



Committee Meeting ~ Construction Advancement Foundation
March 24, 2016
Minutes

Members & Guests – Shannon Eason, Mark Schreiber, Craig Zandstra, Steve Antonetti, Jerry Rosko, Chris Moore, John Novacich, Mark Gordish, Eric Ehn, Zully JF Alvarado, Kaitlyn McClain, Joe Rurode, Jake Dammarell, John Parsons, David Wright, Dalia Zygas, Tim Cole, Richard Vonnegut

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Sarah Geinosky, James Winters, Gabrielle Bicuinas, Meredith Stilwell

Vice-Chair Shannon Eason called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update

Mitch reported they are having a board meeting on April 6th.

B. G + B – 2016 Edition Update

Meetings have been held with the consultant, Active Transportation Alliance and workshops held in the three county area. Volunteers will be riding routes for recommendations or deletions to the update. A link for a survey regarding the map update has been posted to NIRPC's Facebook page and website and sent out by email. The survey will only be active until April 5th. The draft release will most likely be May 2016, with the final version printing in June or July.

Pedal

A. Feature Presentation: NICTD BIKES ON TRAINS PILOT ROLL-OUT

The Bikes on Trains study started in 2013 and with many partners involved. There were many obstacles to be address such as low level platforms, narrow end-door stairwells and improved reliability of gallery cars.

Bike rack tests were conducted October 31st and November 1st, 7th and 8th. The bike rack prototype which auto locks the front wheel of bicycles in place was developed by a company in Seattle. After the test it was determined that more cars would be needed. Converting the three seat side of a car with 33 seats would allow for 14 bike racks and cars with 28 seats would allow for 12 racks. Not all customers were happy about losing 110 total seats, but NICTD believes allowing bikes on the trains will attract more riders which is appealing since ridership is down, especially on weekends.

The test phase for the bikes on trains will run from April 2nd through October 30, 2016 and will only involve select weekend/holiday trains. A marketing created a flyer outlining the Bikes on Trains rules, stations that will allow for bike boarding/disembarking, and times. Bikes will only be permitted at high level boarding platforms on a first come, first serve basis. Some black-out dates apply including Taste of Chicago, the Air & Water Show, Blues Festival and Lollapalooza. 14 of the 18 weekend trains will be equipped with bike racks and will be at the rear of westbound trains and the front of eastbound trains. Bike cars will have bike rack equipped signs posted on them. A lot is expected to be learned from this test phase.

While currently no low-level platforms will allow for bikes, NICTD is willing to partner with those communities to try to develop bike sharing programs.

B. Marquette Action Plan Survey

The Marquette Plan which encompasses Congressman Visclosky's vision of a livable lakefront in which to live, work, play and stay was completed in two stages. The first stage, from Illinois to Portage, was completed in 2005 and the second stage from Portage to Michigan completed in 2008. An update to the Plan was completed in 2015.

In addition to the update, a three purpose Marquette Action Plan is being created to point out concrete ways to improve access to the lakeshore. The first purpose is to try to achieve the goal to make 75% of the lakeshore accessible by pointing out areas which are not currently, but possibly could be open to the public. The second is to improve recreation and transportation to what is already accessible making sure individuals can get to and be able to do desired activities when they reach their destinations. The third is to encourage and support improved connections and quality in the Marquette communities.

A survey will be released in the next week to find out what is important to the public and will impact the Action Plan. The hope is to wrap up by May.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association – Update

Shannon Eason reported that NWIPA held their annual meeting on Saturday, March 19 and have a lot of plans for 2016. Shannon then spoke about new NWIPA board member Zully Alvarado, who was in attendance at the 3PC meeting, noting she was the individual who took the inaugural launch from the Hansen Park ADA kayak launch. She also spoke about the interest that has been expressed in receiving copies of Michigan City's ADA kayak launch plans.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates

- La Porte is moving along on the Chessie Trail. A joint meeting was held with the park board and City Council and a public meeting is slated for April. Construction will most likely start late 2017 or early 2018.
- Lake County Parks has received approval from NIPSCO for the Oak Savannah-Erie Lackawanna connection. Everything needed from the Canadian National Railroad has been received. The project will hopefully go out for bid in a month or so with construction beginning in the summer.
- The Griffith side of the OS-EL connection is in right-of-way acquisition and will most likely be letting in 2017.
- Schererville is in the process of working on acquisition and working on design of the boardwalk section of the Pennsy. The town is still exploring a connection between the Pennsy and Erie Lackawanna.
- Singing Sands Phase I in Michigan City is still held up with South Shore freight. Amtrak is in the final approval stage. Letting is scheduled for January 2017. Phase II is fully funded and INDOT has issued a PO for design and engineering. Phase III is partially funded and has letters of intent for design and engineering. Michigan City was awarded a Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant for a bank stabilization project on the Trail Creek water trail and should be moving forward next year.
- The City of Valparaiso has begun their master planning cycle and a consultant SEH for the pathways master plan. The Indiana parks and rec association is in partnership with Google to expand their trekker program for street views of trails and pathways. Valpo will be the second city in Indiana to do that program.
- A small portion of about two blocks of the Pennsy Greenway on the East side of Calumet in Munster has been closed for the development of Centennial Village and will remain closed for about six months. Munster is still working with the Village of Lansing Illinois on the Pennsy Greenway at the state line. Lansing is installing an arch to go over the state line. Munster will be installing a combination bench/bike rack.
- Burns Harbor was able to have a portion of their trail funded with CMAQ. They are looking to have a sense of community and downtown in the eastern portion from 149 to Porter. There will pop up stores until a real downtown can be established and pathways and trails to the Marquette Greenway. A variety of plans are being looked into.
- The portion of the Marquette Greenway in Hammond from 142nd to East Chicago is going well and should be under construction soon. There is a concept for the bike trail bridge over Calumet

Avenue and should pick up in the next couple of weeks. Marquette Greenway Phase III at the state line is in land acquisition and should be letting July of 2017.

- The trailhead and roundabout at 93rd and Chase in Crown Point is under construction and is slated for a November completion date.
- Merrillville's C & O Trail Phase II between Mississippi Street and Broadway was let in February and construction will start in about a month.

B. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.) - None

C. The Next Meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 2:31.