

Transit Development District Steering Committee meeting minutes February 21, 2024

Location

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

Present

Chris Harris, Chuck Gardiner, Debra Gritters, Brian Poland, Geof Benson, Michael Barry, Beth Shrader

Election of Chair

Chris Harris was elected as Chairman for 2024

Minutes

Minutes from the November 15, 2023 meeting were approved.

Regional Development Authority Update

Dave Wellman provided an update on the rail projects. He noted that the design on West Lake is about 92% complete. One major bridge is still in process. Construction is 62% complete. The project is still on schedule for a May 2025 revenue service date.

Double track is closing in on finished. Construction is 90% complete. Service from Dune Park to Gary is expected to restart in April. On track for revenue service starting in May 2024.

Discussion

Aaron Kowalski provided an update on the TDD boundaries. Meetings are set up with Beverly Shores, Pines, Valpo and South Bend. Provided we have good feedback we will move forward as per our schedule to get three more boundaries done within the calendar year.

He also provided an update on implementation work. We are meeting with communities on updating new administrations on the TDDs and with others on implementing them. We continue to see developer interest and some communities in active conversations. Also seeing developers having interest in multiple communities.

Q&A

Chairman Harris spoke briefly about how excited Gary was to move forward on development in its TDDs.

Chuck Gardiner said he was pleased to work with the committee and as the Munster town council has several new members we may need to extend an educational meeting opportunity to them.

Beth Shrader said things are progressing at Journeyman though the transit center had not yet opened, and they were looking forward to continuing with the TDD boundary process.

Chairman Harris asked to move ahead with looking at how the TDD and some underlying TIFs will interact. David Reynolds of Policy Analytics said he will be in touch.

The meeting was adjourned.