

INDOT ADA Community Advisory Working Group
May 13, 2015
Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

Erin Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Hancock County Public Library located at 900 W. McKenzie Road, Greenfield, IN 46140.

Members Present:

Orion Bell, Melissa Effinger, Matt Norris, Allen Piening, Lori Rushin and Mary Schaffer were present.

Members Absent:

Floyd Amburgey, Melody Cooper, Erica Macke, Rod McAfoos, Lenard Miller, Cody Mullen, Cathy Gross, and Jordy Stringer.

Also in attendance:

Erin Hall and Libby Crawford of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Addison Pollock of Healthy by Design, Jeremiah Shirk of Indianapolis, Rick Marquis, Ken Woodruff and Eryn Fletcher of FHWA, and Charles Schaffer.

The members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background.

II. Adoption of Minutes

The Working Group adopted the minutes of the February 2015 meeting.

III. Update on INDOT's Transition Plan

Erin Hall notified the Working Group the Transition Plan was near completion and would be provided to FHWA and circulated to all working group members the first week of June 2015. A brief presentation of the plan was provided. She requested working group members provide their comments and feedback on the plan document, even while it is pending FHWA approval. Member comments included ensuring individuals with various disabilities be provided the opportunity to give feedback on INDOT's plan and that coordination with local advocacy groups be enhanced to ensure the vision of the plan is carried out.

IV. Intersection Safety Discussion

Erin presented a hypothetical intersection situation to the working group members where safety was a concern for pedestrian travel. This intersection had multiple lanes of traffic along one side and various options for pedestrian navigation of the intersection were presented.

Working group members felt that safety concerns should guide the design of the intersection but that even a challenging intersection such as this should be made pedestrian accessible in the safest manner possible without compromising accessibility. There was concern about having pedestrians crossing the more than eight lanes of traffic present having to queue up on an island in the middle of the road and whether or not this could be made safe for pedestrians.

An attendee from the City of Indianapolis discussed that safety has been a driving factor in their intersection analysis and that they would look at not bringing pedestrians into an unsafe intersection and possible rerouting the traffic to the south side of the intersection where a crossing would not be as dangerous.

All in all, while safety might impact the design of the pedestrian facilities as the intersection no one felt that providing no accessibility for pedestrians through a high-use interchange was the solution. Thus, while bringing east-west pedestrian travel along the south side only vs. both the north and south sides was acceptable, rerouting all pedestrian traffic an entire block to the south before they were able to cross in an east-west direction was not.

Again, working group member Mary Schaffer emphasized that obtaining input on situations like these from those with various disabilities, (mobility challenges, visual impairment, etc.) would

be important as INDOT addresses challenging situations to pedestrian traffic flow design.

V. Discuss Changes to the Technical Advisory Committee

Erin Hall discussed changes to the Technical Advisory Committee's operation and the development of a SharePoint portal where INDOT personnel would be able to access determinations of the committee by topic and by location.

There were no comments about this topic.

VI. Public Comments

There were no public comments although public meeting members participated in the discussion throughout and Addison Pollock expressed interest in early receipt of the meeting agenda in order to assist INDOT in fostering greater meeting attendance. Also, committee member Orion Bell inquired as to INDOT's interest in obtaining a speaker at these meetings and Erin Hall indicated that she would take it under advisement until the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.