

**Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan  
Implementation Committee Meeting  
NIRPC Auditorium  
April 11, 2013  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

Alice Dahl, Cindy Rojas, Sergio Mendoza, Cecile Petro, George Malis, Mark Maassel, Kris Parker, Bruce Bendull, Sharron Liggins, Don Parker, Richard Morrisroe, Christopher Meyers, James Ton, David Wright, Joe Wszolek, Pat Pullara

**Guests**

Ron Shimizu, Katie Kukielka, Jennifer Alander, AJ Monroe, Gregg Fuhlenbron, Jim Bartos

**Staff**

Eman Ibrahim, Gabrielle Biciunas, Joe Exl, Jask Eskin, Sarah Geinosky, Bill Brown, Mitch Barloga, Kevin Garcia

**Welcome and Introductions**

Commissioner James Ton chaired the meeting for Michael Griffin and 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 Alice Dahl and a second by Don Parker, the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Presentation – Non-Motorized Transportation and Tourism**

Mitch Barloga presented on trails and greenways supporting health benefits, green infrastructure and tourism. Obesity is over 30% nationally, surpassing smoking as the leading health hazard. Trails promote physical activity, connectivity and tourism. Trails are attractive to corporations which are locating their businesses within trail systems. Trails are an attractive amenity to prospective homeowners.

**Best Practices – Redevelopment**

Mitch Barloga highlighted the benefits of redevelopment in his presentation of the Bush Stadium in Indianapolis which was eventually developed as apartments and condominiums known as “Stadium Lofts” opening in August 2013. Offices in the high tech bio research medical district will be located in the outfield area of the former ballpark.

**Land Use Committee Report**

Eman Ibrahim gave an update on the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) and the Creating Livable Centers (CLC) as a funding mechanism. These will help local communities in how to link land use and transportation using GIS. Staff is meeting with the communities to define their center boundaries, having already met with eight communities to date.

The Creating Livable Communities (CLC) program will support community-based transportation/land use projects to vitalize down town areas, transit station areas, etc. Funding will be available by October of 2013. Project examples were provided.

### **Urban Core Subcommittee Report**

Jack Eskin reported that the committee met a month ago. Staff is interviewing stakeholders, meeting with planning departments, and identifying common themes to establish program areas. Existing efforts include the Livable Centers Initiative, Creating Livable Communities, the Marquette Plan update and a focus on the NWI regional at-grade railroad crossing study. Future efforts will include transit accessible design models, regional ports and Gary Chicago International Airport studies, intermodal studies, green infrastructure and environmental planning and a South Shore transit-oriented development study once funding becomes available. An Environmental boot camp workshop will be held from May 7-9 on environmental regulations, brownfield redevelopment strategies and regional case studies.

### **Illiana Corridor Report**

A status report on the Illiana Corridor was given by Ron Shimizu from the consulting firm of Parsons Brinkerhoff. The study is going into the Tier 2 corridor study phase, which will better define the B3 corridor. The projected benefits to Indiana would include better travel time savings, job creation and economic development. Public meetings are scheduled for April 16 at the Peotone High School in Illinois from 5 pm to 8 pm and April 18 at Lowell Middle School in Indiana, also from 5 pm to 8 pm. and in early summer. No build is still an option. A public hearing will be held in the fall of 2013. It is expected that NIRPC would take action to include the project in their 2040 plan by the October 2013 Full Commission meeting. Discussion followed. It was noted that the forecasts shown in the report conflict with the forecasts used in the 2040 Plan and will need to be reconciled. The total cost estimate for the Illiana project is \$1.3 billion. Indiana's cost is about 25% of that; however, costs to INDOT for land acquisition and improvements to I-65, SR 41, etc. are unknown at this time. It was projected that major truck lines will use the tollway system, while independent truckers may be less inclined to pay the tolls.

### **Current Initiatives – Joe Exl**

- Air quality diesel oxidation catalyst project is moving forward to put control devices on municipal vehicles
- Marquette projects update has started with the urban core subcommittee, and we are waiting for the RDA to approve the contract
- Green infrastructure pilot projects: We are working with Cedar Lake in connecting people with nature features and preserving water quality benefits. We are also working with East Chicago on stormwater retrofits for energy conservation. Both projects will be finished by June.
- We submitted a grant application to IDEM for the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway watershed. We have not heard whether we were awarded the grant; however, IDEM has agreed to do water quality assessment of approximately 35 sites along the watershed area, which will result in approximately \$30,000 in cost savings. IDEM is also doing a total maximum daily load study on the amount of pollution that can go into the waterway while still meeting our water quality standards.

### **Schedule of Meetings – 2013**

The next meetings will be held on July 11 and October 10 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, quarterly.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

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Acting Chair Ton adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda Packet

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