

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

July 8, 2014

MINUTES

Members Present

Stan Dobosz, Stan Dostatni, Tom McLennan, Art Biciunas, Mark O'Dell, Claudia Taylor, David Wright, Bob Thompson, Craig Phillips, Phil Gralik, Art Biciunas, Tyler Kent, Don Parker, Mary Jane Thomas, Tyler Kent, Jeff Huet, James Mandon, Joe Simonetto, David Wright, Jim Ton, Bruce Lindner, Phil Gralik, Bruce Spires, Tom Vander Woude, Mike Yacullo, Teri Dixon and Jerry Halperin and Joyce Newland via conference phone.

Guests

Mark Gordish, Matt Lemon, Brad Minnick, Michael Jabo, LuAnn Franklin, Jennifer Alander, Craig Hendrix, AJ Monroe, Peter Kohut, Deb Backhus, Chris Moore, Eric Wolverton, Christopher Murphy, Jake Dammarell.

NIRPC Staff

Steve Strains, Mitch Barloga, Mary Thorne, Gary Evers, Gabrielle Biciunas, Jack Eskin, Scott Weber, Steve Strains and Ty Warner.

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- a) Vice-Chairman Stan Dobosz called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- b) The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- c) On a motion by Don Parker and a second by Bruce Lindner, the minutes of the June 10 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Presentation

Mitch Barloga presented a YouTube video of Americas Report on Indiana's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). Scott Weber added that the technology is understandable and the feds will be looking at how well our architecture serves as a clearinghouse for ITS planning goals throughout the region. Scott Weber met with transit operators and others at the Borman Traffic Management Center to discuss safety and coordination efforts of ITS. A performance matrix will be created of things to be put into the ITS Architecture. A concentration will focus on intermodality of ITS Architecture.

3. Planning

- a) 2040 CRP and TIP Update – Mitch Barloga said the update to the 2040 Plan must be completed by June 2015. The kickoff date of September 1 will begin with topic-focused outreach efforts looking at the different elements of the plan process in updates of the plan as well as projects.
- b) Quarterly Tracking – Reporting for Amanda Pollard, Mitch Barloga reported that the next round of project tracking meetings will start on August 5th. There is a schedule on the sign in table. If you cannot attend your specific date and time please let Amanda know. Second notice emails have been sent out and there are a lot of communities that have not gotten back to her. Contact Amanda with any scheduling

problems. Joyce Newland mentioned that the FHWA division administrator will be attending some of the meetings.

- c) Functional Classification System – Scott Weber referred to a handout for an educational meeting to be held on July 28 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Construction Advancement Foundation Training Center (south building) at 6050 Southport Road, across Waypoint Drive from the NIRPC office. The Functional Classification System is a planning emphasis area issued by USDOT and is important for receiving federal assistance. Staff will meet with INDOT to help guide us through this process.

4. Programming

- a) Gary Evers described Amendment #21 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program to add one INDOT exempt project for a Quality Assurance/Quality Control program on both the state and county bridge inspection data to the TIP. On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by Don Parker, the committee recommended FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #21 to the NIRPC Board for approval.
- b) Gary Evers described Amendment #22 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program to add 11 various LPA projects and phases for Schererville, Lake County, Porter County, La Porte County, Valparaiso, Crown Point, Gary, Hobart, Michigan City, Hobart, and Merrillville to the TIP. Gary Evers also pointed out the three deleted projects for Porter County. On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by Don Parker, the committee recommended FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #22 to the NIRPC Board for approval.
- c) Transportation Alternatives Program – Mitch Barloga reported that last month the TPC remanded the TAP program to the Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee with three policy actions to be considered. That committee voted to fully fund the Westchester-Liberty Trail in Chesterton, the Oak Savannah-Erie Lackawanna Connector in Griffith and the Marquette Greenway-Chicago to Hammond Marina in Hammond. The committee also voted to retain the \$2 million maximum. The committee further determined that while a community could submit multiple projects, only one project could be awarded per sponsor. Materials included the minutes from that committee meeting along with the TAP project allocation summary and yearly funding limits. On a motion by Craig Phillips and a second by Mark O’Dell, the committee voted to recommend the revised Transportation Alternatives Program to the NIRPC Board for approval.

5. Indiana Department of Transportation

Jennifer Allander reported that there were no changes to the letting list provided in the packet.

6. Transit Operators Reports

GPTC – David Wright reported that ridership for May was down 2% over May of 2013 due to one less peak day this year, but on average has leveled off over the ridership of last year at this time. The *Lake Shore Connection* ridership is consistent with the prior Tri-City Connection as expected; ridership on the *Lake Shore South* has improved with about 150% increase since the inception of the route. David Wright thanked INDOT and the City of Gary for fixing the drainage issues in downtown Gary at US Highways 12/20. There is no longer any standing water at one of the key bus stops. As regards the Broadway repaving from 61st north to downtown in 2017, INDOT invited GPTC to the table as to the Broadway project, transit operations and complete streets. Transit Day at the Lake County Fair will be Thursday, August 7, provided by the partnership between GPTC, North Township, Dial a Ride and East Chicago Transit. The first trip is 9:30 a.m. from Ultra Foods in Highland and the last is at 7 p.m. Information will be on both the Lake County Fair and GPTC’s websites. Finally, GPTC has entered into a contract with TY Land International to spearhead the planning of the Livable Broadway project. A steering committee meeting will be held on July 16 at 9 a.m. at the GPTC office at the Gary Metro Center, 100 W 4th Avenue. INDOT, Merrillville and NIRPC are interested parties. The

preliminary agenda will be provided shortly. Steve Strains commended GPTC for providing the greatly needed new Lake Shore service into Hammond. David Wright commented that people have provided a lot of positive feedback. Schedules are available on the website, and some have been sent by mail to those without computers both in Indiana and Illinois. Facebook posts have requested service into Hessville, north Hammond and Whiting. GPTC has held conversations with Calumet College of St. Joseph about providing transit in that area.

7. Regional Transportation Partners – No reports were given.

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

9. Planning Neighbors –

- a) Teri Dixon, CMAP reported that they held public hearings for their TIP and their GOTO2040 Plan with public comment ending August 1.
- b) Tom Vander Woude, Southwest Suburban Mayors and Managers Association reported that construction on US 30 overpass over CN Railroad is expected to begin this month. The project cost is \$33 million, \$26 million of which will be provided by CN and the duration of the construction is expected to take at least two years. In answer to a question by Mitch Barloga regarding the Lincoln Airport, Tom Vander Woude said IDOT purchased Bult Field and plans to use it as a general aviation facility. Ground breaking is expected within the next few years.

10. Other Business, Public Comment, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

a) **Other Business** – None.

b) **Staff Announcements** –

- Gary Evers said with regard to the transition plans, the survey needs to be completed by the employee in responsible charge if an LPA is anticipating obligating any federal funds. The deadline is September 1.
- Jack Eskin announced the Strong Cities, Strong Communities, Strong Northwest Indiana Symposium to improve quality of life in Northwest Indiana will be held July 22-23 at the Genesis Center in Gary. The fee is \$45 for both days. A flyer was provided.

c) **Upcoming Meetings** –The meeting schedule was provided in the materials. The *Pathway to 2040* Implementation Committee will meet this Thursday, July 10 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC. The Executive Board/Full Commission will meet on Thursday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC. The Functional Classification System Education Meeting will be held on July 28 at 10 a.m. at the Construction Advancement Foundation Training Center (south building) at 6050 Southport Road, across Waypoint Drive from the NIRPC office. The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet on August 7 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 12, location to be determined.

Stan Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy 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. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.