



COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM
MARCH 27, 2014
MINUTES

Members & Guests – Brenda Scott Henry, Craig Earley, Ron Brown, Keith Benman, Brian Niksch, Peter Kohut, Matt Zurbruggen, Janet Cypra, Mark Gordish, Chris Moore, Tim Morgan, Shannon Eason, Dan Morford, Sedrick Green, Skyler York, Mitchell Bishop, Trisha Nugent, Rachel Uthe, John Novacich, Craig Zandstra, Glen Gaby, Julie Mandon, Craig Hendirx, Jerry Rosko, Jake Dammarell, Deb Backhus, Mark Pittman, Jake Ballah, Don Parker, Dennis Cobb, Mark O'Dell, Natalie Johnson, Bruce Spires, Craig Phillips, Tyler Kent, Stephanie Smith, Walter Lenckos, Taghi Arshami, Dan McGuire, Mark McLaughlin, Christopher Meyers, Phil Gralik, Mark Heintz, Eric Neagu

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Kathy Luther, Gary Evers, Joe Exl, Meredith Stilwell

Vice-Chair Bruce Spires called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

South Shore Trails - Update

The South Shore Trails kick-off meeting was held Wednesday, March 26 Crown Point. Planning for 2014 is currently being done and an application has been made for South Shore Trails to be the local point of contact for the League of American Bicyclists' bicycle challenge for 2014. The group would love to help communities, etc. who are doing planning that includes complete streets.

Pedal

Transportation Alternatives Program WORKSHOP – Mitch Barloga

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding will now be a multi-year call for projects with everyone within Porter, Lake and LaPorte counties all eligible to apply. Mitch noted his recommendation would be a seven year program. The goals of the workshop include revising the application; determining eligible projects; determining eligible phases; setting funding targets; discussion of local match obligation and the application review process; and revision of priority trail corridors (if needed or wanted).

Currently there are three existing categories which are Ped & Bike (80%), Historical Projects/Environmental (10%) and Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) (10%). Mitch stated he had spoken to CMAP and was informed that they do not fund SRTS or environmental projects since there is too much of a demand for trails. He then suggested significant revisions to SRTS including the elimination of the surveys which are cumbersome and do not work well with the timing of the application release. There could be a huge demand if the process is simpler. The categories have been determined over a 15 year process and have been delineated because all projects cannot be compared equally. After discussion regarding the categories and percentages and the low response in the environmental category the consensus of the Committee was to leave the eligible categories and percentages as is for this funding round. Going forward, this will be a two year cycle and can be reassessed again at that time.

Mitch then reviewed the current Ped & Bike portion of the application with group. A suggestion was made to consider removing attendance bonus points since some communities cannot attend, to which it was pointed out that the bonus points for attendance were awarded to encourage attendance for policy discussions and other discussions so people would not skip meetings where money was not discussed or on the table. Also suggested was the elimination of the previously awarded TAP bonus of 5 points and the addition of bonus points for all previously funded TE projects. After discussion on those two suggestions Mitch clarified wording that the change of wording would be that TAP/TE will get bonus for any previously funded projects. Don Parker made motion and Mark O'Dell seconded the motion to change the wording for the bonus to be awarded for both TE and TAP funding from a previous funding cycle; to complete the same phase. The committee voted and with only two oppositions; the motion passed.

The environmental portion of the application was briefly reviewed. With the application having been revised by a sub-committee of the EMPC during the last funding cycle there were no questions and no changes on the application.

The Safe Routes to Schools application was reviewed with Mitch noted all of his suggestions of sections of the application that should be removed to make a less cumbersome application process.

The funding total for the seven year program is \$6,867,707m and all project phases are eligible. The targets per funding category at the current breakdown would be: bike & ped (80%)= \$5,494,166m; environmental (10%)= \$686,771k; and SRTS (10%)= \$686,771k. Recommendations were made to increase the environmental portion and SRTS portion to 20% each with the knowledge that if no eligible projects were submitted for either category or money was leftover the funds would roll back over to bike & ped projects. It were also recommendations to decrease bike & ped to 75% and increase environmental and SRTS to 12% each and to leave the percentages as is. Following discussion, Dan Morford motioned to leave the percentages the same with bike and ped at 80% and environmental and SRTS at 10% each. With second by Walter Lenckos and no opposition, the motion passed.

The maximum requests for funding per project proposal were then addressed by the group beginning with the bike & ped category. A suggestion was made to limit all three category maximum requests one year's worth of funding. Other suggestions for the maximum funding for the bike & ped category were \$2m and \$1.5m. Following discussion a motion was made by Tim Morgan to set the maximum request for the bike & ped category at \$2m. Shannon Eason seconded the motion. With eight in favor of the motion and six opposing, the motion passed.

NIRPC's Director of Environmental Programs, Kathy Luther was asked what was appropriate regarding the maximum request amount for the historical projects/environmental category. Her recommendation was to have no maximum request amount. Mark O'Dell made motion to set the maximum request amount at the full 100% of the allotted pot of money which would be \$686,771k. Phil Gralik seconded the motion. Upon vote by the committee, the majority opposed the motion. Motion failed. Chris Meyers motioned It was also suggested to divide the allotted money in thirds making the maximum request amount \$228,924k. Mark O'Dell seconded the motion and questioned if there was time for the Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC) to review and make a recommendation on an amount before the application release. It was noted since the EMPC was not having an April meeting there would not be enough time. Following discussion a vote was taken on the motion. With eight in favor of the motion and four opposed, the motion passed. Deb Backus voiced her concern over the composition and voting of the process.

The maximum request amount for SRTS was discussed. The previous round of funding had the maximum for infrastructure requests was 70% and non-infrastructure was 30% of the total allotted funds. A suggestion was made to make the percentages either 90/10 or 80/20 with the higher percentage to infrastructure requests. Tim Morgan motioned to make the category one pot instead of breaking it into infrastructure and non-infrastructure and no maximum request amount. With no second, the motion died. Tyler Kent motioned to have 90% of the allotted \$686,771k for infrastructure and 10% for non-infrastructure projects. Mark O'Dell seconded the motion. Following discussion, a vote was taken on the motion on the table. With the majority in opposition of the motion, the motion did not pass. Phil Gralik motioned to make the maximum request for infrastructure projects be 1/3 of 80% for infrastructure and 1/3 of 20% for non-infrastructure projects. John Novacich seconded the motion. Following discussion, Phil Gralik withdrew his motion. Vice-Chair Brian Niksch clarified that that the motion for the split of 90/10 was disagreed to for the full amount of allotted funds. Phil Gralik motioned for 90% of the \$686,771k allotted funds be for infrastructure and 10% for non-infrastructure. Mark O'Dell seconded the motion. Discussion followed, during which it was clarified that this motion and vote was strictly to establish the percentage split and not the maximum funding request. A vote was called on the motion. With the majority in favor of the motion, the motion carried. After the vote, the maximum funding request issue was addressed. Shannon Eason motioned for the maximum request amount to be 50% of each of the allotted amounts for both infrastructure (309,047k) and non-infrastructure (34,339k) categories. Tim Morgan seconded the motion. Following discussion a vote was called for. With the majority in favor of the motion, the motion passed.

Mitch presented the priority trails corridor map and reviewed how the trail priorities were established. Following discussion, Tim Morgan stated that LaPorte now has an adopted trail plan and is in the process of spending CMAQ funds for the Chesapeake out of LaPorte. Because of that planning and momentum he put forth the recommendation that the section of the corridor from the City of LaPorte up to the State line be made high priority. He then also recommended the section NIPSCO/South Shore Line corridor out of Michigan City be reduced to medium priority. With no opposition from the Committee the recommendations were accepted.

The applications will be released by April 4th and will be due May 16th. Applicants must submit one copy electronically and one paper copy (no exceptions). The application review of bike & ped projects will be on May 20th and the application review for environmental projects will occur on May 21st by the EMPC sub-committee. The 3PC meeting will be held May 22nd and EMPC will meet on June 5th to finalize project rankings. Both 3PC and EMPC rankings will be combined to be presented at the June TPC and Commission meetings for action and finalization.

Gary Evers informed the group that for accounting purposes, he needs some minimum spending of approximately 10% in LaPorte County.

Paddle –

a. **NWI Paddling Association** – *No update given*

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates: *None*

B. Miscellaneous Issues, Concerns, Gripes: *None*

C. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.)

- Wine and Canvas event being held at Marquette Park Pavilion Thursday, March 27, 2014

D. Cornucopia '14 will be held April 24th at the Historic LaPorte Civic Auditorium.

E. Next Meeting is Thursday, April 24, 2014 – Cornucopia '14

Meeting Adjourned.