

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

June 11, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

John Bayler, Patricia Berry, Art Biciunas, Joseph Crnkovich, Stan Dostatni, Phil Gralik, Jeff Huet, Tyler Kent, Christopher Meyers, Mark O'Dell, Don Parker, Shawn Pettit, Craig Phillips, Jezreel Rodriguez, Claudia Taylor, Mary Jane Thomas, Jim Ton, Thomas VanderWoude, Dwayne Williams, David Wright, Mike Yacullo with Joyce Newland via conference phone.

Guests

Kent Ahrenholtz, Glen Campbell, Jim Earl, David Heinold, Michael Jabo, Peter Kohut, Ed Leonard, Matt Mikus, Chris Moore, Christopher Murphy, Jim Pinkerton, R. Mark Pittman, Chris Reynolds, Ron Shimizu, Lisa Shrader, Tim Werner, Ron Wickman

NIRPC Staff

Mitch Barloga, Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Jack Eskin, Kevin Garcia, Amanda Peregrine, Belinda Petroskey, Stephen Sostaric, Mary Thorne

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- Chairman Shawn Pettit, NIRPC Commissioner and Merrillville Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- Stan Dostatni motioned to approve the minutes of the May 14 meeting; seconded by Joe Crnkovich. Motion carried.

2. Congestion Management Process

Ron Shimizu described a summary of the approach to congestion management analysis as it relates to the Illiana. Parsons-Brinkerhoff will support some of NIRPC's efforts to provide analysis for various performance measures like demand management, safety, volume to capacity ratios, etc. A report will then be taken back to this committee. A public meeting will be held at Lowell Middle School on June 17 from 5-8 p.m. The Illiana P³ Industry Forum will be held June 24-25 in Rosemont, Illinois for the procurement process. Stephen Sostaric reported on an INDOT study of funding continuation for Hoosier state Amtrak service between Chicago and Indianapolis. A study showed that Amtrak ridership has increased by 55% since 1997 through those routes fewer than 400 miles. NIRPC staff will draft a resolution in support of this service to be placed on the July TPC agenda for recommendation to the NIRPC commission at their July meeting.

3. Planning

- a) Memorandum of Understanding – Steve Strains reported that NIRPC's MOU of 2008 with INDOT, IDEM and the transit operators needs to be revised this year. However, INDOT is considering a standardized MOU with all the MPOs and this may be announced next week at the certification review.
- b) Public Participation Plan – Shawn Pettit recently met with Bruce Lindner and Hubert Morgan. He commented that staff has done an excellent job of making every effort to reach out to the public for their input into the draft plan. The Executive Board tabled the action to adopt the plan and appointed an ad hoc committee of volunteer commissioners to hear more comments on the plan. They will report their findings to the Commission at the July meeting.
- c) No report was given on the 2040 Implementation.

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- d) ITS Architecture – Kevin Garcia updated the 2005 database of stakeholders, projects, etc. The ITS Architecture workshop will be held on July 22.
- e) NWI Rail VISION – Jack Eskin reported that the analysis for the at-grade crossing report is ending and the report will discuss economic development opportunities around rail in the region. An update on the Indiana Gateway project, the Marquette Plan as it relates to rail and a presentation on the upcoming fall rail summit will be presented at the next meeting on July 8 at 10 a.m. in the Packer Room.
- f) Air Quality Conformity – Bill Brown said today is an Air Quality Action Day. We are working on conformity for the draft TIP. We were advised to go out for public comment with an exempt TIP. INDOT is taking the lead with the MOVES model and must take out a glitch in their software before processing can continue. We should have the results of the analysis by the end of the week, finalize the documentation and have the public comment period to end either July or August on the conformity and the TIP. No expansion projects will be delayed.

4. Programming

- a) Quarterly TIP Tracking – Gary Evers reported that tracking meetings continue throughout the region. Compliance is in the 90% range.
- b) Transportation Alternatives Program – Mitch Barloga provided the project rankings for TAP projects for Hammond, Chesterton and Griffith, Safe Routes to School sidewalk project for Gary and STP-1 project for Schererville for Phase III of the Pennsy Greenway. On a motion by Stan Dobosz and a second by Don Parker, the committee approved recommendation of the TAP project selection to the NIRPC board
- c) FY 2014-2017 TIP – Gary Evers reported that a TIP with exempt projects will be carried that will be going out for public comment within the next week and will be on the website. There will be no transit projects and no capacity expansion projects. We will come back next month to adopt the TIP and release a TIP amendment for public comment which contains the capacity expansion projects. Later this summer, the transit projects will be added as well.

5. Indiana Department of Transportation

- Chris Reynolds highlighted projects let in May, July and August.

6. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that May ridership was up about 4% over May 2012. The survey results will be presented at the board meeting on July 26. Dune Park platform work continues, with completion around November. Catenary work continues and NICTD is competing for another TIGER grant. An alternative solution was developed for the Michigan City Study, which would preserve travel along the 10th & 11th Street corridor. The alternatives will be discussed at a public workshop on Thursday at City Hall from 6-8 pm.
- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that ridership figures are up 4% over May 2012. For 2013 to date, ridership is up about 5.2% over the same 2012 period. Complimentary para-transit ridership was up 22% over last year. Upcoming projects include landscaping, roof work and ITS projects. Bids will be opened this month. They will purchase 3 new fixed route vehicles with bike racks. .

7. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

Joyce Newland said NIRPC's certification review will take place June 18 to 20 with a public meeting. TPC members may submit comments on the planning process directly to Joyce or Reggie Arkeff of FTA. Steve

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Strains added that staff meetings will take place during the day on both days, with public sessions at NIRPC on June 18 from 5-7 pm and June 19 from 1-3 pm at IUN.

8. Planning Neighbors

- CMAP – Patricia Berry reported that GIS workshops will be held at CMAP. Go to their website at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/training> for more information. CMAP has a new microsite on performance based funding.
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association – No report.

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

Announcements –

- South Shore Clean Cities is having a CNG Leaders forum at Horseshoe Casino on June 18 at 9 am.
- Bill Brown is retiring from NIRPC after 30 years of service; his last day is June 27. Chairman Pettit, Immediate Past Chair Stan Dobosz and Ty Warner both thanked Bill for his dedicated service to NIRPC and attending about 300 TPC meetings. NIRPC has posted a job announcement.

Upcoming Meetings:

- NIRPC Certification Review – 5 pm to 7 pm June 18 at NIRPC.
- NIRPC Certification Review – 1 pm to 3 pm June 19 at IUN, 3400 Broadway, Gary.
- NIRPC Executive Board – June 20 at NIRPC.
- *Pathway to 2040* Implementation Committee – 9 a.m. July 11 at NIRPC
- Environmental Management Policy Committee – 9:00 am August 1 at NIRPC

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

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