



COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM
JULY 25, 2013
MINUTES

Members & Guests – Gregg Calpino, Bob Huffman, Paula Armour, Brian Niksch, Tim Morgan, Shannon Eason, Jerry Rosko, Nick Minich, Denarie Kane, Don Parker, John Novacich, Mark Heintz, Jenny Orsburn, Kevin Crawford, Chris Moore, Chris Nesper, Cathy Martin, Phil Gralik, Bob Thompson, Leslie Phemister, Pete Kohut, Stu Summers, Ashley Williams, Jake Dammarell, Jan Dick

Staff - Mitch Barloga, Kathy Luther, Meredith Stilwell, Gary Evers

Brian Niksch called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

South Shore Trails - Update

South Shore Trails will be once again host the very popular bike parking at Pierogi Fest in Whiting. The will located at Liberty Savings at the west end of the festival grounds.

TE Fiscal Management/MAP-21 Closeout Update – Gary Evers

A copy of a letter and verification form issued on June 24 to all LPAs with a TE project, as well as a listing of all TE and TAP projects in the 2014-2017 TIP were provided to the Committee. The letter from INDOT was a request for all communities with a project that has not been let to fill out the verification form for INDOT. The verification form deadline was July 17th and was only for TE projects pre 2009. Those projects are in the balance and subject to rescission. The handout of projects included in the TIP categorized projects into Pre-2009 TE projects, 2009-2012 TE projects and TAP projects. Gary noted that if the verification form had not been filled out and turned in, the project is more than likely gone and communities need to follow-up on their projects and devise a Plan B if a rejection is received. INDOT is reserving funds and booking projects for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 and looking for ways to cut costs and eliminate projects from their system. Projects which have been stagnate will be looked at and likely eliminated. NIRPC is expected to pick up funding for all projects pre-2009 through current and funding all projects leaves a negative of \$6.5m. The current TIP failed the fiscal constraint test. If something is not done quickly to bring the numbers into balance, there might not be a TIP at all. NIRPC will be meeting with INDOT within the next couple of weeks and a decision is going to be made by Labor Day. INDOT has included all 4 years of TAP funding in the TIP and against the TIP projects even though projects have not been yet selected for the three remaining years.

INDOT will make an attempt to close out all MAP-21 funds and everything before that by September of 2014. Close out plans are beginning to be developed by NIRPC for all federal aid projects. INDOT is again looking for a way to eliminate projects to be able to balance their books and fund their own projects. The call will be made to all LPAs with federal aid projects. If a letting can be moved ahead of September, 2014 NIRPC will work the communities to make it happen so federal funds are not forfeited. Gary noted there has never been such short notice for a close out before. More information will follow as it becomes available. A brief discussion was held with Shannon Eason from Michigan City regarding the Signing Sands trail. Mitch alerted the group that due to the accelerated closing out of map-21 there might be quick turnaround on another TAP call and could even be this year.

Mitch stated 3PC has been given the ability to directly program a chunk of CMAQ money. 20% was allocated which translates to around \$800k. The final target amounts are still to be determined, but there should be a call within the next month or two. It will be a ped and bike focused call. During the TA funding cycle a deal was struck with Valparaiso and Merrillville to be first in line for the CMAQ funds, but will still leave roughly \$400k on the table. Another stakeholder meeting will be held to clarify instructions on scoring and prioritizing projects.

Chairman Jan Dick joined the meeting during the presentation by Gary.

Pedal

The Marquette Plan: Update & Discussion – Kathy Luther

The Marquette Plan is undergoing an update and work is being done with stakeholders to update aspects of the plan. 3PC is being looked to for parks, rec and trails since there are a lot of recommendations specific to those aspects. The Plan update is under contract with RDA who received a Lake Michigan Coastal grant. Phase I which included Lake County and Portage was completed in 2005. Phase II was completed in 2008 and included posters. The Plan itself is a comprehensive vision for the Lake Michigan shoreline with 75% of the lakeshore recaptured for public access and use; setback from the water's edge of 200 feet and a continuous trail network through northwest Indiana. The update will not touch any of the core principals, but will be an update of the projects and synthesizing. Guiding principles were reviewed by Kathy and a new focus on showcasing our heritage part will be added. An agreement was formed between IDNR, the RDA and NIRPC as to implementation of the Plan and NIRPC is the planning piece of the partnership.

The goals of the update include project status updates and addition of new projects relevant to the goals; Phase I and Phase II will be integrated; improved and increased on-line presence and access, creation of Marquette GIS database; the addition of a cultural and historic landmark piece; and a small release of a user friendly document. Updates will hopefully be able to be done online. General policy recommendations will be added and how the trail and ped and pedal piece will fit and integrate across the entire Plan will be particularly looked into. It is desired to increase public access to historic landmarks and trails are a great avenue. Indiana Landmarks is a partner of the project. Themes for historic sites include industrial heritage, early settler, Native American, early 20th century architecture, ethnic history and coastal.

There will be public involvement throughout the project. The Lake Michigan Marina and Shoreline Development Commission is being asked to serve as the advisory board for the update project. Stakeholder interviews have been held and more stakeholder meetings will be held in July and August with public meetings in all counties in the fall. There is hope to have a draft for adoption in winter 2014. A presentation was made to the Pathway to 2040 Committee and the updates line up very well with the goals. Implementing the Marquette is in the 2040 CRP and NIRPC's goal is to show the alignments very clearly.

Handouts of all the general policy recommendations and project status sheets were provided for the group to review. Kathy presented the frameworks for both Phases and the attempt is to align the phases and asked the group for input on proposed framework realignments. One of the ideas Kathy spoke about was to take the recommendations and use icons to indicate multi-modal recommendations. During the discussion the following suggestions were made:

- Adding Complete Streets which to some extent crosses back over into non-motorized transportation. The goal is to make all forms of transportation equally easy in a network and making sure it is added in both recreation and transportation frameworks.
- Use wording that does not refer to non-motorized only in a recreational sense
- Cautioned against lumping too much together because it makes it hard to read the maps.

Common language is desired and the 2040 Plan will be reviewed to see the language used. When tracking the shoreline and public access it was found that there are 53 miles with only 24.2 open to the public. The recommendation is 75% of shoreline access. Kathy noted it is a challenge on how to report progress. How many of the trails identified in Marquette are already in the regional priority trail network is another category of information needed and updates on projects and new projects are needed from the communities. Handouts of the full list of recommendations and Marquette plan projects were provided to the Committee for review and feedback. If a project was not completed feedback is wanted as to whether it is just not a priority or barriers faced.

Calumet Trail Rehabilitation Update

The process to rehab a two mile portion of the Calumet Trail began in late fall of 2012. The portion, which will cost approximately \$2m to pave runs from Mineral Springs Road to Tremont and coincides with the Dunes Kankakee trail being built right now. The section being rehabbed currently is the wettest portion of the trail and the attempt is to get the process right before continuing on the remainder of the trail. The goal is for letting in April 2014. The area is a true greenway entirely surrounded by wetlands and touches a lot of key environmental areas. Opportunities and constraints were analyzed and all the options had to meet a basic program and were presented at a workshop and two public meetings. From stakeholder groups and public

input seven trail scenarios were developed. Public feedback was given on the trail scenarios and common trends helped develop three preliminary design alternatives. The subgrade of the trail is critical since it is a NIPSCO right of way and large trucks will be on the trail. Since it is a nine mile trail it is important to not set precedent that is not buildable for the entire trail. The trail will be higher and wider which means more impacts on wetlands so to keep it narrower and tighter there will feature a ribbon curb in those sensitive areas. The three design alternatives were presented. The budgets were relatively the same for each and since all three scored closely when using an objective scoring system, the preferred alternative is a hybrid of the three scenarios. A brief overview of the new design was reviewed by Nick Minich. Mitch asked Bob Thompson about the future of the trail from Tremont to County Line to which Bob remarked that about \$200k will get new stone down from Tremont on, but the current phase needs to be constructed and begin to be used to put pressure on the elected officials who are not in tune with developing trails. A discussion took place regarding the Dunes Kankakee Trail and its future alignment and development. The groundbreaking of the first segment on the Dunes Kankakee from the State Park entrance to the Dunes Park Station has taken place and the segment from the visitor's center to the interchange of 20 and 49 will be starting soon.

Paddle –

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

b. **Camping on the Kank – Update**

Tim Morgan announced the first meeting of LaPorte, Porter, and Lake Counties will be held next week to discuss future campsites in Lake and Porter County and making a uniform camping water trail.

Grab Bag

A. Miscellaneous Issues, Concerns, Gripes

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

- Valparaiso night ride, August 24th 11:00 p.m.
- WHAM ride, August 3rd
- LaPorte's night ride was held, but there was a light turnout this year. No injuries or accidents.
- Tour de La Porte is coming up on the August 24th and 25th. A mountain bike race has been added to this year's events.

C. Next Meeting is Thursday August 22nd @ Portage Woodland Park

- Complete Streets Workshop – *Planning for Livable Communities*

Working with the Indiana Department of Health and will include discussion of the Complete Streets Guidelines manual. Two points will be awarded for attendance.

- The next 3PC meeting will take place in September.
- Mitch invited the Committee to walk the trail around NIRPC after the meeting adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned.