlerding, Wendy Reust and Eli Samaan were also present.

Mr. Gunawardena brought the meeting to order. The first item of business was the approval of the July 2, 2024, minutes. Mr. Hartman moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Kruchten gave the progress report for the City of New Haven. Funding has been secured for the Rose Avenue and Linden Road roundabout. The Environmental Review is underway and the 30% plans are due by the end of 2024. The topographic survey is complete for the South Maplecrest Road Phase I (SR 930 to Moeller Road) project and the designer is working towards 30% plans. The topographic survey is complete for South Maplecrest Road Phase II (Moeller Road to Seiler Road) project. The South Maplecrest Road Phase II will be a three-lane road improvement project.

Mr. Zaharako gave the progress report for the City of Fort Wayne. An agreement should be signed by the end of the year for the Ardmore Avenue project. The Tillman Road Bridge project is at 30% design. The North Clinton project is in preliminary design and a public meeting was held July 31, 2024. The Hillegas Road project is continuing in right-of-way (RW) services. Bids will be open for the Bluffton Road Bridge project in October. Design work for the Goeglein Road Bridge project is almost complete. The project is delayed due to funding and will bid in August 2025.

Mr. Burgess gave the progress report for INDOT. The contract letting date for the HMA Overlay project on SR 14 has moved from October 2025 to July 2025. Several new projects were added to the list including debris removal on the SR 930 Bridge over the St. Joseph River, pavement patching on I-69, and the ITS Traffic Management Systems. The newly added projects all have a contract letting date of February 2026.

Mr. Hartman gave the progress report for Allen County Highway. Preliminary engineering (PE) at 95% and RW is at 100% for the Fogwell Parkway project. PE is at 95% and RW is at 50% for the Amber Road Bridge #226 project. PE is at 95% and RW is at 75% for the Monroeville Road Bridge #277 project. The Slusher Road Bridge #141 project has had a decrease in estimated overall project cost and the construction estimate of approximately \$375,475. The Coverdale Road-Indianapolis Road-Winters Road intersection project has had a decrease in estimated overall project cost of approximately \$165,322. PE is at 40% for the Cuba Road Bridge #24 project.

Mr. Hinderman gave the progress report for the airport. The terminal project is scheduled to be completed October 2025. The parking lot expansion project is complete and the lot is now open. Bids were opened for the taxi-way project. The project is on hold and waiting for funding.

There was no progress report for Citilink.

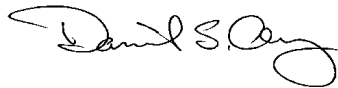
The first item of new business was the Leesburg Road Extension Project Update presented by Mr. Zaharako. This project is not a federally funded project, but the project will have significant impact. A public meeting was held on July 17, 2024. The project will be two phases. Leesburg Road will continue to Jefferson Boulevard and a signal will be installed. The Leesburg Road and Main Street intersection will become a roundabout. The left turning lane on Jefferson Boulevard at Main Street will be removed due to it being a safety issue. New sidewalks, stormwater improvements, and a monument in the center of the roundabout are also part of this project. The tentative timeline has the project bid in winter 2024, construction starting spring 2025, and project completion summer 2026.

The next item of new business was the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan by Mr. Avery. The Plan was presented in draft form to the Board in May 2024. The Plan has been finalized and public information and comments session were held. The Plan is a requirement for Section 5310 funding. The Plan identifies service providers, discerns transportation needs, detect services gaps and redundant service, develops and prioritizes strategies, and prepares the project selection process. Mr. Avery went over the survey results and public comments. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Mr. Zaharako seconded the motion and it carried.

The last item of new business was the FY 2024-2028 TIP Amendments. There are two amendments. The first amendment is removing the Tonkel Road and Union Chapel Road Intersection Improvement project. The second amendment is adding the Corbin Road and Union Chapel Road Intersection Improvement project. Ms. Brown moved to approve the TIP Amendments as submitted. Mr. Spoelhof seconded the motion and it carried.

At this point, Mr. Gunawardena asked for public comment. Mr. Samaan asked about the passenger railroad study and the funding. Mr. Spoelhof said other states have earmarked funds at the state level. Mr. Spoelhof said the planning process is continuing. Mr. Gunawardena expressed his concern that Indiana is not receiving a fair share of federal funding.

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