

Indianapolis MPO Executive Committee
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom

Committee Members Present

Dennis Buckley – City of Beech Grove	Dan Parker – City of Indianapolis
Inez Evans – IndyGo	Jason Taylor – City of Fishers
Eric Wathen – Hendricks County	

* = Proxy

Committee Members Absent

Mark Heirbrandt – Hamilton County	Andrew Klinger – Town of Plainfield
Andy Cook – City of Westfield	Town Representative (Vacant Seat)

* = Proxy

Others Present

Anna Gremling – MPO	Sean Northup – MPO
Nick Badman – MPO	Steve Cunningham – MPO
Jen Higginbotham – MPO	Danielle Gerlach – MPO
Annie Dixon – MPO	Kristyn Sanchez – MPO
Rose Scovel – MPO	Deandre Rhodes – CIRTA
Robert Dirks – FHWA	Dan Silverman – WSP

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Anna Gremling called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the members. She said that due to the absence of the committee’s chair, someone had to be elected to lead the committee meeting.

Member	Result	Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve	Beech Grove	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve	Hendricks County	Approve
Fishers	Approve	Town (vacant)	-
Westfield	-	Plainfield	-
Hamilton	-		

<p>Dennis Buckley moved to allow Anna Gremling to lead the committee meeting Inez Evans seconded the motion. Anna Gremling was elected to lead the June 26, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting. MOTION PASSES.</p>
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ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (SEEKING APPROVAL)

Anna Gremling asked if any members had corrections for the May 22nd Administrative Committee Draft Minutes. There were none.

Member	Result	Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve	Beech Grove	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve	Hendricks County	Approve
Fishers	Approve	Town (vacant)	-
Westfield	-	Plainfield	-
Hamilton	-		

Eric Wathen moved to approve the May 22nd Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes as presented.
Jason Taylor seconded the motion.
 The May 22nd Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes were approved. MOTION PASSES.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE (RES. 2020-EXEC-001)

Anna Gremling said the first item included in this resolution is a license agreement that allows for an 18-month lease with the City of Indianapolis. This would allow the Indianapolis MPO to remain in the Indianapolis City County Building as they continue to develop as an independent organization. The second item is a contract for Bicycle Indiana to administer the Pedal and Park program, a program that allows for secure valet bicycle parking at major events in Central Indiana.

Dan Parker said that because of his employment with the City of Indianapolis he would have to recuse himself from voting on the lease agreement portion of the resolution. He suggested splitting the resolution into two separate parts.

Member	Result	Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve	Beech Grove	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve	Hendricks County	Approve
Fishers	Approve	Town (vacant)	-
Westfield	-	Plainfield	-
Hamilton	-		

Eric Wathen moved to split Resolution 2020-EXEC-001 into two separate items for approval.
Inez Evans seconded the motion.
 Resolution 2020-EXEC-001 was separated into two separate items for approval. MOTION PASSES.

Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve
Fishers	Approve
Westfield	-
Hamilton	-

Member	Result
Beech Grove	Approve
Hendricks County	Approve
Town (vacant)	-
Plainfield	-

Eric Wathen moved to approve the Pedal and Park contract portion of the resolution.
Dan Parker seconded the motion.
The Pedal and Park portion of Resolution 2020-EXEC-001 was approved. MOTION PASSES.

Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve
Fishers	Approve
Westfield	-
Hamilton	-

Member	Result
Beech Grove	Approve
Hendricks County	Approve
Town (vacant)	-
Plainfield	-

Dennis Buckley moved to table the license agreement portion of the resolution.
Jason Taylor seconded the motion.
The license agreement portion of Resolution 2020-EXEC-001 was tabled. MOTION PASSES.

4. FISCAL AGENT FOR RDA (RES. 2020-EXEC-004, RES. 2020-EXEC-005)

Sean Northup said under the new structure, state statute allows the Executive Committee to serve as fiscal agent for staffing and financial decisions for the Indianapolis MPO. Other boards can also sit under the Executive Committee. At the previous Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) board meeting, the Authority passed a resolution that would allow the Executive Committee to be the fiduciary agent for the RDA, allowing approval of contracts, budgets, and staff time. **Jason Taylor** asked if there was anything the Executive Committee should have any concerns with holding the role as the RDA’s fiduciary agent. **Anna Gremling** said the RDA was originally created to go after a \$25 million grant, which they never received, so they seem to have little direction. However, now that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is in motion, they now have more direction and work items. The Authority is also a regional organization and it would be better for the MPO as a whole to have more coordination and data sharing between the organizations.

Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve
Fishers	Approve
Westfield	-
Hamilton	-

Member	Result
Beech Grove	Approve
Hendricks County	Approve
Town (vacant)	-
Plainfield	-

Jason Taylor moved to approve Resolution 2020-EXEC-004.
Dennis Buckley seconded the motion.
The IRTC Executive Committee approved Resolution 2020-EXEC-004. MOTION PASSES.

Anna Gremling introduced a walk-on resolution, Resolution 2020-EXEC-005. This resolution is approval of a letter of support for Hamilton County Tourism’s grant application to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance funds. These funds would improve technology to allow for more remote meeting opportunities and creation of virtual content that would allow the agency to continue to bring in revenue. **Eric Wathen** asked if the region needed to be designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) to apply for these funds. **Gremling** said that there were exceptions under the CARES Act that allowed entities to apply for grant funding without existing within an EDD.

Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve
Fishers	Approve
Westfield	-
Hamilton	-

Member	Result
Beech Grove	Approve
Hendricks County	Approve
Town (vacant)	-
Plainfield	-

Jason Taylor moved to approve Resolution 2020-EXEC-005.
Eric Wathen seconded the motion.
The IRTC Executive Committee approved Resolution 2020-EXEC-005. MOTION PASSES.

STATUS REPORTS

5. **BYLAWS – NEXT UPDATE**

Anna Gremling said staff had conducted research into what other MPOs have been doing for their Executive Committee representation. **Annie Dixon** presented a sample of MPOs that were reviewed, which included Arlington, Texas, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Boston, Milwaukee, and Los Angeles. The different methods of representation included various thresholds in population, jurisdiction type, and geographic boundaries.

Dan Parker asked what option the current executive committee is most similar to. **Gremling** was unsure which option was closest, and that more work needs to be done to refine the option that were presented. **Parker** also expressed concern about the Executive Committee growing too large and asked if anyone had requested that Anna look into expanding the committee's membership. **Gremling** said there were not calls to expand the committee, but there were requests to look into other models of representation. **Sean Northup** also noted that subcommittee chairs will also have seats on the executive board. **Jason Taylor** asked if the committee needed to start having discussion now about any expansions to the MPA boundary and any new jurisdictions that would be coming into the organization. **Gremling** said this could wait until the new boundaries are presented in 2021 or 2022. She also said the MPO needs to clarify how to treat surprise vacancies on the board. There were conversations that one year of experience with the MPO was required before serving on the Executive Committee. **Gremling** was doubtful that this requirement should be instituted.

6. 5307/5311

Anna Gremling said in December 2018, INDOT realized that suburban transit providers were using rural transit funds (5311 dollars) for trips that took place in urbanized areas. The MPO requested that INDOT delay shifting funding away from the providers until the new census numbers are released. INDOT agreed, but asked the MPO to come up with new funding recommendations. **Jen Higginbotham** showed that a majority of trips being served by suburban transit providers are urban-to-urban trips. There are some rural-to-urban trips and almost no rural-to-rural trips. Johnson, Shelby, and Brown Counties operate together and Morgan and Hendricks Counties operate together. She then highlighted how 5307 funds (transit funding for urban areas) are typically distributed directly to the region by the FTA. 5311 funds (transit funding for rural areas) are given to the state, who then distributes them among local providers. **Higginbotham** then presented multiple options on how 5307 funds can be distributed among the region's transit providers. All options include a loss for at least some of the operators.

Another issue is the limitations imposed on the suburban transit operators based on their non-profit status. In order to directly receive 5307 funding without a procurement process, urban transit providers have to exist as either governmental entities or public transportation corporations to receive 5307 funds. **Higginbotham** highlighted the different administrative structure options for distributing funds.

7. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Anna Gremling wanted to make sure the committee was aware that new RDA legislation was passed for the State of Indiana when the MPO's legislation was also passed. There is an opportunity that a new RDA could be created and legislation could change again during the current session.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Anna Gremling updated the committee on a change in benefit leave for the MPO's staff. The City of Indianapolis required the MPO to pay out any benefit leave that remained for an employee on May 31st, so the MPO prorated leave for staff from June 2020 to January 2021. Instead, the City included June 2020's leave as well, so the prorated leave was reduced by one month's accrual.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Anna Gremling said at the June 1st Joint Committee meeting, she was given permission to enter into an agreement with INDOT to allow the federal exchange. There was a new federal transportation bill introduced in the House of Representatives, which requires Davis-Bacon contractor and prevailing wage requirements for projects funded by federal exchange dollars. There is a slim chance that it will be passed before the election, but it is something LPAs should be aware of. The MPO will be contracting a federal lobbyist and MPO leadership may visit Washington DC this year to meet with congressional members. A subcommittee may also be formed to explore impacts. **Dan Parker** said the intent is to make sure that people are not going around Davis-Bacon requirements. **Jason Taylor** and **Eric Wathen** agree that this reduces the benefits of getting a reduced exchange amount from INDOT. **Parker** raised the point that all major contractors in the region currently pay union wages already, so that would not change if it became a requirement. **Taylor** said that it still gives him pause just because it can make projects more cumbersome. **Robert Dirks** expressed concern that this could extend to other federal requirements including NEPA and ROW.

Gremling also said CIRT A is hiring for an Executive Director position. **Parker** said the City of Indianapolis has withdrawn financial support for CIRT A and at this moment in time, it seems to him that the Executive Committee needs to charge the MPO Executive Director to engage with CIRT A on this topic. He expressed his concern over duplication of planning work between CIRT A and the MPO and believes that the planning functions of the Agency should be housed under the MPO. **Wathen** and **Inez Evans** agreed. **Parker** believes transit operations can continue under CIRT A, but planning functions should be wrapped into the MPO. **Gremling** wanted to clarify what role exactly the MPO should have. **Parker** said that there should be conversations of having **Gremling** submit her name to be Executive Director and find a way to streamline planning work in the region. **Wathen** said he agrees. **Gremling** said she understands, but CIRT A is a transit operator, which is something the MPO is not interested in doing long term. She then asked **Annie Dixon** if there were any questions about CIRT A she could answer, as a former CIRT A employee. **Dixon** said there are six full-time staff members. They currently operate three small fixed-routes (two in Plainfield and one in Whitestown) that are funded with economic improvement districts, and the carpool and vanpool programs that are funded with MPO programs. Fixed route service is contracted out to entities selected through procurement by CIRT A. **Dennis Buckley** said that he had previously asked **Evans** if IndyGo could provide the same services as CIRT A. She said that they could. **Parker** again clarified that the committee should separate operations from administrative functions and fold planning under the MPO. **Gremling** said the MPO is happy to take one the planning functions and believes that IndyGo would be better suited for the transit operations that CIRT A provides. **Sean Northup** thinks that **Parker** draws an important distinction between operations and administration. He said it appeared to him that CIRT A’s board expressed interest in moving planning items under the MPO, but their board is apprehensive to hand operations over to IndyGo. **Parker** asked if most of their funding comes from the MPO. **Gremling** said that they are mostly funded by CMAQ grants, in addition to 5307 and CARES Act funding. **Parker** said the committee should explore creating a resolution that allows the MPO Executive Director to engage in conversations with CIRT A in combining administrative services and submit their name for Executive Director of CIRT A to consolidate administrative functions. (motion by Parker), Second by Evans. Buckley, Evans, Parker, Taylor, Wathen. Motion Passes.

Member	Result	Member	Result
IndyGo	Approve	Beech Grove	Approve
Indianapolis	Approve	Hendricks County	Approve
Fishers	Approve	Town (vacant)	-
Westfield	-	Plainfield	-
Hamilton	-		

Dan Parker moved to allow the MPO Executive Director to engage with CIRT A on consolidating planning functions under the Indianapolis MPO.
Inez Evans seconded the motion.
The IRTC Executive Committee approved motion moved to allow the MPO Executive Director to engage with CIRT A on consolidating planning functions under the Indianapolis MPO. MOTION PASSES.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Dennis Buckley moved to adjourn the meeting.
Inez Evans seconded the motion.
The Administrative Committee voted in favor of adjournment at 11:02 a.m.