

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday October 31, 2013
9:00 a.m. CDT
NIRPC Conference Room
6100 Southport Road
Portage, IN 46368

AGENDA

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| 1. Call to Order | Jeff Freeze and Bob Schaefer, Co-Chairs |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | Jeff Freeze |
| 3. Introductions | Bob Schaefer |
| 4. Approval of Minutes from the May 30, 2013 Meeting | |
| 5. The Marquette Plan Update | Kathy Luther, NIRPC
Environmental Director |
| 6. Livable Centers and the NIRPC Livable Center Initiative | Eman Ibrahim, NIRPC
Planning Manager |
| 7. Discussion of Local Government Assistance
Committee topics | Members and attendees |
| 8. IACT Update | Brian Gould |
| 9. NIRPC Update | Ty Warner |

Next Meeting –January 30, 2014/ Adjournment

TTY users may access the Relay Indiana Service by calling 711 or 1-800-743-3333. Requests for alternative formats may be made 48 hours prior to the meeting by contacting Mary Thorne at 219-763-6060, ext. 131 or email to mthorne@nirpc.org.

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Local Government Assistance Committee
NIRPC Auditorium, Portage, IN
May 30, 2013
9:00 a.m.

Co-Chairs Jeff Freeze and Bob Schaefer called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members and guests present were Jeff Freeze, Bob Schaefer, Tom Bredeweg, Matt Grellar, Dave Shafer, Tom Clouser, Bob Carnahan, Diane Noll, Ed Soliday, Tom DeGuilio, Lori Reno and Rebecca Williams.

Staff included Jody Melton, Mary Thorne, and Steve Strains.

It was decided to combine the Local Government Assistance and Advisory Committee and the Towns and Small Cities Committee to form the Local Government Assistance Committee. NIRPC commissioners are invited. Members include the clerk-treasurers, town council people and town managers. Bob Carnahan described the history of the two committees.

The General Assembly

A member's perspective from Rep. Ed Soliday:

- On June 12, an override was expected of the veto by Gov. Mike Pence of a retroactive income tax increase through HEA 1546 for Pulaski and Jackson counties.
- Summer Study Committee. The federal fund exchange program, county options income tax, and alternate powered vehicle taxes will be reviewed. Sen. Kenley carved out \$200 million for *Major Moves 2020* for additional lanes on I-65 and I-70; however, there is an agreement that the additional lanes would be P³d. The Illiana is going to be built, with P³ funding. It received an award for having the greatest potential for job creation. Peotone is not an issue; intermodal at the Illiana and I-55 is.
- Transit-oriented Development (TOD) and Public Private Partnerships (P³). The opportunity for north of US Hwy 6 is in transit-oriented development. TOD is being P³d in some other states. A South Shore extension into Munster is a possibility being looked at this summer. Illinois will extend the Metra into Will County and they'll get the A-List and we'll get the B and C. We should look to optimize the Indianapolis Boulevard/Calumet Avenue corridor for business and TOD. 25 to 40-year-old urban professionals don't want to own a car; they want TOD living. We need to seize this opportunity. Miller and Long Beach would be excellent communities for TOD.

An IACT perspective from Matt Grellar:

- The LRS money now being received by municipalities is the first new road money in many years thanks to the General Assembly. It's about 35% over current distributions effective July 1. This money must be spent on roads only, but don't decrease totals spent. Paving cycles must be changed. Discussion followed.
- Utility Relocation Bill provides for a deadline for compliance by the utilities.
- Methamphetamines: In a compromise, purchase of pseudoephedrine drugs would be limited to 61 grams.
- Abandoned housing: Counties can now dispose of property not sold at a county tax sale. Other items were proposed but not passed: elimination of cable TV franchise fees, reduction in dollar amount for non-gaming communities receiving state-wide distribution, no annexation without referendum.

- SEA 235 for door-to-door solicitors to receive a statewide permit. This should be locally regulated. Discussion followed.
- Mass transit is needed in the region to grow the macro economy.

Open Discussion items included ISO building inspections and ratings, referendums and school districts, tax caps, tax money distributions to school districts, beachfront and fire sprinkler ordinances. A legislator should be present at every LGAC meeting.

A town roundtable will be held in Hebron on July 9 at 6:30. \$10 per person. Open to town councils, town managers, clerk-treasurers, and spouses.

IACT Update – Tom Bredeweg said the new website is up. Users must register. The salary survey has been completed. An IACT Budget Workshop will be held on June 26 in Munster. A survey on the DLGF will close out the end of next week. For more information, go to the website at www.citiesandtowns.org. Co-Chair Freeze adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

NIRPC Update – Steve Strains encouraged board and committee members to attend and participate in the planning certification review on northwest Indiana’s transportation planning process will be held on June 18 at NIRPC from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and at Indiana University Northwest on June 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Comments will also be taken by postal mail or email until July 19 to FHWA and FTA representatives as shown on the flyer. NIRPC’s transportation planner, Bill Brown is retiring at the end of June and a job search is beginning. The Pennsy-Greenway Trail bi-state connector is being constructed which will connect Munster with Lansing. A “golden spoke” ceremony is being planned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on August 29 at 9:00 a.m.