



Date of Memo: October 10, 2023
Current Meeting: October 19, 2023
Board Meeting: October 26, 2023

BOARD MEMORANDUM

TO: Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) Board of Directors
THROUGH: President/CEO Inez P. Evans
FROM: Director of Capital Projects Matt Duffy, PE, PTOE
SUBJECT: Consideration and approval to purchase real estate for the Blue Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project

ACTION ITEM A – 2

RECOMMENDATION:

The Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IPTC) requests that the Board of Directors authorize IPTC’s President/CEO to acquire property necessary to construct the Blue Line Rapid Bus Rapid Transit project.

BACKGROUND:

The Blue Line will be the third rapid transit service in the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. It will provide BRT service along a 24-mile corridor between the Town of Cumberland, through the Indianapolis Central Business District, to the Indianapolis International Airport. The Blue Line will largely be a direct replacement of the current IPTC Route 8 when it begins operations (anticipated early 2027). The project is anticipated to begin construction in Q1 2025. Property will need to be acquired by IPTC in order to construct the project as designed.

DISCUSSION:

The Blue Line will include partial property acquisition, temporary easements, rights of entry, signal and utility relocations. At this time, it is not anticipated that there will be full property acquisitions or acquisitions that involve building relocations. IPTC will comply with federal (specifically Federal Transit Administration) and state requirements for right-of-way (ROW), appraisal/appraisal review, land acquisition, condemnation and relocation activities for all construction activities as a part of the project.

There are 144 parcels along the project that require some sort of acquisition (temporary or permanent). Many of the acquisitions consist of small areas of the property that front Washington Street where the street is being widened, usually at station locations. Offer letters are anticipated to be distributed in December 2023 or January 2024 to property owners once environmental documents have been approved (per federal guidelines). All permanent ROW acquired as a part of the project will be transferred to the City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) following completion of the project.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could choose not to approve ROW acquisition at this time. Delaying approval may result in construction delays.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action item. Property acquisitions and professional services associated are funded through the Blue Line project.

DBE/XBE DECLARATION:

Not applicable.

STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION:

This action will be reviewed by the Service Committee on October 19, 2023.