

**Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan
Implementation Committee Meeting
NIRPC Auditorium
July 12, 2012
Minutes**

Attendees

Robert Carnahan, James Ton, Bruce Bendull, Mark Cassello (for Joan Crist), Dale Engquist, Rich Herr, Jim Jessup, Jennifer Kharchaf, Mark Maassel, George Malis, Sergio Mendoza Tim Morgan, Richard Morrisroe, Don Parker, Kris Parker, Cecile Petro, Pat Pullara, David Wright, Joe Wszolek, Tony Sindone

Guests

Craig Grabow, Africa Tarver

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Eman Ibrahim, Mary Thorne, Tom Vander Woude, Kevin Garcia

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Nancy Adams called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Don Parker, the minutes of the April 18, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation – Public Transportation

Belinda Petroskey reported on public transportation in the region. The City of LaPorte has all demand response transit which can be accessed by all. Michigan City has a fixed route system. Swanson Center, Parents and Friends and the Council on Aging all run an extensive public transit system for those in need of service and the elderly. Great interest in transit service lies with Purdue North Central and Valparaiso University in the future. Two demand response providers in LaPorte County are Opportunity Enterprises and Porter County Aging and Community Services. Porter County has a public transit system in Valparaiso for fixed route but they do not have to run complimentary paratransit. They also run the ChicaGo Dash express bus service to Chicago. Portage and Chesterton have demand response providers through Opportunity Enterprises for the general public and Porter County Aging and Community Services for the elderly and people with disabilities. Both need a local funding source to furnish services. In Lake County, the north end was well-served by fixed route service through the RBA, which shut down service on June 30 for lack of local funding. NIRPC brought in all of the transit operators to discuss the immediate needs of the formerly served complimentary paratransit riders. East Chicago Transit, Gary Public Transportation Corporation, and the North Township Trustee's office are providing service in North Township. The new route map was shown. The RBA is still in existence until it is dissolved by the state, which created it. There

were large increases in ridership in all agencies Discussion followed. Support for local funding resources is needed.

Implementation Matrix

Eman Ibrahim discussed the final matrix which includes goals, objectives and strategies as outlined in the 2040 CRP. Terms were defined. Short term of 2-3 years, mid-term of 3-5 years and long term of 5-10 years. A timeline will be created. The matrix will be used to help with implementation of the 2040 Plan.

Urban Core Subcommittee Report

Tom Vander Woude gave an update on the subcommittee. Tom Vander Woude presented the Urban Core Priority Report to support urban reinvestment, ensure environmental justice throughout the region, project natural resources and integrate transportation and land use. The urban core area is defined as Hammond, East Chicago, Gary and Michigan City and is characterized by such things as higher than average vacancy rates, population loss, concentrated low-income and minority populations, brownfields, traditional urban design and significant existing infrastructure. Of note is that while population in northwest Indiana in general has grown over the last thirty years, the urban core cities have shown a decline in population growth. Each community provided statistics and priorities. All desired reinvestment, redevelopment, mixed-use, transit-oriented development, and improving industrial truck routes.

Land Use Committee Report

Eman Ibrahim said the committee met yesterday. Implementation projects will include Livable Centers Initiative and Creative Livable Centers. Communities will be encouraged to plan strategies to link land use and transportation. The Creative Livable Centers is a funding program designed to help identify livable centers which will utilize funding from STP, CMAQ, TE, etc. Transit oriented development projects will be of high priority. The committee is looking at other MPOs to see what they are doing in this capacity.

Current Initiatives – Nancy Adams

- ❖ The final CRP Brochure was available. It will be a good tool for the general public.
- ❖ CRP Outreach efforts were made to Chesterton and Dune Acres. The next effort will be made to Gary City Council on August 7 at 6 p.m. Pathway committee members were encouraged to attend and show support. More presentations need to be scheduled and committee members were encouraged to help get slots in municipal council meetings to discuss their five year plans. The list of municipalities needing to be contacted will be sent to the committee. Asterisks will be placed by those communities not represented here. Updated plans should be submitted to NIRPC for digitizing.
- ❖ CRP Video Grants. There is almost \$18,000 in local match; \$1250 from the Legacy Foundation and \$2400 from the Discovery Alliance to produce a CRP video as an outreach tool. We have an outreach effort to youth with Hubert Morgan at high school and middle school students about the CRP and the video will be a good educational tool.

Schedule of Meetings – 2012

The next meeting will be held on October 11 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

Other Business

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- ❖ The Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra will perform in Cedar Lake on July 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson Adams adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda Packet
- Implementation Matrix
- Urban Core Priority Report
- 2040 Plan Brochure

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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