

CAMPO Policy Board Meeting
June 9, 2014
Draft - Meeting Minutes

Zack called meeting to order:

Ryan Brand
Rick Flohr
Roger Lang
Zack Ellison
Kristen Brown
Jorge Morales
Jim Ude
Michelle Allen, FHWA (non-voting)
Anthony Greep, FTA (non-voting)

There was a motion to approve the minutes by Rick Flohr, the mayor asked what was approved at the last meeting. Zack said the Travel Demand Model was approved. The mayor asked how it would be funded. Zack explained that the focus of the decision was if it was a good idea, and described the reasons it is important. Laurence said the resolution was approved and the contract with BLA was signed and will start in November.

The mayor was questioning whether the funds were actually budgeted for. Jorge said there was a motion to approve the minutes. The mayor said this was a question for clarification regarding the minutes. Jorge thought that this was a different issue, that her issue was not questioning the validity of the minutes. The minutes were then approved without any negative votes.

They continued the conversation regarding funding of the travel model. Jorge thought the contract had been budgeted, with \$80,000. Laurence pointed out that \$50,000 was encumbered from 2013, and the total of the budget was \$130,000. The mayor was concerned that all the work was actually \$200,000. Roger pointed out that the total for the city for the \$130,000 was only going to be \$17K (because of federal reimbursements and County contributions), and that was not going to be a problem for cash flow.

The mayor was concerned that the city has been paying the local share for 10 years, and have a process for contractor selection. Zack pointed out that we did that. The mayor felt that Laurence cannot go though the CAMPO Policy Board when he does not like the answer of the Board of Works, who approves his claims. Zack pointed out that this decision does need to go through the Policy Board. Zack indicated the decision was a long time in the making, and that it went right through at the last Policy Board meeting that the mayor missed.

Zack stated that we benchmarked the other MPOs, and they all use Travel Models and had positive things to say about models. Laurence pointed out that he functions off the Statement of Work, and it was approved and more the \$200,000 was place in those budgets, and the original estimate for this was \$250,000. Laurence stated that it is part of his job to predict future revenues because he has to plan as far as 25 years in advance. The CAMPO Policy Board is the board that decides what CAMPO does. Laurence stated that he believes the money is there and has been budgeted and will be there in future years.

Zack would like to move on to Engineering Report. Laurence called on Beth Fizel, City Engineer. Beth stated Carr Hill Rd is under construction. The road will be closed until October 5th. Indiana Avenue is to be let in August. There are some utility issues being worked on and should be done in the next couple of weeks. Danny and Beth said CR350 west, from SR46 to Goeller, is being considered for federal funds. Jorge mentioned a crash that hit a utility pole, and it has not been repaired and needs attention. Danny Hollander mentioned that some subdivisions have been approved there that will change the road use. The mayor thought this was going in the TIP. Laurence said there was no formal request to put it in. She did describe some of the characteristics of the road that need improvement. Danny and Rick indicated that the county is going to make some improvements, repave it and clear some areas for better visibility until something bigger is done. Roger asked if the hill could be cut down, and Danny stated they are planning to do some borings to see what is under the hill. They are also replacing a culvert at \$120,000 to improve its width. Jorge again stated some of the dangerous characteristics and its increased use. Laurence said that with the right info, we can put it in the TIP. Zack felt that CAMPO Board might not be the right group for safety decisions; Laurence thought the Tech Committee might be the right place.

Laurence updated on CAMPO projects. The transit study. The plan has a final draft from the consultant and needs to go to the Transit Advisory Committee and will need a public meeting. It needs some work from the Transit Advisory Committee before it can move forward. Laurence has also put together a Steering Committee for the Bike/Ped Plan Update. They met in May and will meet again in June.

CAMPO is being recertification, and FTA and FHWA representative are here to do that. This process happens every 4 years for each MPO. Michelle Allen from FHWA and Tony Greep from FTA introduced themselves. Jay Mitchell from INDOT, Emmanuel Nsonwu from INDOT, Jeanette Wilson from INDOT, and Joyce Newland from FHWA. Michelle began describing that there were about 50 questions Laurence had to answer as prework. They do this to make sure all the federal requirements are being met. They will produce a report hopefully by the end of July that indicate how the MPO is doing and what they need to improve on. She will be coming back after that report and giving them a presentation of the report. They will be meeting with the Citizens Advisory Committee and Transit Advisory Committee this evening. Laurence noted the Board can participate on any of this, and that they will also meet individually with Board members if desired. Tony stated that these reports are very complete and respond to each regulation.

Laurence discussed the Technical Committee meeting, and the Citizens Advisory Committee. He pointed out the CAC has some that bike/ped people, and we are trying to keep them on track.

INDOT is changing the way they are allowing money to be spent by MPOs. They have allocated money annually to MPOs, and MPOs have let it accumulate and then spent it on large projects. Now INDOT would like the annual MPO spending to be the same as the allocation for each year. Laurence pointed out our situation is that we have a large balance of just under \$8 million. The MPO Council will have to negotiate with each other so they don't overspend the total funding. Laurence pointed out that in 2017, the projects that are planned will bring us down to a zero balance by the end of 2017. Laurence provided some slides that show the use of funds over the last 10 years, and what it will look like over the next 4 years.

Laurence moved on to showing the Administrative Modifications that were approved. Laurence went through each project. He went through Administrative Modifications from April 15 and from May 30th. These do not require a vote, but are to be described in the Policy Board meeting for public information. Laurence also stated that CAMPO now has a new website.

Laurence went on to the official resolutions. The first was Resolution 2014-7, new and modified INDOT projects. Laurence went through each project with Jim Ude often giving some additional comments. There were no comments by the Board members. Jorge asked how these are prioritized. Laurence said INDOT has a number of Asset Management Teams that determine the priorities of projects. Also, INDOT has a Public Participation Plan that requires them to provide this information to the public, and that process for urban areas is mostly through the MPOs, so the CAMPO Policy Board meeting is that opportunity for the public to hear and respond to the INDOT projects.

Jorge asked about the roundabout on CR450S. Laurence said that project is in the TIP, but the projects that are in these resolutions are either new projects or changes to existing projects. The roundabout is in the TIP, but there are no changes to it, so it is not in the Resolution. Jorge was concerned that many of the problems he sees around town seem more important than those being addressed in these INDOT projects. For example, SR11 floods and SR46 floods and we have a railroad issue coming, and these bigger projects are not being addressed. The mayor agreed and said she has been trying to make contacts with senior level people at INDOT to address the railroad, which will debilitate this community.

Laurence explained that INDOT has long-term projects similar to what Jorge is talking about, but currently, they are only publishing and informing the public on what they are doing in the next 5 years. Zack explained that the projects Jorge is talking about are a different order of magnitude than the projects we generally approve for the TIP.

Jorge was concerned that INDOT may not tell us about these projects until it is a 'done deal', and used the roundabout as an example. Jay Mitchell responded to longer term project policy at INDOT. He said we look at projects like this; beyond 5 years, INDOT does not call them projects, but they call them "problems." With regard to public meetings, they have public hearings and public input meetings, and sometimes public information meetings. These public information meetings have people from central office that come and meeting with the engineers and the public. Usually these occur at the District.

Roger asked how do local problems get put in the queue for INDOT? Jorge is concerned that the public does not get notified about this meeting, and its importance. Laurence explained that this is the public process, that it was in the newspaper, that they are representatives of the community/public and they are to distribute this information to their constituents.

Roger asked how does INDOT know what is important to this community? Roger wants to make sure these problems are listed somewhere. Laurence said the Long-Range Transportation Plan is where we list them. Jay stated that the plan should say "here is where we expect there to be a problem at this time in the future."

The mayor has contacted INDOT and the Governor's office to raise the importance of congestion and the train issue, and she has received some email replies, although they were not sympathetic.

Jay emphasized that INDOT Seymour District is an important part of the communication process, and that Jim Ude is here. Jay also emphasized that Columbus is important to INDOT and they will not be ignored. Jorge feels that the communication is not getting through. Jay said he would be communicating this to the Central office.

Laurence said he would draft a change to the Long-Range Plan to include these concerns, and he will get with the Tech Committee and create a resolution for this. Jorge said he is going to vote "no" for this resolution because of his concerns for more important projects. Jim explained they are preservation projects. Zack asked for a motion for Resolution 2014-7, Roger moved and Ryan seconded. The vote was 6 to 1, Jorge opposed.

Resolution 2014-8 was introduced. Laurence explained that the cost estimate for Maple St has more accurate numbers, now, and these costs are up. Roger is wondering why we are spending more money and time [for bridge#26] if we just built a modern bridge over Haw Creek in Lincoln Park.

Roger asked about another historic bridge a number of years ago that Danny said was recycled. Danny said that was recycled before these new preservation requirements that now exist. Resolution 2014-8: Rick motioned to adopt, Jorge seconded, approved unanimously.

Rick was concerned that the city was in control of the money [for the Travel Demand Model], so he thought if the city did not want it, they could stop it. Michelle emphasized that the Policy Board is the decision making body. CAMPO Policy Board is the body that makes the decision, and it's a final decision -- the decision that FHWA & FTA recognize.

The mayor described the general practice as going through standard city practices like the Board of Works for approvals. Her question is more on the administrative aspects of CAMPO, and not the construction-project dollars. The mayor pointed out that this money is appropriated which is a city decision. Ryan thought that this body should make recommendations to those who would appropriate local dollars to match the federal money. Michelle and Tony emphasized that documents like the Statement of Work should indicate to the Board members what the MPO is going to do so the membership can approve the 20% knowing what is CAMPO is going to do.

Jorge understands that this money for the Travel Demand Model had been allocated in previous years and was encumbered for it. The mayor explained that this \$200,000 was never explicitly requested, but Laurence has found money across a number of years to find the money. Laurence explained that the Travel Demand Model was explicitly described and funding attached to a Travel Demand Model in the amount about \$180,000 in the 2013-2014 Statement of Work budget. Laurence pointed out that this was approved by the Policy Board, and that the city ordinance that sets up CAMPO as a department specifically states that the policies of CAMPO are set by CAMPO Policy Board and not by the city.

That CAMPO is to function as a regional planning agency, and that is why all local planning entities are on the board, and he is obligated to do what the board wants.

The mayor stated that the city would budget a \$200,000 contract in a single budget year, even if it were a multi-year contract. She would like everything to go through the CAMPO board rather than through the city's process, like the claims. Tony emphasized that the MPO Board is fiscally responsible, and that the 80% federal dollars is the Board's responsibility. Tony says FTA and FHWA are looking to make sure that the MPO Board is making the decision for the federal dollars. Michelle indicated that MPOs do things in many different ways in other communities, and many are tied to cities similar to Columbus to help with the administrative work. Ryan sees it as the MPO Board makes a recommendation, and it should be held in high regard by the matching-fund members, and it should not be undone by another body.

Tony pointed out the when the MPO Board makes a decision, they should already know that the local match is already available. Jorge felt that without a Travel Demand Model, how are we going to know what are good solutions to the SR46/RR issue? Zack asked for adjournment, Rick motioned and Jorge seconded. Meeting adjourned.