

Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage

July 12, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present

Michael Griffin, Dave Shafer, Kevin Breitzke, Geof Benson, John Bayler, Michael Noland, Margot Sabato, Taylor Wegrzyn, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Lyndsay Quist, Kay Nelson, Allura Gray, and William Emerson, Jr. and Joyce Newland and Susan Orona via conference phone.

Guests

Zach Hurst, Jim Ton, Bob Carnahan, Teri Dixon, Will Farrellbegg, Audrey Wennink, Amber Kettring, Mark Gordish, Jarvis Jointer, Jeff Huet, Robin Barzoni-Tillman, Beth Shrader, Michael Jabo, Craig Phillips, Dean Button, Dennis Cobb, Ken Martin, Jeff Huet, Carl Lisek, Al Walus, Eric Wolverton, Ron Wiedeman, Jill Murr, Deb Backhus, Chris Moore, La'Kisha Girder, Rebecca Williams, Joe Crnkovich, Claudia Taylor, and David Wright.

NIRPC Staff

Ty Warner, Steve Strains, Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Eman Ibrahim, Sarah Geinosky, Scott Weber, James Winters, Gabrielle Biciunas, Kathy Luther, Belinda Petroskey and Mary Thorne.

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- a) Michael, Griffin, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. NIRPC's Chair, Jim Ton, thanked everyone for attending this inaugural meeting of the new TPC.
- b) The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available for attendees to complete.
- c) On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the minutes of the June 14, 2016 Transportation Policy Committee meeting were approved as presented.

- 2. Presentation:** Mitch Barloga presented on the roles and responsibilities of the new Technical Planning Committee, with a history of the committee restructuring and described the graphic of the structure as approved by the Full Commission in May of 2015. Commissioners were surveyed for their preferred committees and assignments were then made by the Chair and Ty Warner based on those preferences. Great care was taken to insure the right fit between commissioners and the committees they wished to serve. The Technical Planning Committee will receive funding requests from the Transportation Resource and Oversight Committee, ensure projects support the implementation of the 2040 vision and federal transportation planning requirements and recommend projects to the Commission for adoption. Flow charts describing the various processes were explained. Most of the "heavy lifting" will be done at the topical committee level. Proxies are

allowed for committees only. A quorum consists of the majority of members present but a minimum of three. Discussion followed.

3. Implementation Planning

- a) Steve Strains gave an overview of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, which was created through extensive research, data and analysis, particularly land use, population projections, and work by interested stakeholders and the public. There is a place for everyone in the committees to bring projects and strategies that are in keeping with this plan. As the region grows, we will continue to program major expansion projects and identify projects in the Transportation Improvement Program and look at green infrastructure and environmental challenges and opportunities.
- b) Gabrielle Biciunas gave an overview of the 2040 CRP Implementation Matrix which was updated last year based on the goals, objectives and action plans. This matrix is updated as necessary and shows the goal, objective, timeframe, responsible party, funding and best practices to model. The 2040 Plan won numerous planning awards and showcases the region.

4. Transportation Programming

- a) Gary Evers explained Amendment 26 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for new Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects previously authorized by Resolutions 15-28, 15-29 and 16-08 for Lake County, Crown Point, Valparaiso, Kouts, Hammond and Gary and changes to existing projects for the City of LaPorte, Valparaiso, Gary, Portage, Hammond, LaPorte County, Porter County and Crown Point. The Valparaiso project on page 8 is actually in 2017 and this will be amended. The amendment went out to the Interagency Consultation Group and public comment. Geof Benson made a motion to recommend Amendment 26 to the NIRPC Board for approval subject to the revision on the year of the Valparaiso project; seconded by Kevin Breitzke. Motion carried.
- b) Gary Evers explained Amendment 27 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for new congestion mitigation/air quality (CMAQ) projects previously authorized by the Commission through Resolution 15-18 for Hammond, East Chicago, Burns Harbor, New Chicago, Cedar Lake, City of LaPorte, Crown Point, Portage and NIRPC. The amendment went out to the Interagency Consultation Group and public comment. On a motion by Dave Shafer and a second by Geof Benson, the Committee voted to recommend Amendment 27 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to the NIRPC Board for approval.
- c) Gary Evers explained Amendment 28 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for seven new or significantly modified INDOT projects or phases. The amendment went out to the Interagency Consultation Group and public comment. On a motion by Kevin Breitzke and a second by Mark O'Dell, the Committee voted to recommend Amendment 28 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to the NIRPC Board for approval.

5. Topical Committee Reports

- a) Environmental Management Policy Committee – Kathy Luther overviewed the committee, chaired by Geof Benson and its membership. They are working with Mitch Barloga to merge the Greenways & Blueways Plan with the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. The committee meets monthly, usually the first Thursday of the month at 9 a.m.
- b) Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee – Mitch Barloga briefed on this committee which will be chaired by Joe Stahura and will deal with trails, complete streets and non-motorized transportation. The committee meets monthly, usually the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m.
- c) Land Use Committee – Eman Ibrahim overviewed this committee, chaired by Greg Stinson, and will study and advise on land use, smart growth and transit-oriented development. The committee usually meets every other third Wednesday at 10 a.m.
- d) Rail Vision Workgroup/Freight – James Winters overviewed this committee, chaired by Dave Decker, which will advise NIRPC on freight transportation needs and freight related economic development and policies. The committee meets every other third Wednesday at 10 a.m.
- e) Transit Operators Roundtable – Margot Sabato reported that the operators met on June 14 after the Transportation Policy Committee adjourned to discuss the committee structure. Operators selected to represent the roundtable on the TPC are: Lake County: Margot Sabato, South Lake County Community Services; Porter County: Taylor Wegrzen, Valparaiso's V-Line and ChicaGO Dash; LaPorte County: Tom MacLennan, LaPorte Transporte. The operators will formally request approval of the NIRPC Board to add representation to the TPC by direct recipients Gary Public Transportation Corp. and Michigan City Transit. The MPO planning regulations require transit operators in the Long Range Transportation Plan. GPTC and Michigan City will bring more voices to the table for multi-modal transportation. The roundtable will meet immediately following the TPC. Jim Ton clarified that since the restructuring of committees was approved by the Full Commission, they would be the ones to amend the membership of the TPC.
- f) Surface Transportation Committee – Scott Weber overviewed this committee, chaired by Tom Schmitt, which will oversee development of regional transportation plan elements relevant to street and highway transportation. These requirements include congestion management, ITS, HSIP, pavement management and performance based planning. The first meeting will be held on August 2, and will meet bimonthly as needed. Membership is unconstrained.

6. Planning Partners –

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning – Teri Dixon reported that they are getting public comments on their long-range plan *On to 2050*.

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

8. Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

a) Staff Announcements –

- Kathy Luther said NIRPC received a NIPSCO charging grant and a ribbon cutting will be held at NIRPC on Tuesday, July 26 at 11 a.m.

b) Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC –

- The Full Commission/Executive Board will meet on Thursday, July 21 at 9 a.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room.
- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet on August 4 at 9 a.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room.

The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee will be on August 9, 2016 at 9 a.m. in the NIRPC Lake Michigan Room.

Michael Griffin adjourned the meeting at 11:10 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 [and](#). Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

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