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Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA)

October 11, 2022, 9:00am

American Structurepoint

9025 River Road, suite 200

Indianapolis, IN 46240

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| **Board Members Present:** | | **Board Members Not Present** | **CIRTA Staff Present** |
| Ann Sheidler | Jerry Bridges (V) |  | Amanda Meyer |
| Larry Hesson | Greg Henneke | Mayor Cook | Sarah Troutman |
| Ron Deer  Christine Altman | Linda Sanders  Marta Moody (V) |  | Berrie Rupert (V)  Allison Steinke |
| Bill Ehret | Nathan Messer |  | Sarah Kendall (V) |
| Robert Waggoner | Andrew Klineman  Don Adams |  |  |
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Board meeting was called to order at 9:07am by B. Ehret

**Introductions**

A. Meyer began introductions around the room and ensured a quorum was present.

**Resolution #2022-10-11-01– Adoption of Consent Agenda**

*J. Bridges made a motion to accept the consent agenda items. L. Sanders seconded. No oppositions, the motion was carried.*

**Resolution #2022-10-11-02 – Resolution to approve payment to Altman, Poindexter and Wyatt invoice**

*L. Hesson made a motion to approve, N. Messer seconded. C. Altman sustained; the motion was carried. C. Altman noted that since she has retired, she does not have to sustain moving forward.*

**Resolution #2022-10-11-03 – Resolution to approve American Structurepoint Invoices**

*D. Adams made a motion to approve, L. Sanders seconded. G. Henneke sustained. The motion was carried.*

**Draft Budget**

Julie Crossley with Resultant went over the draft budget. She had an excel sheet onscreen for everyone to look over. The draft budget was also in the board packet. CIRTA will see a net positive. The Mobility Manager position has an $80,000 placeholder. Jen has a good candidate for this position. There is a proposed 5% cost of living increase plus a onetime 3% cost of living bonus for staff excluding the Mobility Manager position. Julie said the final budget will be voted on in December.

C. Altman asked if the 5% and 3% were supposed to be flipped.

B. Ehret stated no. We took examples from other firms, and this is very consistent.

**Legislative Update**

Rick Cockrum said it has been a quiet summer and all eyes are on November 8th. There have been no transportation committees meeting. The biggest issue is lane mile vs. linear mile in Central Indiana. He introduced Patrick Tamm. Patrick represents restaurants, hotels, and transportation. Rick said Pat was hired to make sure nothing is missed during short sessions and to watch for transportation issues.

R. Deer as for the elevator pitch for lane miles debate

R. Cockrum stated roads twice as wide should get more money. 6 Mayors from Central Indiana all agreed they are getting short changed. Marion County receives $2 for every $1 put in whereas City of Indianapolis gets $0.18 for every $1.

**Commuter Connect Update**

Amanda Meyer noted that Jennifer Gebhard is sick and unable to attend today's meeting. She reminded everyone that the next board meeting will be IN PERSON only as it is the budget meeting. Amanda then went into the Commuter Connect updates.

Amanda talked about our Car Free Day Indy 2022 that was held 9/22/22 at the City Market. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett rode his bike from up north and spoke and gave us a signed proclamation. We had several community partners at the event and WISH TV was there all morning and interviewed Jennifer. Fox 59 had interviewed Amanda in the week leading up to Car Free Day Indy, as well. Radio Stations ZPL and Hank FM also heavily promoted the event. We added almost 50 commuters that day alone. Berrie Rupert represented us on the IUPUI campus in the weeks leading up to and the day of Car Free Day Indy.

Amanda next talked about how the team will focus on some fun outings with an educational twist, that will help us perform even better in our roles and speak from personal experience to our commuters. For example, in October we will have a new scooter/ebike company called Veo out to train the team on their scooters and bikes and to allow us to demo them. In November, we will have the chance to demo the Pacer’s Bikeshare bikes around our city.

The outreach team is focused on attending various company’s Open Enrollment meetings and setting up tables at employers to educate employees of their transportation benefits.

Sarah Kendall is doing wonderful as our new Vanpool Coordinator. We have multiple leads that she has been working on and will hopefully be adding additional vans through these efforts very soon. She is working to further connect with our current employers that have Vanpools with us, and even went to an All-Hands meeting on a Saturday to speak to their staff and try to add additional vanpools at their location.

Since our last meeting we added an additional school that is taking advantage of this great program. Also, Sarah Troutman sent letters that went out to nearly 150 schools in Central Indiana to educate them on how School Pool can benefit their schools, especially those with transportation challenges. Sarah has been sending follow up emails and making calls to ensure we answer any of their questions and add additional schools. Also, Amanda was interviewed on Fox 59 Morning News to discuss how School Pool with CIRTA can help schools and families around Central Indiana.

Web Traffic/ Social Traffic/Digital Report:

* The “Register Now” page received 7,231 page views during this period, with 154 users completing sign up.
* Website traffic during this period was higher than normal. This is due in part to paid media efforts and outreach efforts running to support Car Free Day which encouraged people to Register.
* Our volume of total sessions is going up along with engaged sessions. This is promising to see that users continue to find our site content engaging and are view multiple pages.

Overall stats and goals, as of October 6th, 2022

* + 8,396 commuters in the database
  + 367 new commuters registered since our August meeting
* 83% of commuters are active for matching, which is up 1% from our previous meeting (goal is 65%)
* 27 vanpools (reactivated 3 the last board meeting)
* All Bike Guides are paired with a Bike Buddy, and we continue to promote the program to add more participants.

B. Ehret stated he stopped by Car Free Day Indy in the 11-1 timeframe and heard the mayor speak. There are photos from the day in the board packet. He also asked Amanda about the upcoming community events.

A Meyer stated there is a list in the board packet of upcoming events so please check them out if you’re in the area.

**Mobility Management Update**

Philip Roth started with he and Jennifer have a promising candidate to fill the Mobility Management position. Philip went on to let the board know he is working on the rebidding for the Workforce Connector routes. Pre-bid conference will be held October 19th at noon. The written questions are due by 10/26 and written answers due 10/28. The bid opens 11/11 at noon. There are no changes currently to the routes, but they are in discussion for after the rebid. There is currently no timeline on changes. He submitted the PMTF grant. Philip and Jennifer have started the County Connect meetings again.

G. Henneke asked if Philip expects a lot of vendors for the IFB?

P. Roth explained he is not sure. It is still questionable if Miller will rebid

G. Henneke asked how many vendors there will be

P. Roth responded with 3 or 4.

B. Ehret stated historically that has been the case.

G. Henneke asked if that is because of driver shortages.

B. Ehret stated that all the companies share drivers.

N. Messer added that Whitestown is looking for long term. Maybe we buy our own bus and contract out the driving. We could buy two buses each, plus a sub in case a bus is down. There are lots of options. Whitestown wants the Connector to be permanent. We are also looking at a hot route from Downtown Indy up that runs all day. That way people who work downtown or want to go out at night can use the bus. Expanding it is a better permanent solution. Also utilizing vanpools.

C. Altman stated CIRTA would qualify for the equipment under what?

J. Bridges stated CIRTA would apply through the State 5310.

P. Roth added 5307 capitol. There are some advantages to owning equipment. Right now, we can’t get passenger counts. There is a lag time to get vehicles, 18 months to two years. This is a good long-term solution.

N. Messer said he didn’t want to be locked into a three-year contract if we are going to buy our own equipment.

C. Altman asked what is the split?

P. Roth answered 80/20

C. Altman stated we should qualify for a grant for the equipment

P. Roth answered yes

N. Messer stated that would be good. The ridership fees are a drop in the bucket. We could waive them for awhile and own the buses and add stops

B. Ehret stated Kansas City doesn’t charge for their shuttles

C. Kelley added well said Nate. We have had good conversations regarding attracting and keeping talent. We have to figure out how to do this. Miller has presented us with a great opportunity to figure this out long term

R. Deer asked Philip to go back to County Connect. What is going on with that?

P. Roth stated that the meetings have been reinstated and that IndyGo is much more active. Jennifer is asking about if the counties are doing intercounty connections.

R. Deer asked about the consulting company that is looking into this.

B. Ehret stated that is SRF Consulting. They were hired to look at the region.

J. Higginbotham (IMPO) said she is familiar with them. SRF will be coordinating calls for Central Indiana.

B. Ehret stated SRF has been reaching out to the counties for collaboration. They have presented a few updates at previous board meetings.

G. Henneke stated the most exciting part is Jennifer has been figuring out how to work closely with IMPO, IndyGo, and County Connect and it will be great to work together. It’s truly an exciting time.

B. Ehret Jennifer was on a panel for the Hancock Co. Economic Development, and she was impressive. The Commissioner was impressed. Hancock County is the next logical step, and I was glad to she her there.

G. Henneke stated it’s not just Jennifer’s leadership but also working with her staff.

L. Hesson said he had three questions. Are you considering an escalator cause to increase wages and fuel for the RFP?

P. Roth said yes, 5% per each year renewed. That will not come into play because we should rebid next year.

L. Hesson asked where are we with ADA compliance?

P. Roth stated it is tied to are we commuter or motor bus. Commuter has more flexibility. NTD is not equivalent to FTA. We used to have an agreement with Hendricks County Senior Services that they would provide transport if needed.

L. Hesson asked if the routes can be expanded, and will that create problems with the EID?

P. Roth stated that is up to the EID’s themselves. If the routes expand the EID might have a problem. They want to be a partner in what alignments look like.

N. Messer stated Whitestown would prefer the public using the routes. We would rather have 300 customers going to The Shops at Whitestown than 5 employees.

C. Kelley stated in Plainfield there are a number of multi-family and retail on route. Indiana Code states that the shuttle has to benefit businesses within the districts. That includes apartments and retail. If we wanted the bus to run into downtown Plainfield, we couldn’t do it because of the way code is written. We could have another EID; there are ways around it. The code is written to be difficult.

P. Roth said EID as funding source is best for the Workforce Connectors but not well suited for Commuter Transit.

L. Hesson stated that the problem in Plainfield is there is very strong opposition to public transit. Mike Young advocated for that.

R. Cockrum added EID’s were under attack year ago. They wanted them eliminated. Let’s let the businesses decide.

C. Kelley responded exactly. We can’t expand boundaries. We had to do it completely over three years ago. Then go back and get 60% signatures and do the whole process over. It’s a total waste of time and money. We need to think outside the box.

B. Ehret stated this was a good discussion. Asked if there were any more questions or comments.

A. Meyer thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone again that our next meeting in December is at the CIRTA office in person.

**Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn meeting by G. Henneke and seconded by L. Hesson at 10:12 am.*

*All in attendance agreed.*