

**Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan  
Implementation Committee Meeting  
NIRPC Auditorium  
November 13, 2014**

**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Michael Griffin, Nancy Adams, Joe Simonetto, Joan Crist, Jan Dick, Rich Herr, Keith Kirkpatrick, Joe Wszolek, Beth Shrader, Deb Backhus, Kay Nelson, George Malis, Don Parker, Brian Poland, Tyler Kent and Joyce Newland via conference phone.

**Guests**

Craig Phillips, Ismail Attallah, Tim Burkman and Nathan Reeder. Social justice students from Calumet College of St. Joseph in attendance were Dylan Linkiewicz, Alberto Rivera, Brieana Holmes, Monica Brigham, Ashley Ogren, Shelley Jorgensen, Natalie Pascual, Celeste Rosillo, Ricardo Gutierrez, Brianna Feno, Eric Sanchez, Tyree Jamison, Kyle Johnson, Luis Angeles, Kaleb Johnson, Angelica Palma, Joe Gorabith and Khalil Newson.

**Staff**

Gabrielle Biciunas, Eman Ibrahim, Mitch Barloga, Steve Strains, Stephen Sostaric, Scott Weber and Mary Thorne.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Michael Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 20, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Deb Backhus and a second by Don Parker.

**Presentation**

Craig Phillips, Michigan City Planner, presented on the Gateway Implementation Strategy, which features many projects for the downtown and lakefront areas of Michigan City which will promote tourism and enhance quality of life. Strategies include branding, development of more attractions, improving and enhancing the current attractions and creating a year-round entertainment district. This would also entail creating an art district, a trolley system and transit-oriented development around the South Shore station. The total investment in all the improvements to be made over several phases ending in 2020 is \$22,366,000. Brief discussion followed. More information can be found on the Hitchcock Design Group website at <http://www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/x-lmgimplementationstrategy.html> or by contacting Craig Phillips.

**2040 CRP Update**

Mitch Barloga presented on the status of the 2040 Plan update. Mitch gave an overview of NIRPC, its duties and information on the 2040 Plan's creation. A series of public meetings were held over the last month and feedback was received. Areas of concentration included environment, freight, economic development, transportation, and transit. The non-motorized Ped, Pedal & Paddle plan will be updated separately.

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Scott Weber gave an overview of the air quality conformity process which is federally mandated for capacity expansion projects and NIRPC's role and criteria for achieving conformity. Mitch Barloga said a solicitation for capacity expansion projects went out, followed by public meetings, and staff is reviewing the comments. The draft update of the Plan will go out for review in March of 2015 and will then go to this committee in April. The NIRPC Commission will take action to adopt the update at their May 2015 meeting.

Stephen Sostaric overviewed the public comment period for the update, citing sample comments for each element. There were 15 meetings on social justice, environment, motorized surface transportation and 9 of the 15 meetings concentrating on public transit and accessibility to employment centers, shopping, etc. The public comment summary report will be coming out in a couple of weeks. Michael Griffin commented that training is needed as a provided assistance aid in order for people to be work ready. Jobs are not located near social justice areas and therefore regional public transportation is greatly needed and local public officials need to be serious about this in order to form a public response and finance system. The transportation system must be regional in order to be sustainable in that the financial cost should not be placed on one entity. Stephen Sostaric announced the La Porte County Triangle service between Michigan City, LaPorte and Purdue North Central.

In answer to a question, Eman said the Marquette Plan update was going forward. All points from the last discussion were included.

Scott Weber gave an update on the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture which helps improve the convenience and user responsiveness of the transportation data system. ITS includes travelers, vehicles, centers and the field. The architecture includes navigational equipment, INDOT cameras (Trafficwise), tourist assistance portals, emergency response alerts, cell phone maps, etc. Other solutions may include signal coordination, at grade crossings, connectivity assistance and automated gates. The approval of the update by the NIRPC Commission is scheduled for their December meeting.

The 2015 schedule of meetings was available in the packet. The INDOT survey was also available.

Michael Griffin commended Nancy Adams for all of her work as an exemplary public official, a NIRPC Commissioner and vice chair of this committee since the beginning of the steering committee for the CRP, including her work on the CRP brochure and video.

Brief discussion was held on presentation time limits, spending more of the meeting on effectively working on implementation of the plan and marketing the ongoing work of the plan to the committee members to increase attendance, as well as the public, perhaps as "*RegioNext*".

**Adjournment:**

Hearing no other business, Nancy Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda Packet – Agenda and Minutes

*An audio file of this meeting is available upon request.*

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at [mthorne@nirpc.org](mailto:mthorne@nirpc.org). Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.