

Central Indiana Regional Development Authority
April 19, 2017
3:00 p.m.
Metropolitan Board of Realtors
1912 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN

Committee Members Present, Representing Quorum:

Tavonna Askew, City of Indianapolis
Keith Lauter, City of Greenwood
Chris Pryor, City of Carmel
Jack Russell, City of Westfield

Others Present:

Anna Gremling, MPO
Taylor Firestine, MPO
Sean Northup, MPO
Chris Steinmetz, City of Indianapolis, OCC
Mark Fisher, Indy Chamber
Cindy Benedict, Stones3 Resources LLC

I. Welcome and Introductions

Pryor called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and introductions were made.
Pryor proposed adjusting the agenda to allow **Fisher** to present first due to time.

II. Regional Cities Award Feedback / RDA Statehouse Update

Fisher noted that despite having the Regional Cities application with the highest ROI score, Central Indiana was not awarded a Regional Cities grant. This could be due, in part, to statistics showing Central Indiana as the fastest growing region in the state, making it less politically feasible to award Regional Cities funds to Central Indiana (the goal of the Regional Cities Initiative was to jumpstart quality of life projects to make communities more attractive for talent attraction/retention). There has been some pushback in the General Assembly's 2017 session to rollout a second round of Regional Cities funding and some questions on RDA powers (e.g. eminent domain, taxing authority, etc.). Large-scale funding opportunities should not be expected until the next state budget cycle. IEDC has proposed legislation to consolidate various tax credit programs (e.g. dinosaur tax credit) and entrusting more responsibility in regional development authorities.

Lauter asked if the Regional Cities Initiative's objective is to grow by attracting outside economic development. **Fisher** responded that 80 to 90 percent of Central Indiana's growth is occurring from the in-state migration at the expense of other regions. Stabilizing these regions is critical, which is why it was not politically feasible for Central Indiana to be awarded with Regional Cities funds. However, it is also unsustainable for Central Indiana to rely on in-state migration— "we need to compete on a national and global scale." As such, the Indy Chamber will continue to support Regional Cities, but will not likely make it a top

priority in future years.

Gremling asked **Fisher** what the Indy Chamber's thoughts were moving forward on an MPO/CIRDA strategic plan. **Fisher** encouraged those involved with the effort to think big and not leave anything outside of scope. It is also important that the CIRDA grow from five seats (currently limited by statute) to truly envelop the nine-county region.

Gremling asked if the Indy Chamber would be willing to help with legislative issues as well as opportunities for other planning grants. **Fisher** responded that the Chamber will help with legislative strategy and building consensus with regional elected officials. Though CIRDA was not awarded Regional Cities grants, the projects listed in its application continue to move forward: The legislature will be allocating \$20 million for the Bioscience Institute, the anchor tenant of 16Tech, and the Red Line continues moving forward with the approval of the Marion County Transit Plan funding stream. Fisher urged CIRDA members to be proactive in organization and updating regional development plan heading into the General Assembly's 2019 budget session, should the IEDC and General Assembly seek a second round of capital grants.

Northup asked **Fisher** whether legislators are tracking projects and successes of Regional Cities Award recipients. **Fisher** mentioned that legislators are increasingly moved by quality of life and talent attraction as economic development tools, instead of the traditional approaches of low cost, low regulation.

Pryor asked **Fisher** if there were any fears of losing future opportunities because the CIRDA missed out on the first round of Regional Cities funds. **Fisher** responded that this is not the case, as the CIRDA's submission fulfilled all of the original criteria. Regardless of Regional Cities funds, the projects highlighted in Central Indiana's application were going to progress.

III. *Meeting Minutes*

MOTION by Lauter to approve 1st quarter meeting minutes, SECOND by Russell.

IV. *Resolution 2017-RDA-001 Bylaws*

Pryor introduces first item for approval.

Gremling, taking place of **Ryan Wilhite** (MPO), summarizes the comment and review period for latest edits to the bylaws. There were two comments: one from the City of Lawrence on legal liability and indemnification and one from the City of Indianapolis on bonding. Responses to the two municipalities were accepted, with tweaks relating to bonding and formatting with the PDF.

Pryor asked for any further thoughts on the bylaws. **Askew** asked if the bylaws could include a review time. **Gremling** agreed that this can be included. **Pryor** asked **Steinmetz** if the CIRDA could pass the bylaws resolution with extra language for a review procedure. **Steinmetz** affirmed that the CIRDA can motion to approve the bylaws, subject to procedures

establishing review.

MOTION by Pryor to approve Resolution 2017-RDA-001 establishing CIRDA bylaws, SECOND by Russell.

- V. *Resolution 2017-RDA-004 Proposed 2017 Budget*
Pryor introduces second item for approval.

Northup summarizes the proposed budget for 2017. He notes that so far, costs have only occurred for MPO administration, with no funds drawn down yet. Estimated staff time and other expenses are listed with average pay rates. Tasks include bylaws completion, four quarterly meetings, three-year audit, strategic planning, education and outreach, annual report and public meeting notice composition, for a total of \$150,000. The second chart lists member dues, which will not be drawn until 2018. The CIRDA is 100 percent state funded in 2017 through a grant from the IEDC.

Pryor asked whether the \$50,000 allocated for strategic planning was going to be charged to a contractor or the state. **Northup** noted that it was be a contractor fee with staff time built in. **Lauter** asked how many firms were solicited in the strategic planning RFQ. **Gremling** mentioned that there were some 140.

MOTION by Pryor to approve Resolution 2017-RDA-004, SECOND by Russell.

- VI. *Resolution 2017-RDA-005 Indy MPO/CIRDA Strategic Plan*
Pryor introduces third item for approval.

Gremling laid out two approaches for approving the resolution. The CIRDA could schedule a May meeting prior to the third quarter meeting scheduled for July to approve the resolution, or it may authorize the MPO to enter into an agreement with a contractor with only the Chair and Vice Chair's signatures. No matter the option, the CIRDA will need a member to join the selection committee and help review strategic plan proposals.

Askew asked that since there is already representation from the City of Indianapolis, should a CIRDA member with a non-Indianapolis seat join the selection committee. **Gremling** answered to the affirmative. **Russell** agreed to assist on the selection committee.

Northup presents a PowerPoint outlining the MPO's 2013 Organizational Study findings and what the MPO/CIRDA strategic plan hopes to accomplish for both agencies, identifying their roles in regional governance.

Gremling noted that the CIRDA funds would be outlined in a separate contract from the MPO's within the strategic plan.

Pryor asked CIRDA members if the group was comfortable with the current resolution or if a

newly-scheduled meeting should be convened for the resolution's passage once a contractor is selected. **Lauter** said he felt comfortable ceding authority to Chair and Vice Chair. **Askew** said it would be more prudent to convene a May meeting. **Lauter** deferred to **Askew's** suggestion. **Gremling** said **Firestine** would be responsible for organizing a May meeting date.

MOTION by Askew to table Resolution 2017-RDA-005 to May meeting, SECOND by Lauter.

VII. *Resolution 2017-RDA-003 Stones3 Resources*

Pryor introduces fourth item for approval.

Gremling provided overview of resolution for education and engagement. She noted that the MPO has requested an extension to spend down IEDC funds after August deadline. She mentioned **Benedict** has been involved in much of the MPO's previous transit outreach and public engagement.

Benedict introduced herself and body of work, especially on the transit referendums, and walk through a demo of MetroQuest survey. **Askew** voiced concerns with the length of the survey and the number of clicks. She feared that it might be too time-consuming for most people to complete and questioned how it would reach people with no internet access. **Gremling** said that the MPO has successfully used MetroQuest on previous projects and it is considered an industry best practice for long range transportation, transit, etc. She also mentioned that interns will solicit feedback using iPads at target areas in the community. **Benedict** also noted that MetroQuest allows for rich input, especially as less people are attending public meetings.

Pryor asked what media the survey would be pushed out to. **Benedict** said newspapers, social media, and promotions and ad campaigns will target six different demographic groups (18+).

Pryor asked if these results will be made public. **Benedict** and **Gremling** responded that, no matter the outcome of the survey, the objective is to drum up talk on transit in the region.

Askew said it was important moving forward to emphasize why Marion County is not included in this effort (moot point due to the IndyGo transit plan's passage). **Gremling** agreed that this was important, as IEDC did not want funds from the grant used for Marion County.

Pryor asked if the CIRDA board members if they had any further questions or discussion on engaging Cindy in the contract. **Lauter** asked if any future referendums could pass without education and engagement. **Gremling** responded that education is key in making the public aware of transit. Being a part of the Marion County Transit Plan process, the MPO has experience and resources in education and engagement. **Russell** with its importance, pointing out that businesses in Hamilton County are struggling to fill jobs in Westfield and

Carmel due to transportation constraints of workforce in the region.

Pryor says he has previously worked with **Benedict** and feels comfortable engaging her in an outreach role. **Lauter** said he had no objections. **Askew** said she was not opposed, but noted that outreach must be fully engaged and representative of diverse populations. She also said that moving forward, there should be touchpoints throughout the process.

MOTION by Lauter to approve Resolution 2017-RDA-003, SECOND by Russell.

VIII. Adjournment

Steinmetz distributed copies of the proposed 2018 budget to be considered for approval at the next meeting.

Pryor adjourns meeting at 5:10 p.m.