

## Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

April 13, 2010

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Don Abraham – INDOT-LaPorte District, Roosevelt Allen, Jr. – Lake County Commissioner & NIRPC Commissioner, Patricia Berry – Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning, Art Biciunas – Public Member, Tim Brown – Regional Bus Authority, Joe Crnkovich – NICTD, Stan Dostatni – City of Hammond, Ron Lombard – Town of Trail Creek, NIRPC Commissioner, Christopher Meyers – City of Gary, Joyce Newland – Federal Highway Administration, Mark O'Dell – Town of Chesterton, Shawn Pettit – Vice Chairman, Town of Merrillville & NIRPC Commissioner, Craig Phillips – City of Valparaiso, Robert Rybicki – Town of Dyer & NIRPC Commissioner, Claudia Taylor – Opportunity Enterprises

#### Guests

Mike Bartholomew – Post-Tribune, Dennis Cobb - Rob Earnshaw – The Times, Glen Campbell – American Structurepoint, Jake Dammarell – Butler Fairman & Siefert, Bernie Doyle – Town of Chesterton, Robert Gorski – HDR, Ernest Jones – J&A Consulting, Jim Harmening – Robinson Engineering, Dan Herring – H.W. Lochner, Rich Hudson – Bonar Group, Paul Knueppel – SEH, Christopher Murphy – American Structurepoint, Anna Rahtz – Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Lisa Seltzer – Bonar Group, Karen Stippich – Federal Highway Administration

#### NIRPC Staff

Bill Brown, Gary Evers, Ryan Hicks, Francyne Mixon, Stephen Sostaric, Mary Thorne

#### 1. **Call to Order, Opening and Announcements**

Co-Chairman Shawn Pettit called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. The minutes of the March 9 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Ron Lombard and a second by Art Biciunas.

#### 2. **Planning**

- 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. Summary notes from the March meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Plan Steering Committee were provided to the committee. Bill Brown reported that outreach efforts were being conducted by Hubert Morgan going to various groups all around the region. The Environmental Justice workshops will be held this Friday and Saturday at the Buffet & Grill on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Gary. The workshops are to comply with the federal corrective action in the Quadrennial Certification Review of NIRPC. The goals and objectives for the CRP are being presented to the Full Commission on Thursday. The staff will review them to be sure that all planning factors in SAFETEA-LU are covered. The process began with the definition of the vision, followed by goals & objectives. A series of workshops concentrated on where growth, open space and connectivity should be emphasized. The definition of centers will help guide the future alternative scenarios. The current **Trends** scenario uses township population from 1960 to 2000 as a reference to identify a potential 2040 forecast. **Current Plans Snapshot** will use the comprehensive local plans by local communities. **Livable Communities** is as reflected in the workshops. The **Urban Core Regeneration** scenario will focus on the urban core communities to mitigate some of the negative effects of urban sprawl.

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting  
April 13, 2010  
Minutes

NIRPC staff is using the CommunityViz tool, with GIS and our transportation model to examine the differences between these four scenarios. The next step is a public meeting which will allow the public to look at the results of these analyses. We will then create a preferred scenario for the region.

- Congestion Management Process. Ryan Hicks reported there was no meeting in March, but a webinar was hosted by FHWA on the CMP process in general, goals and objectives and performance measures. The survey has been completed and the results will be given at today's meeting. A performance measures final draft will also be presented today and two new measures will be decided. Travel time collection using data loggers which use the Vision Trend GPS 9000 model to measure the collection. The logger logs in statistics like longitude and latitude every second. Once we get the data, we can hook up to our computers to download the data.
- Cline Avenue Bridge. Recommendations were presented to the NIRPC Board at the March meeting. They were endorsed then sent to INDOT for consideration. Bob Zier expects a response this Thursday at the meeting of the Cline Avenue Coalition at 1:30 p.m.
- Complete Streets. At the last TPC meeting, a recommendation to adopt was made to the NIRPC Executive Board. The Board tabled the motion indefinitely. A presentation will be made to the Full Commission this week to educate the commission on the policy and guidelines. We hope to have them brought to the Executive Board again in May for action.

### 3. Programming

- Gary Evers reported that the projects in Amendment 17 of the FY2009-2013 TIP (Jobs for Main Street) are out for an extended 30 day public comment, pending action by Congress on the program.
- Gary reported on Amendment 16 to the FY2009-2013 which incorporates STIP INDOT projects (subject to ICG review and some minor changes). Action 1 deletes all existing exempt INDOT non-ARRA projects. Action 2 adds new exempt INDOT projects for the three county area totaling \$159,129,100, action 3 adds non-exempt INDOT projects totaling \$27,881,245 and action 4 adds 11 exempt Cline Avenue major bridge projects totaling \$120,880,000 and seven exempt local projects. On a motion by Craig Phillips and a second by Stan Dostatni, Amendment 16 was recommended for approval by the NIRPC board.

### 4. Presentation

Karen Stippich of Federal Highways – Indiana Division presented the National Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture and how it can help with transportation planning and the Congestion Management process. It is data processing and communications applied to surface transportation for safety and efficiency. It consists of traffic signal controllers, incident management centers, travel information and transit scheduling. The architecture is standard across the country. The ITS inventory is very important for information sharing. Needs and services include market packages to meet transportation needs for transit vehicle tracking, demand response transit and transit traveler information. Requirements include monitoring and support. Standards include interchangeability, interoperability and expandability. ITS architecture is for both short range and long range projects. It links operation and planning. It provides a lot of data for the CMP. NIRPC's architecture was developed in 2005 and can be updated to reflect current regional needs and incorporate national changes. For more information, contact Karen at 317-226-7122 or [karen.stippich@dot.gov](mailto:karen.stippich@dot.gov). Bill added that we are already doing a lot of what NIRPC needs. Traffic signalization, transit vehicle locator systems, etc. are part of the ITS architecture. Our existing architecture needs some changes, and participation in the CMP is very important and encouraged.

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting  
April 13, 2010  
Minutes

## **5. Indiana Department of Transportation**

The letting lists were provided to the committee.

## **6. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update**

- NICTD. Joe Crnkovich reported that a slight drop in ridership was due to a one-day equipment failure. The catenary replacement has begun. The first outage will take place the weekend of May 15 and 16 with no trains operating east of Gary. The next outage is scheduled for August 7-8. Seven outages are scheduled for weekends. A contract was added to replace the bridge over Hobart Road in Miller in October. Field work on signal project east of Michigan City has begun. The Michigan City realignment project is still in the initial stages.
- RBA. Tim Brown reported on the Dyer Park and Ride service to Chicago from Calumet and 213<sup>th</sup>. The RBA began operating the old Hammond Transit routes on January 1. The short runs on the routes were considered in creating a preferred route map. Five routes will be reduced to four: two regional and two local, with runs through South Shore stations. The service will be increased from 12 to 14 hours per day. The two local routes will run counter and clockwise with two buses which should increase usage on the system. Seven RFPs were received and interviews will be conducted during the next few days. Grants will be used for funding.

## **7. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority**

Joyce Newland invited everyone to come to the Environmental Justice workshops which are the result of a corrective action.

## **8. Northeast Illinois**

Patricia Berry reported that their *Go to 2040* Plan is in the public comment stage until June. \$10.5 billion is set for major capital projects, 13 are expansion projects and five are new facilities and extensions. Applications are being accepted for the FLIP Program (Future Leaders in Planning) for high school students in the 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Information and the application are on the CMAP website.

## **9. Other Business, Public Comment and Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC**

- Upcoming Meetings
  - ⇒ Congestion Management Subcommittee - 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 13.
  - ⇒ The NIRPC Executive Board – 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 15.
  - ⇒ Environmental Justice Workshop – April 16 and April 17, both at the Buffet & Grill in Gary.
  - ⇒ ARRA Reporting Workshop – April 20 and 21.
  - ⇒ Land Use Committee – 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 21.
  - ⇒ Comprehensive Regional Plan Steering Committee – 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 22.
  - ⇒ Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee (3PC) – 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 22.
  - ⇒ Environmental Management Policy Committee – 9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 6.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at NIRPC at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 11 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.