

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage

May 10, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present

Dave Decker, Bob Carnahan, George Topoll, Julie Ritzler, Carl Lisek, David Wright, Taylor Wegrzyn, Tom MacLennan, Jeff Huet, Frank Rosado, Jr., Phil Gralik, Claudia Taylor, Zach Hurst, Margot Sabato, Bruce Lindner, Bruce Spires, Joe Crnkovich, Beth Shrader, Mark O'Dell, Robin Barzoni-Tillman, Spike Peller and Jerry Siska.

Guests

Will Farrellbegg, Mark Gordish, Jill Murr, Ismail Attallah, Andrew Steele, John Talbot, Ron Wiedeman, Dennis Cobb, and Vince Epps.

NIRPC Staff

Steve Strains, Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Scott Weber, James Winters, Gabrielle Biciunas, Mary Thorne and Stephen Sostaric.

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- a) Dave Decker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- b) The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available for attendees to complete.
- c) On a motion by Joe Crnkovich and a second by Bruce Lindner, the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Presentation: Carl Lisek, South Shore Clean Cities (SSCC), presented on Northwest Indiana Green Fleet, including an overview of SSCC. There are 100 coalitions throughout the country, serving 80% of the population through businesses, governmental entities, the transportation industry, community-based organizations and utilities. Activities provided include community support, outreach and education, technical assistance and financial and grant assistance. Current opportunities include Midwest Drives, Green Fleet, Diesel Wise Across Indiana and several others. Coming events are listed on their website. Contact Carl Lisek at 219-644-3690 or clisek@southshorecleancities.org for more information.

3. Planning

- a) Stephen Sostaric said the public comment period on the I-65 added travel lane project ran from March 16 to April 15 with one public meeting. There was only one comment against the project; the rest were all in favor. The report is in the packet.

- b) Mitch Barloga referred to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion Amendment #2 for the I-65 added travel lane project from US 30 to SR 10. The Environmental Justice, Conformity and Congestion Management analyses were already approved by this committee. The amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program will be presented shortly. On a motion by Phil Gralik and a second by Bruce Spires, the Transportation Policy Committee voted to recommend Amendment #2 to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion to the Commission for adoption.

4. Programming

- a) Amanda Pollard said the quarterly tracking meetings started on May 9 and will run until May 19. Contact Amanda Pollard or Marcia Blansett with any issues.
- b) Gary Evers presented Amendment #17, adding the I-65 added travel lanes project from SR 2 to SR 10 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. The project covers 4.98 miles in Lake County, 2.92 miles in Newton County and 2.28 miles in Jasper at a cost of \$45 million, the majority of which is state-funded. Construction begins this year. On a motion by Bruce Spires and a second by Phil Gralik, the Transportation Policy Committee voted to recommend Amendment #17 FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to the Commission for adoption.
- c) Gary Evers presented Amendment #20 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for eight INDOT projects throughout the three county region. No public comments were received. On a motion by Phil Gralik and a second by Bruce Spires, the Transportation Policy Committee voted to recommend Amendment #20 FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to the Commission for adoption.
- d) Gary Evers reported on the 2016 Closeout Report for the Chicago Urbanized Area, with a balance of 46¢ and the Michigan City Urbanized Area with a balance of 48¢, pending approval by INDOT. The final report will come out next month.

5. Indiana Department of Transportation

Julie Ritzler reported on the INDOT lettings through June.

6. Transit Operators Reports

- a) **City of LaPorte Transit** – Tom MacLennan reported that 80% of their fleet is running propane with 80% public use.
- b) **GPTC** – David Wright reported that March ridership was up 6.5% over March 2015. Merrillville asked to investigate local transit expansion of the BRT. The survey is due July 19 and will go live this morning. The design contract was awarded for the Metro Center to a firm in New Jersey.
- c) **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that April ridership was down about one-tenth of 1% over April 2015 due to several factors. Regarding the crossover track project, the turnouts are too sharp and will be replaced. Work began in May and will continue through late June at crossovers located between East Chicago and Clark Road, Portage/Ogden Dunes and Miller and Clark Road and Gary Metro Center. Further details are on the website. Bridge rehab work continues through the end of the year. The Bikes on Trains program is going well in spite of the weather. Mitch Barloga commented that he enjoyed the program.

- d) **North Township Dial-a-Ride** – Jerry Siska reported that they have made 15,000 trips already and are on par for 45,000 trips for the year. They received a couple of new replacement vehicles.
- e) **South Lake County Community Services** – Margot Sabato reported that they do about 1,000 one way trips per month and offered to pass out paper copies of the GPTC survey on South Lake’s buses.

7. Regional Transportation Partners –

Indiana Toll Road – Zach Hurst, ITR Concessions Co, LLC, gave a brief report on the \$200 million 80/90 PUSH (Pavement Upgrade for a Superior Highway) project, providing renderings of proposed plaza upgrades from Portage to Elkhart. Up-to-date information on construction will be conveyed via the website, social media and other outlets. Visit their website at 8090push.com.

8. Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration – No reports were given.

9. Planning Neighbors – No reports were given.

10. Public Comment on Agenda Items – There were no requests for public comment.

11. Emerging Trends – Mitch Barloga announced this new portion of the meeting which is designed to be an educational or informative piece on transportation. He showed a video from Sweden on a new approach to mobility through the use of autonomous cars.

12. Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

a) Staff Announcements –

- Sarah Geinosky reminded those present to please fill out the Marquette Action Plan survey. A particular need is for those in north Lake County.
- Mitch Barloga said the next bike-hike-paddle map is almost completed and should be available around July 1. We received a lot of comments on bike routes online and in public meetings.

b) Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC –

- The Full Commission/Executive Board will meet on Thursday, May 19 at 9 a.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room, 6100 Southport Road, Portage.
- The Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee will meet on May 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room, 6100 Southport Road, Portage
- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet on June 2 at 9 a.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room, 6100 Southport Road, Portage

The next Transportation Policy Committee will be on June 14, 2016 at 9 a.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room, 6100 Southport Road, Portage.

On a motion by Phil Gralik and a second by Bruce Spires, Dave Decker adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone number or email below should you wish to receive a copy or a portion of it.

For requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

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