

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

March 13, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present

Reggie Arkell (via conference phone), Joyce Newland (via conference phone), Art Biciunas, Mitchell Bishop, Joe Crnkovich, Jeff Huet, Denarie Kane, Bruce Lindner, Ed Morales, Mark O'Dell, Don Parker, Shawn Pettit, Jim Pinkerton, John Pugh, Claudia Taylor, Jim Ton, Dwayne Williams, David Wright

Guests

Bob Alderman, Keith Benman, Marcia Blansett, Glen Campbell, Dennis Cobb, Dan Corbin, Janet Cypra, Matt Deitchley, Jim Harmening, Craig Hendrix, Mike Jabo, Carl Lisek, Lisa Shrader, Bruce Spires, Stu Summers, Eric Wilson, Eric Wolverton, Gene Yarkie

NIRPC Staff

Bill Brown, Gary Evers, Allen Hammond, Belinda Petroskey, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne, Tom Vander Woude

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- Vice-Chairman Shawn Pettit, NIRPC Commissioner and Merrillville Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- John Pugh motioned to approve the minutes of the February 14 meeting; seconded by Jim Ton. Motion carried.
- Bill Brown showed a short public education video from the Build Indiana Council on the Gasoline Tax and where the money goes.
- Bill announced the latest round of LPA Certification Training dates which was available in the packet. There is a session in LaPorte. Staff are keeping track of those LPAs who are certified.

2. Planning

- 2040 CRP Implementation – The next meeting is April 18.
- ITS Architecture – Work continues on the identification of ITS stakeholders. The next step is the inventory of ITS elements.
- Congestion Management Process – Stephen Sostaric gave a presentation on a traffic monitoring system called BlueTOAD, which stands for Bluetooth travel time origin and destination. This is another option to monitor and address congestion. Prices to purchase the BlueTOAD signal detectors range from \$3200 to \$4200 for the systems and secure data storage starts at \$660 per storage unit per year. Both CMAP and the Indianapolis MPO are going to test the system. With the Indy MPO, they are using it to monitor a bridge project, before, during and after the project. It was noted that a vehicle sensing system using a pavement puck was presented at last year's Road School. It detects all vehicles and gives a better percentage than Bluetooth or plate cameras.

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- US12 Arcelor Mittal Workshop – Bill reported that discussion on the congestion issue at the entrance to the mill will continue with all parties involved. NIRPC’s chair, Geof Benson, has deemed it a priority issue. The group will explore the possibility of building a new road on the NIPSCO right-of-way between the railroads. The next meeting is March 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the NIRPC Auditorium.
- Railroad Vision Working Group – Tom Vander Woude reported that rail representatives met on February 24 to collect information about high priority grade separations in northwest Indiana. As of February 21, we had ADT for seven of the crossings and updated train counts for 24 of the 26 crossings. Most counts came from INDOT, some from Munster and Schererville. We are missing a section of 15th Street in Chesterton, 165th Street at Indianapolis in Hammond, Clark Road north of the airport in Gary, Tower Road (250W) in Porter County, Colfax in Griffith, Euclid in East Chicago and Old Hobart Road in Gary. We had the kickoff of the project with PUC students and they chose to design a project in East Chicago containing three crossings. Students are always looking for projects from local governments. Contact the university if you are interested.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plans – Allen Hammond reported that NIRPC received a lot more transition plan updates. We’re currently over 50%. The requirements are:
 - ❖ designate an ADA coordinator
 - ❖ develop and post ADA policy statement
 - ❖ develop and post a grievance and complaint procedure. The Department of Justice has a great tool to use on its website
 - ❖ complete a self-evaluation of locations
 - ❖ develop a transition plan
 - ❖ identify and list physical obstacles and solutions in detail
 - ❖ Provide a schedule for making access modifications
 - ❖ Provide a yearly schedule if the plan goes farther than one year
 - ❖ Estimate cost of each modification
 - ❖ Name a person or persons who is responsible for implementing the transition plan
 - ❖ When your plan is completed and posted, you must show a “completed on (date)” in red
 - ❖ When your plan is updated and posted, you must show an “updated on (date)” in red

Air Quality Conformity Update – Bill reported that our region is in attainment of all National Ambient Air Quality Standards currently in place. The conformity process continues to be required for plan and program amendments that add or modify capacity on regionally significant road segments. We are transitioning to the new MOVES model produced by the EPA. INDOT took the lead for the whole state to run MOVES and created a post-processor to take the transportation network model data and make it work with the MOVES model. We will provide a database of the model to INDOT. Draft budgets should be turned into IDEM by the end of March or early April. The EPA is implementing the 2008 standard for ozone which is a lower allowable (.075 ppm vs. .08 ppm) and they are considering new non-attainment designations. All monitors in Indiana are showing attainment of the new NAAQS. However, a monitor in Northeast Illinois is above the new standard. As a result, the USEPA is including Lake, Porter and Jasper Counties to be designated a non-attainment area under the new standard. It is our hope that Jasper is not included by the EPA in the new designation. IDEM did not include the county population in the recommendation. Joyce Newland mentioned that when the ERC’s are

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reviewing their environmental documents they need to put in the correct information about Lake, Porter or La Porte's air quality status, which is currently "Maintenance". This needs to be corrected.

- Public Involvement – Hubert Morgan said we are in the process of updating the Public Participation Plan developed in 2007 and it should be completed in about three months. A task force will be in place from the three counties. Half of the work will be done by staff and presented to the task force for their recommendations. There will be two in person meetings with remote meetings in between. The meetings will originate from one of the universities for the remote meetings. We will use Facebook for engagement. This will be brought to the TPC at the April 10 meeting. A 45-day Public comment period will be required, later in the Spring or Summer.

3. Programming

- Amendment 11 of the FY2012-2015 TIP – Gary Evers said the amendment is for added or new phases to four INDOT projects, a NICTD project, projects for Hammond, Michigan City, Portage and Porter County, local non-construction projects for Crown Point and Cedar Lake for E-85 fuel, Valparaiso, GPTC and NIRPC and local public transit non-construction projects for GPTC. Jim Ton motioned to recommend Amendment 11 to the NIRPC commission for approval; seconded by John Pugh. Motion carried. The CMAQ eligibility determination is reflected in the projects in the TIP amendment.
- Quarterly Project Tracking – we are in the low 90% reporting range. Mitch Barloga will do pursue reporting for TE projects.
- TE Fund Allocation Policy – This was tabled until the next meeting. Mitch Barloga presented to EMPC about NIRPC's TE projects. He will email the TE allocation policy prior to the next TPC meeting.

4. INDOT – Jim Pinkerton

- The letting list for January through April was available in the packet.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge demolition project is under way. Construction should be complete this Summer.
- The Cline Avenue discussions are still being held with a private entity to construct a toll bridge.
- Illiana Corridor – The public comment period for the current phase of the project ended Friday, but comments can still be submitted on line. Another public hearing will be held in June on the preferred alignment.
- Jim introduced Bob Alderman who replaced Mike McPhillips.

5. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that ridership was up 7% over February 2011. Bids for the bridge rehab over the Grand Calumet west of the East Chicago station are due Friday. An engineering bid for the work over Trail Creek in Michigan City is due April 20 with RFPs for Dune Park and Hudson Lake. The Kensington bypass is in operation. The signal system is 95% completed and working well. Construction on the new bridge at 130th and Torrence will resume in spring. Phase 1 will be done by the end of the year. NICTD filed an application under TIGER IV. The new schedules are out, effective February 15.

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- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that ridership increased by 17% between January and February due to the service increases particularly the CMAQ funded changes. Ridership on the Lake Ridge route was 7500 more than the 7000 expected. There was a 13% increase on the Broadway corridor, the Tri-City connection had a 23% increase and 28% on the US 30 shuttle. Outreach and advertising continues. GPTC hopes to debut a new system map in April.
- Gary Evers said notification was sent to the subgrantees. Out of \$100 million, NIRPC requested \$1.5 million and GPTC requested \$1.1 million.

6. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

Shawn Pettit reported that Merrillville's public hearing is next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

7. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

No reports.

8. Planning Neighbors: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Southwestern Michigan Commission

No reports.

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

- Public Comment:
- Staff Announcements:
 - ❖ Kathy Luther announced the Partners for Clean Air breakfast is on April 26 in Merrillville.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - ❖ The Land Use Committee will meet March 14 at 10:00 a.m.
 - ❖ NIRPC Executive Board – Thursday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m.
 - ❖ The Rail Summit is March 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Sand Creek Country Club
 - ❖ Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee – 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22
 - ❖ US-12 at Arcelor Mittal Work Group – 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 23
 - ❖ Local Government Assistance Advisory Committee – 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 28
 - ❖ Council of Towns and Smaller Cities – 9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 29 at the Lowell Town Hall
 - ❖ Environmental Management Policy Committee – 9:00 a.m. April 5
 - ❖ LPA Project Development Certification Training – 9:00 a.m. April 12 in LaPorte
 - ❖ NWI Rail VISION Working Group – date and time to be determined
 - ❖ Pathway to 2040 - Comprehensive Regional Plan Implementation Committee – 9:00 a.m. April 18

10. Next Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Vice-Chair Pettit adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Thorne
NIRPC Planning Secretary
3/16/12