



RTPO Technical Advisory Committee  
Monday, March 2, 2020

**Members present:** Louis Agresta, Tam Blakely, Brad Bodenmiller, Tyler Bumbalough, Scott Coleman, Steve McCall, Heather Martin, Glen Massie, Regina Rollins, Melanie Runkle, Scott Schmid, Ben Wiltheiss

**Absent member:** Gary Ledford and Tim Notestine.

**Guests present:** Doug Crabill, City of Urbana; Michelle Caserta-Bixler, Catholic Social Services; Michael Kerns, Logan County Engineer's Office.

The Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:30 am by Tyler Bumbalough.

**New Business:**

1. Welcome and Introductions were completed.
2. December 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes
  - Steve McCall moved a motion to accept the minutes as written and Ben Wiltheiss seconded. All in favor.
3. Planning Work Program (PWP) Update
  - Scott Schmid reported on this item. This looks a lot like the current PWP. This year the current federal funds will be the same amount as the last year. We're estimating carrying forward \$24,000. Most of the work product has been broad but there are some specific activities. The first three will be related to developing the transportation improvement program: Title VI Compliance, Environmental Justice Plan, and Public Participation Plan, making sure we get plenty of public input. There has been discussion about how to apply these with a two county RTPO in a three county RPC. In order to carry out the Federal Program you need these plans. I'd like to take the next five meetings and work on these. We will start with the Public Participation Plan at the next meeting. The following meeting, we will have the finalized document and then move it to the Executive Committee for adoption. I'll try to use your time wisely. The draft work program, under short range plan, is to develop alternative transportation improvement actions that address near-term needs.
  - Scott Coleman we won't need to spend a lot time on these because they're already spelled out.
    - Scott Schmid – Correct, we'll just start with what TCC has modify it.



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- Doug Crabill asked if Scott saw the recent title documentation that ODOT has sent out. Scott Schmid replied that he has.
- Scott Schmid reported for long range planning, the current plan will need updated. It will start the first of the calendar year with goals; objectives and strategies for the region with adoption in 2022.
- Scott Schmid reported for current task work – 601.2 – the Indian Lake Study is contracted out for \$49,000 and there is about \$27,000 outstanding. I have budgeted an additional \$45,000 in work; \$20,000 in the current fiscal year for task work; so around \$80,000 of consultant services. That sets aside the funds we need for our staff time; the rest will go to task force work.
- Scott Schmid shared an Indian Lake Stakeholder meeting will be held on March 25. Discussion happened regarding other potential projects discussed previously.
  - Ben Wiltheiss would like coordination with District 7.
  - Scott Coleman – Since the project came up for State Route 47/235 interchange, I've been getting a lot of messages. People question why work is happening there instead of State Route 274/33 interchange. Everyone around Indian Lake identifies 274/33 as a problem even though the accident rate isn't there. We've identified it's an issue, but we don't have a plan. Can we develop an interchange plan that would address those issues?
  - Scott Schmid – That intersection came up in four different discussions. Mary Hoy and I talked about just reducing the skew, because you're looking backwards at the stop signs. The challenge is trying to change geometry. Sometimes it's better to just do a high-speed roundabout. This intersection comes up in discussions, no matter how much you look at the current data. Mary seemed interested in a base level feasibility study which we could take on without too much work. Who could apply for safety funds if its two state routes?
    - Scott Coleman – The safety funds are available, but we have to have a project to apply.
    - Scott Schmid – We have some preliminary data; I don't think it would take a lot of work to do three different safety alternatives.
    - Scott Coleman – If they're working on something internally, should we try to move forward?
    - Ben Wiltheiss – I don't think they're working on something.
    - Scott Schmid – For something this big, would it have to have full analysis?
      - Ben Wiltheiss – It would have to be a feasibility study.
      - Scott Schmid – Does it need a full one?

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- Ben Wiltheiss – Recommended solution with ECAT and cost estimates.
- Scott Schmid – Any issue with me working with District 7 to task a feasibility study in house?
- Scott Coleman – They'll still remain in their priority listing? This would be behind 247/Dow Avenue?
- Brad Bodenmiller – How would it rank for prioritization?
  - Scott Schmid – It could be very simplistic that we could package in house. We can always get a new count. I don't think it will be more than \$10,000 and we can limit them to that.
  - Scott Coleman – I don't have a problem with the priority listed here.
  - Steve McCall – A few years ago we had a full list of priorities. Our stakeholders met last month to discuss areas and we have several corridors we're going to begin working on but others that have had nothing scheduled. The only one I was worried about was 36/814.
  - Scott Schmid – If we can limit to work with the district.
  - Doug Crabill – I think that any study work done should translate into a project; the pot is not that big and there should be commitment to advance those projects and not to just do studies.
    - Scott Schmid – That's why the district is important. There's nothing to stop the Engineer from applying for funds.
    - Doug Crabill – If there's a documented safety issue then we should be focusing on these. For the Indian Lake Study it doesn't seem like too much is coming out of that. I'm all for spreading the money. I want something that will have end projects.
    - Scott Coleman – We might as well not spend money if ODOT won't advance it.
    - Brad Bodenmiller – I'd lean-back on the Transportation Study and if it was mentioned in there as a priority, it should be included.
    - Steve McCall – When we did a hazard index, many came out the same.
- Doug Crabill – There's a big safety pot and we should advance the project.
  - Scott Schmid – Spending \$10,000 to examine the feasibility of applying is a good step to determine if it should advance.

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- Louis Agresta – Sometimes you need a study saying something needs to happen to get the buy in from the area.
- Tyler Bumbalough – On the hazard indexing document, that intersection doesn't follow-up.
- Scott Schmid will follow-up with the District and if there's a good feeling he will look at a feasibility study for that area; and we'll have another TAC meeting before the safety meeting so we can come back and discuss it as well.
- State Routes 68/55 –
  - Doug Crabill – Our signalization system needs updated. It's equipment; replacing signal heads and cabinets and equipment failure.
    - Scott Schmid – Do you think we could chase that through task work for safety?
    - Doug Crabill – We've talked about doing a 68 study and a 36 study. From safety, #7, won't be anything other than a signalized intersection. Ours are looking more like small cities to do some signal replacement.
    - Scott Schmid – Let's see if we can't attract some task force work; the downside is you don't get to pick who does the work.
- Scott Schmid – State Route 287 – Ben Vollrath has emailed about this. With the US33 Long Range Plan, that was supposed to look at side access points as well. Will they be looking at that? Is that something we don't want to duplicate?
  - Ben Wiltheiss – I think they're wanting something more immediate.
  - Scott Coleman – It's for NEX. I don't know that it's been touched on in the corridor plan.
  - Scott Schmid – We need to reach out to the consultant to see if it's included.
  - Brad Bodenmiller – That area is not in the Traffic plan that was developed.
  - Scott Coleman – As far as NEX proceeding with a turn or bypass lane, they can hire someone to do the counts.
  - Scott Schmid – I thought there was a parking issue?
  - Scott Coleman – That's at Midwest Express and I've reached out to the State Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Office about ticketing. NEX needs a lane for a left turn. I did not receive feedback from the Sheriff or Highway Patrol so I'm not sure if they'll ticket those trucks.
- State Route 47/292 – Mary's working on it.
- State Route 47/Dow Avenue – Scott Schmid will see if Tim Notestine needs help; with the hospital coming down Dow; it's pretty highspeed. It's a weird area; it's in the 2015 Plan.
- State Route 540 turn lane – Scott Schmid will follow up with Tim Notestine on it.

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- Scott Schmid – This is a draft and will go to Executive Committee in May for approval.
4. RTIP
- Scott Schmid reported on this item. We listed the projects. We just do the items and put them in there. They are all in the TIP already. This is documentation showing how the RTPO is working. There's a section on public involvement. There will be a public involvement meeting on March 31 from 4-6 at the LUC office. That document will be on display there. We have a plan to publicize it. This will go to the Executive Committee in May for adoption and will begin July 1.
5. ODOT Safety Program
- Scott Schmid reported on this. ODOT announced anything funded will not require a local match. We need to make sure that we're suggesting safety methods known to be effective. Projects have to be safety, not maintenance related. Projects under \$500,000 can be a quick study; projects over require more. Scott Schmid provided a list of intersections from ODOT. You don't need to concentrate on places that are high crash, but it would help. Regional priorities should get some play statewide. We want to make sure that we're keeping high priorities but we're addressing it with countermeasures.
    - Louis Agresta asked about areas close to the Urbana roundabout?
      - Scott Schmid – All are adjacent to the roundabout.
      - Doug Crabill – It's just the congestion going into the square.
      - Tyler Bumbalough provided clarification on a couple areas.
  - Scott Schmid provided further information on the hazard index list for roads around Huntsville
  - Steve McCall – I forwarded a study to Mary Hoy. They were talking about the low-cost improvements that could be done at those intersections, but I've been pushing for more than that.
  - Scott Coleman – On this safety list, so that's 14-16 data, can that be updated?
    - Scott Schmid – We're at a midpoint of updating them. This will be updated. We attempt every two years before the data gets too stale. So, you probably won't see too much of a shift.
  - Scott Schmid – Make sure to coordinate with district folks and this group to advance projects. We're assuming that we're aiming for the fall safety submittal to have a decent list of projects to advance; it's a good time to take advantage of it if you have any safety projects.
  - Doug Crabill – We're going to submit our trail study as a safety project; it's under \$500,000.

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## 6. Project Updates

- Urbana
  - Miami Street and North Main Street Trail Crossing Study
    - Tyler Bumbalough – We're taking that forward for safety money.
  - High Street
    - We'll be doing an RFP.
  - School
    - Will be moving it forward with safety improvements.
- Bellefontaine
  - No updates were available
- Logan County
  - Indian Lake Study
    - There is a March 26 stakeholder meeting. Preliminary report shows Sunnyside improvements.
  - Smart Corridor Extension
    - Brad Bodenmiller provided an update regarding this. The Logan County group has decided not to move forward at the moment.
    - Scott Coleman reported there are some difficulties with the current 33 project so they're waiting to see how that plays out before they expand it.
    - Doug Crabill – I noticed that they're just now putting in the junction boxes; to this point the fiber has just been fiber running down the highway that couldn't function as anything; it needs to be proven more.
      - Discussion happened regarding this further.
- Champaign County
  - Steve McCall thanked TCC for their participation in the Safety Plan. ODOT is paying for a study for our top section. We're looking at doing a couple more projects out of this, we'll see where the money is going to coming from. I'm looking at 10 years' worth of data.

## 7. Mobility Management and Transit Updates

- Tam Blakely – I have two major things. Logan County transit and RTC transit have combined and expanded their hours. Once they get more

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drivers hired, they can cover the hours they're open. Also, the Office of Transit has regionalized transportation and Logan County was in Region 2 under MVRPC. We've decided to move to Region 6 under MORPC. Logan County is moving towards Columbus and the Commissioners already had some agreements with MORPC.

- Doug Crabill asked for a group meeting regarding the 68-freight study.
  - Discussion happened regarding this item. The meeting will just be for a small group of Champaign County people.

**Adjourn:** Steve McCall moved a motion to adjourn the RTPO Technical Advisory Committee meeting and Scott Coleman seconded. All in favor.

**Next Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be June 1, 2020, at TCN, 9:30 am.

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