

CAMPO Policy Board Meeting – Draft Minutes

Dec 21, 2012 10:00am

Attendees:

Zack Ellison (County Plan Commission)
Mayor Kristen Brown
Jim Ude (INDOT Seymour District)
Roger Lang (City Plan Commission)
Jim Lienhoop (City Council)

Staff:

Laurence Brown (CAMPO Director)
Emmanuel Nsonwu (INDOT Planning)

Zack called the meeting to order. Roger moved that the August 6, 2012 meeting minutes be approved, Jim Ude seconded, and they were approved unanimously; no opposed.

Laurence discussed the Statement of Work, which is a 2-year document. CAMPO is at the end of the 2011-2012 SOW and starting a 2013-2014 SOW. CAMPO is going to be doing three important projects in 2013: a ColumBUS Transit Improvement and Expansion Plan, the Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update, and a State Street Corridor Study. RFPs went out and consultants have been chosen for all of these projects.

The new Statement of Work includes these projects. Laurence showed a PowerPoint that included a number of the bike infrastructure treatments that are going to be considered. The mayor asked if bike boxes are appropriate for 17th Street. Laurence indicated the issues there are mostly for bikes going straight; bike boxes are really for ease of making left turns. He will ask our consultant to take a look at 17th St and see if that design can be improved upon.

Laurence mentioned the interest in road diets. The mayor was interested in seeing traffic counts and crash data on roads being considered for road diets. Laurence mentioned that counts have been done and a crash study is also being done. The mayor wanted to make sure we were not just looking at bike and pedestrian crashes, but vehicle crashes too. Laurence indicated the crash study was going to look at all crashes, not just bike & ped crashes.

He mentioned that Portland Oregon had a 5-fold increase in bike ridership, and during that same time, they had a 16% reduction in total vehicle crashes, and had reductions in bike/ped incidents in spite of the fact that 5 times more bikes were out there. A 16% reduction in crashes in Columbus would be 300 to 400 less crashes annually. This is a substantial improvement in safety.

The mayor asked about the crosswalk laws in Indiana. Does a pedestrian have the right of way in a midblock crosswalk? Laurence and the mayor had a discussion that the question that can't seem to be answered, and is not the interpretation of the police dept, is: does a pedestrian, who is standing on a sidewalk at a crosswalk, have the right-of-way? Laurence says they do, but that the laws are a bit confusing and it is interpreted often that they don't have right-of-way until they step into the street. He indicated he has gone to the state legislature to clarify the law, but he has not been able to get any

changes because the Legislative Services Office believes the law already does give the pedestrian right-of-way in that situation.

Laurence showed a slide of the Columbus Safety Committee he plans to put together. He hoped the first meeting would be in February. The mayor liked this plan, and wanted to make sure it was not just focusing on bike and ped incidences, but on cars and car safety, too. She wondered where the Engineering Department was on that chart. Laurence said that the engineering department has always had that responsibility and that this organizational chart and these subcommittees are to make sure that these other transportation modes are considered. Dave, the City Engineer, is on all of these committees, thus, engineering, vehicle movement, and vehicle crashes are definitely a part of this safety initiative.

Laurence then discussed the "Complete Network Plan" in the SOW. It will require 3 years, maybe \$250K. A Travel Demand Model will need to be built, then scenarios will be studied, and then a Transportation Plan (a 25-year plan) will be developed. There is also an on-street parking plan in the SOW, and there will be a State Street Corridor Study that will be done by Lakota Group consultants.

CAMPO will also look at a Cyclovia or Sunday Parkways where large streets are closed for a day so people can bike, walk, skate, etc. on the streets. This probably won't happen to 2014, but the intent is to start planning it this year.

Laurence talked about CAMPO budget. What CAMPO does not spend in 2012 flips over the 2014 INDOT budget. This was going to be about \$70,000, but now it is going to be less than that, although he does not know exactly what that would be.

Resolution 2012-12 is to approve the 2013-2014 Statement of Work. Rebecca Barnett, from the public spoke. Rebecca was happy to have received a \$203K grant as a result of some help from the mayor. She says there are 3200 of volunteer hours her community has put in, and she was wondering if she can use volunteer hours for matching funds? Zack suggested the Laurence look into that. Laurence had never heard of INDOT accepting volunteer hours as match for a project.

Dennis Baute, from the public, mentioned that he'd like to see Central and 7th be improved. He says it needs crosswalk improvements there, and he's been asking for improvements for years, and would like to see it really happen. Dennis mentioned that a lot of Foundation for Youth kids use that. The mayor said that Laurence, with Dave, now had an action item regarding that intersection.

Roger motioned for the resolution's approval, the mayor seconded it. It passed unanimously; no opposed.

Laurence went on to the Adjusted Urbanized Area Boundary. Every 10 years the census redefines the Urban Area Boundary, and the MPO gets to adjust that to create a boundary which it feels is the Urban Area for its purposes.

Laurence explained that although the Columbus Urbanized Area goes into both Johnson and Shelby County, we have given those areas to Indianapolis MPO to do the planning there. This relieves us of

very complicated air quality requirements called transportation conformity, which really slows our ability to modify the TIP.

Roger asked about a particular line which he thought was a property line, but Laurence indicated it was a corporate boundary line. Laurence indicated the area of his concern Dave Hayward was familiar with the issues and Dave determined where the UAB should be adjusted. Dave was not at the meeting but they felt the issues were probably considered by Dave in developing the adjustment of the boundary.

The mayor was concerned about the walkability of the Woodside Industrial Park. Laurence indicated that Dave was aware of this concern and was looking into it. Also, CAMPO has looked at providing transit down there but the lack of sidewalks makes it difficult because of where to drop off safely; it is dangerous to walk. Laurence also said we are looking at bike routes on the county roads down there as well.

Zack asked for public input. No response. Roger motioned to approve this version of the map (adjusted UAB). The mayor seconded it. It passed unanimously; no opposed. Laurence mentioned that the map needed signing also, and it needed a signature from a County Commissioner, too. Zack indicated that would be Paul Franke.

Laurence introduced Resolution 2012-13, which is a number of projects that INDOT would like placed into the CAMPO TIP. They are a number of resurfacing projects along I-65. A section of SR7 and SR11 are to be resurfaced, and then some bridge inspections. Zack asked for public input. There was none. Roger motioned to approve. Jim seconded. Motion unanimous; no opposed.

Discussion:

Laurence said there were not any real issues, although he would like to schedule regular quarterly meetings. Zack agreed that would be helpful. Emmanuel (INDOT), who was in the audience, suggested that Policy Board meetings be formally scheduled. He also stated how the Technical Committee is supposed to work; they are supposed to meet prior to the Policy Board meeting and recommend the resolutions to the Policy Board. Laurence said he would look at some options and throw out some options out to the Policy members to see what would work best for a schedule.

Laurence state his interest in creating bylaws to make sure these state and federal rules were adhered to. Roger wants to make sure the CAMPO Policy Board members are all members of the steering committees for these planning consultant contracts that the MPO is doing this coming summer. Laurence said he would invite all MPO Policy members to be on the steering committees. He also mention that the current Policy Board membership states “presidents” and “chairs” and these positions often change annually, so we don’t have continuity; we might want to change this to be appointed members so people will remain on the board longer.

The mayor stated that she was delighted to see the Statement of Work; she loved all the projects. She stated she had the pleasure of working with Laurence day in and day out, she really feels they made a great hire in Laurence. Meeting adjourned.