

## **Technical Planning Committee Meeting**

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room  
6100 Southport Road, Portage  
October 11, 2016  
MINUTES

### **Members Present**

Michael Griffin, Kevin Breitzke, Geof Benson, George Topoll, John Bayler, Margot Sabato, Taylor Wegrzyn, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Robin Barzoni-Tillman, Daryl Lampkins, Beth Shrader, Kay Nelson, Lyndsay Quist, Susan Orona and William Emerson, Jr. Joyce Newland participated via conference phone.

### **Guests**

Justin Kiel, Jill Murr, Nicole Barker, Frank Rosado, Jr., Joe Crnkovich, Jeff Huet, David Wright, Woody Dresden, Claudia Taylor, Jerry Siska, Mark Gordish, Don Parker, Mike Yacullo, Ismail Attallah, James Mandon, Jake Dammarell, Dennis Cobb, Deb Backhus, Catherine Yoder, Eric Wolverton, Don Oliphant, Lauren Orchard, Nick Barbknecht, Karie Koehneke, Salvatore DiBernardo and Andrew Steele.

### **NIRPC Staff**

Steve Strains, Gary Evers, Kathy Luther, Sarah Geinosky, Stephen Sostaric, Scott Weber, James Winters, Gabrielle Biciunas, Eman Ibrahim, Belinda Petroskey, Amanda Pollard and Mary Thorne.

### **1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements**

- a) Chairman Michael Griffin 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 Geof Benson and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the minutes of the September 13, 2016 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved as presented.

### **2. Presentation**

Mitch Barloga presented the Greenways & Blueways 2020 Draft Plan and Open House Schedule. The Greenways & Blueways 2020 plan will cover conservation, recreation and transportation in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. The goal is to describe performance measures and policies to enhance greenspace, the street network, and surface and water trails. Traffic counters have been installed along major bike trails to track usage. The draft report is scheduled to be available on the website by the end of the week, followed by a 30 day public comment period with several open houses to provide feedback on the draft plan. A review of the draft by the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee and the Environmental Management Policy Committee will take place as well. The comment period will conclude November 14. The final document will go to the Technical Policy Committee for recommendation to the Full Commission for adoption at its December meeting.

### **3. Implementation Planning**

- a) Michael Griffin thanked those who served on the B-List project solicitation criteria ad hoc committee. Mitch Barloga presented the updated schedule and application. The application submission deadline is October 19. NIRPC staff will review the applications and develop draft rankings on October 21 or 24<sup>th</sup>. The ad-hoc committee will reconvene at a mandatory meeting at 10 a.m. on October 26 at NIRPC to review the rankings. Applicants should attend this meeting as well. The Technical Planning Committee will meet on November 1 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC (as November 8 is Election Day). The committee will review the rankings and recommend them to the NIRPC Board for adoption at their meeting on December 8 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.
- b) Scott Weber presented on the Air Quality Conformity Determination between the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan as updated and amended, the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program and the Indiana State Implementation Plan for Air Quality for expansion projects in the 2020, 2025, 2030 and 2040 Network including projects as shown in Table 1 of the Determination. Analysis included socioeconomic totals, vehicle miles of travel, regional emissions analysis results for 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040 and 2045. The determination concluded that the emissions for ozone (VOC and NOx) and PM2.5 and annual nitrogen oxide in the PM 2.5 maintenance area are at or less than the Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets established in the Maintenance Plan included in the US EPA approved in the US EPA approved State Implementation Plan for Lake and Porter Counties. Therefore, the Interagency Consultation Group on Air Quality finds the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan as updated and the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program conform to the requirements of section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendment and the related requirements of the Federal Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 51 and 40 CFR Part 93) with respect to ozone and PM2.5.
- c) Gary Evers reported on the three components of Amendment #1 to the FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program. Amendment 1-1 is for a new program for an updated Household Travel Survey partnering with the Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning (CMAP) to update our transportation model for \$116,232. Amendment 1-2 is for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) carryover funds in the amount of \$288,947 to be used for the US 30/Merrillville/Hobart/Gary area safety planning project. Amendment 1-3 is for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) carryover funds in the amounts of \$177,420 and \$223,013 to be used for two air quality education/outreach programs. NIRPC is grateful to INDOT for allowing us to use the carryover funds for these programs. Kevin Breitzke made a motion to recommend Amendment #1 to the FY 2017/2018 Unified Planning Work Program to the NIRPC Board for approval; seconded by Geof Benson. Motion carried.

### **4. Transportation Programming.**

- a) Gary Evers explained Amendment 30 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for 27 new or significantly modified INDOT projects in La Porte and Porter Counties. Also included is a US 12 realignment and US 20 reconstruction in Miller for NICTD's project. These projects were exposed in a public comment period and reviewed by the Interagency Consultation Group. As these projects were not done by local communities, they were not reviewed by the

topical committees. Kevin Breitzke commented that there is awareness of impact to businesses and noted that these improvements will benefit all along the routes when completed. Geof Benson made a motion to recommend Amendment 30 to the NIRPC Board for approval; seconded by Kevin Breitzke. Motion carried.

- b) Gary Evers explained Amendment 31 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for new or modified local public agency projects and phases for Portage, Schererville, NIRPC, Hammond, Highland, LaPorte (city), Crown Point, Merrillville, Gary, Winfield and Lake County. Some of these must go back to the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee (TROC) for additional support, not for any changes. These projects were exposed in a public comment period and reviewed by the Interagency Consultation Group. It was noted that DES 14010300 for Crown Point was listed twice and the final list of projects for Amendment 31 will be edited to remove the second DES 14010300. Kevin Breitzke made a motion to recommend Amendment 30 to the NIRPC Board for approval subject to the striking of the repeated Crown Point project; seconded by Mark O'Dell. Motion carried.
- c) Gary Evers reported that the initial meeting of the Lake and Porter County TROC took place on September 7 to name Phil Gralik as Chair and review the assigned duties and responsibilities of the committee. A summary financial report was provided to the committee showing over-programming 2018 by over \$5 million and under-programming 2019 by about \$12.5 million. A solution spreadsheet will be reviewed at the next meeting on October 25 at 9 a.m. as well as some change order procedures.
- d) Gary Evers that the LaPorte County TROC met on September 11 and October 6 to review duties and responsibilities and hear a presentation on the B-List projects. The consensus of the committee was to proceed on their own on the B-List items and at the October meeting. The group chose five projects to compete for the \$317,801 available. The projects are for LaPorte County, LaCrosse (their first project ever), Michigan City Transit, City of LaPorte, and Michigan City. This list of projects would be formed into a resolution for action by the Commission at its meeting next week. Michael Griffin asked that the record reflect that under general consensus the Technical Planning Committee authorizes the LaPorte County Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee to prepare their work product in the form of a resolution to be sent directly to the Commission for adoption.

## **5. Topical Committee Reports**

- a) Environmental Management Policy Committee – Geof Benson said the committee will meet jointly with the Federal Urban Waters Partnership on November 3 at 9 a.m. at Construction Advancement Foundation in the main building.
- b) Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee – Mitch Barloga said the committee will meet on October 27 at 1:30 p.m. at NIRPC.
- c) Transit Operators Roundtable – No report.
- d) Land Use Committee – Gabrielle Biciunas said the next meeting is October 19 at 10 a.m. at NIRPC.
- e) Rail Vision Workgroup/Freight – James Winters said the committee will meet at 10 a.m. on November 1 after the TPC meeting.

f) Surface Transportation Committee – Scott Weber said the next meeting is December 5.

**6. Planning Partners –**

Federal Highway Administration – It was very difficult to hear Joyce Newland. She later reported via email that FHWA announced that next year will be the 4-year mark for FTA and FHWA (which comprises the US Department of Transportation review team) to conduct a certification review of the NIRPC planning process. USDOT is required to certify the transportation planning process every four years for metropolitan areas that are over 200,000 in population. USDOT anticipates the on-site certification review will take place in June 2017.

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

**8. Emerging Trends –** There was no presentation.

**9. Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings**

a) There was no other business.

b) Staff Announcements - Steve Strains and Belinda Petroskey were honored and thanked for their 40+ years of service. Steve retires the end of October; Belinda retires the end of November.

**c) Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC –**

- Land Use Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Dune Room at the NIRPC office.
- The Executive Board will meet on Thursday, October 20 at 9 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.
- The Transportation Resource and Oversight Committee (TROC) for Lake and Porter Counties will meet on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.
- The Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee will meet on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.
- The Rail Vision/Freight Committee will meet on November 1 at 10 a.m.
- The Environmental Policy Committee will meet on Thursday, November 3 at 9 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.
- The Surface Transportation Committee will meet on December 6 at the NIRPC office.

Due to Election Day on November 8, the next Technical Planning Committee meeting will be held a week prior on **November 1, 2016** at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.

Hearing no other business, Michael Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:30 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.*

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