

## Transit Development District Steering Committee meeting May 19, 2021

### **Note**

The meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxD8bmk-SiM>

### **Location**

Conducted via Zoom

### **Present**

Trent McCain (for Eric Reaves), Scott Jefferson, Richard Morrisroe, Lee Ann Mellon, Michael Barry, Tim Corcoran, Brian Poland

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### **Regional Development Authority Update**

RDA COO Sherri Ziller updated the committee on the progress of the rail projects. Both projects have achieved full funding grant agreement status and are moving toward construction. On West Lake the design builder is working on designs and acquisition of property continues. On double track, work has been divided into 5 packages, NICTD has completed two of those procurements. Two bids were received for the main rail contract, but both were rejected by the NICTD board as overbudget. NICTD is looking to rebid the procurement. Ziller also noted that the American Rescue Plan included additional federal support for both projects, FTA is preparing guidance on how funds will be made available.

Q: Does additional funding reduce the obligation for other entities? A: Waiting to hear from FTA on how that will work but team may have more insight.

Dave Reynolds (Policy Analytics): Guidance we have received so far is that those funds will be a separate grant and will be additional funding for the project that we can use to deal with cost overruns, change orders, etc.

Ziller also gave an update on the progress of TDD boundary completion and the status of public engagement sessions.

### **Discussion**

Oscar Bedolla from KPMG took the reins to present on the topic of social equity. Want to lay out our ideas and a process that allows each community to define equity.

We see some opportunities to develop a robust strategy around equity. As we have worked with communities these have emerged from the data and some are outlined on slide, such as unemployment and housing.

Changes at a federal level are providing funding opportunities to address equity. This is a trend we expect to continue.

Outlined some building blocks of what equity could look like.

Q: Did equity come out of the previous or current admin? A: Have been changes at the federal level but we have been working around equity since day one. What we are seeing now is more opportunities with the current administration re: funding and programs that might provide additional capital to projects like this. Admin is thinking not just about physical infrastructure but how you can create sustainable communities.

Bill Sheldrake (Policy Analytics): Structure of the legislation that the IGA put into place allows for TIF structure to be used for this kind of equitable development. So, we have more flexibility in financing from the federal govt as well as financial structure we can use from the state as well.

Oscar: Everyone will define equity differently. Each community will have different challenges and as we work together, we can identify and address those. Align resources and planning efforts to foster partnerships.

He walked through an example and how the RDA would include equity as a lens through which to view potential projects that are presented for funding. He and Aaron Kowalski from MKSK also looked at examples from Indiana and around the country. This concluded the social equity presentation.

Aaron then gave an update on the [nwitdd.com](http://nwitdd.com) web site.

Q: What is the level of engagement between communities such as Gary and the RDA to publicize the web site? A: Yes, we had success with Gary for the Miller meeting, we think there will be more opportunities as projects begin to happen and people can come to learn about the economic impact.

Next steps are to continue to work with communities, RDA board and state budget committee to get boundaries finalized and approved.

Q: re the Miller TDD and a request to remove two parcels from the draft boundary. A: we have complied with that request.

The meeting was adjourned