

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

April 9, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

Art Biciunas, Mitch Bishop, Joe Crnkovich, Dave Decker, Stan Dobosz, Stan Dostatni, Phil Gralik, Jerry Halperin, Jeff Huet, Bruce Lindner, Chris Meyers, Ed Morales, Ian Nicolini, Shawn Pettit, Craig Phillips, Brian Snedecor, Stu Summers, Claudia Taylor, Mary Jane Thomas, Tom VanderWoude, David Wright. Joyce Newland and Holly Ostdick participated via conference phone.

Guests

Marcia Blansett, Michelle Bollinger, Janet Cypra, Jim Earl, LuAnn Franklin, La’Kisha Girder, Mike Jabo, Pete Kohut, Katie Kukielka, Ed Leonard, Ed Linden, Sandy Linden, Chris Moor, Hubert Morgan, Chris Murphy, Spike Peller, Rick Powell, Chris Reynolds, Ray Riddell, Doug Robinson, Amy Thurman, Jim Wiseman, Eric Wolverton, Mike Yacullo

NIRPC Staff

Mitch Barloga, Bill Brown, Gary Evers, Kevin Garcia, Belinda Petroskey, Amanda Pollard, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne, Ty Warner

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- Chairman Shawn Pettit, NIRPC Commissioner and Merrillville Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- The committee currently receives email notification a week or more prior to the TPC meeting. In order to significantly reduce paper consumption and postage, the committee agreed to receive the draft agenda and accompanying materials via email at least two to three business days prior to the TPC meeting. It would also be available on the website. The day of the meeting, the materials would be viewed via projector. Only a few copies of the packets would be available for those attending who do not have computer access.
- Bruce Lindner motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting; seconded by Stan Dostatni. Motion carried.

2. Presentation – Public Participation Plan – Steve Strains reported that the 2007 plan needed an update. There was a 170-day plus comment period on several drafts and it is being finalized. Hubert Morgan added that significant input as well as TIP revision amendments and administrative modifications were received on changes in outreach and engagement comment periods. New outreach techniques will include Facebook, Twitter, webinars, Friends of NIRPC and youth outreach. NIRPC is taking the TPC out to communities in the region several times a year. Once broadband is installed, we will be able to webcast our meetings. Staff is completing internal review, and then meeting with the disability community. The plan will then go to the TPC for recommendation to the NIRPC board for action.

3. Congestion Management Process – Stephen Sostaric reported that NIRPC staff will be working with the Illiana team on the Tier 2 process.

4. Planning

- Memorandum of Understanding Update Process – Steve Strains reported that the MOU between NIRPC, IDEM, INDOT and the transit operators would need to be updated due to MAP-21. The regulations have not yet been defined.
- 2040 Plan Implementation – Eman Ibrahim defined the new Livable Centers Initiative, meeting with communities to identify their livable centers and the Creating Livable Centers funding program, \$400,000 from STP funds to link transportation and downtown neighborhoods. Communities can apply to NIRPC for this funding. The *Pathway to 2040* committee will meet Thursday, April 11 at 9 a.m.
- Intelligent Transportation System Architecture – Kevin Garcia reported that workshops will be held May 9 and another date to be determined. A draft of the documents will be presented to the TPC by June 11.
- Northwest Indiana Rail VISION Status –Jack Eskin reported that the at-grade crossing study data collection phase is closing and staff is moving into the evaluation stage. The next Rail VISION meeting will be in early to mid-June.
- Functional Classification Revision status – Bill Brown provided an updated spreadsheet on revisions to date. A lot of traffic counting still needs to be performed. Our traffic count staff person can only do about 45 per year. Any assistance from communities is welcome.

5. Programming

- Quarterly Project Tracking – Gary Evers reported that he is contacting Portage, Hobart and Hammond to set dates. The first change order was done. We will check it contract by contract, and information will be posted on line in July or August.
- FY 2014-2017 TIP Development – Project selection for the two STP categories and HSIP was done recently and issues have been resolved. Next month the draft TIP, conformity determination and plan amendment will be presented to the TPC. They will then be released for public comment and then brought to the NIRPC board at the June meeting. The new TIP will be amended into the STIP late July or August. Stephen Sostaric received 17 HSIP project proposals, two in LaPorte and 15 in Lake and Porter counties for signage replacement and pedestrian infrastructure upgrades. INDOT will evaluate the projects in their safety committee. They will then be amended into the new TIP. Group 2 STP allocated funds will total about \$8.8 million. Group 1 available funds total about \$64.9 million with lettings projected at about \$51.5 million. This will utilize about 80% of dollars available for programming. There is about \$74 million in unfunded projects. Letting for some projects may be delayed due to fiscal constraints. Gary explained the letting process and timeframe.

6. Indiana Department of Transportation

- Chris Reynolds highlighted projects being let from March through July.
- Jim Earl of INDOT and Ed Leonard of Parsons Brinkerhoff presented on the Illiana Tier 2 corridor study which will better define the B3 corridor. The projected benefits to Indiana would include better travel time savings, job creation and economic development. Public meetings are scheduled for April 16 and April 18 and in early summer and a public hearing in the fall of 2013. Discussion followed.

7. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that ridership is down from March 2012 totals but should be up in April due to spring break and baseball season. The ridership survey starts today. Work on the new high-level platform at the Dune Park Station has begun. Catenary replacement continues east of Michigan City.

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- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that ridership figures are down 5% over March of 2012 due to fewer service hours. The 2013 co-marketing campaign with the Railcats has begun and GPTC will begin serving a larger senior community on the US 20 corridor. Sidewalks are needed on US 20 between Clay and Lake Streets. TOD plans are being put together by the City of Gary near the Miller Station.

8. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

No reports.

9. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

NIRPC's certification review will take place June 18 to 20 with a public meeting. INDOT's STIP public meetings will be held on May 9 from 3 pm to 6 pm at the LaPorte District office. The new division administrator, Rick Marquis starts in June.

10. Planning Neighbors

- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning – No report.
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association – Tom Vander Woude said Illinois Governor Quinn appointed a new millennium reserve steering committee to look at projects in the Calumet area for green infrastructure and multi-use trails. Tom is working with Kevin Garcia on GIS data.
- Southwestern Michigan Commission – No report.

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

Announcements –

Stu Summers asked that a briefing on HB 1067 be put on next month's agenda. The bill, the Federal Fund Exchange Program, would allow a county or city to sell its federal funds to IDNOT at not less than 75 cents on the dollar.

Upcoming Meetings:

- *Pathway to 2040* CRP Implementation Committee will meet Thursday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m.
- NIRPC Full Commission/Executive Board – 9:00 a.m. April 18
- Illiana Corridor Public Meeting – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. April 18 at Lowell Middle School, 19250 Cline Avenue, Lowell
- Cornucopia – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. April 25 at Woodland Park in Portage (registration required)
- Environmental Management Policy Committee – 9:00 a.m. May 2
- Environmental Boot Camp – May 7-9
- Land Use Committee – 10:00 a.m. May 15
- NIRPC Full Commission/Executive Board – 9:00 a.m. May 23

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at NIRPC.

Chairman Pettit adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.