

## Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room  
6100 Southport Road, Portage

March 14, 2017

### MINUTES

Chairman Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members present included Kevin Breitzke, Geof Benson, George Topoll, Bill Emerson, Jr., David Wright, Tyler Kent, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Beth Shrader, Margot Sabato and Joe Rurode. Joyce Newland participated by conference phone. Others present included Tina Rongers, Will Farrellbegg, Ray Riddell, Lauri Keagle, Tom Schmitt, Jeff Huet, Chris Moore, Claudia Taylor, Robin Tillman, Stephen Stofko, K-Todd Behling, Deb Backhus, Don Oliphant, Jake Dammarell, Ismail Attallah and Randy Strasser, Jerry Siska, Bruce Lindner. Staff present included Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Kathy Luther, Scott Weber, Sarah Geinosky, James Winters, Amanda Pollard and Mary Thorne.

The INDOT participation survey was available at the table in the lobby.

The minutes of the February 14, 2016 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Mark O'Dell.

**Presentation:** Tina Rongers, Karner Blue, presented an overview of the second goal of the 2040 Plan for a vibrant region – well-educated people goals for the intersection of transportation and education in Northwest Indiana using several statistics as provided for in the 2016 One Region Indicators Report.

### **Implementation Planning**

- Laurie Keagle, South Shore Clean Cities, presented on planning for Volkswagen Clean Diesel settlement funds. SSCC will meet here at NIRPC on March 29 at 1 p.m. to discuss how entities can take advantage of Indiana's \$39 million share through funding opportunities for clean transportation. A Green Drives event will be held in Naperville, Illinois on May 18. For more information, visit their website at [www.sccc.org](http://www.sccc.org).
- Sarah Geinosky and Scott Weber presented the recommended road and highway changes to the National Highway System in Lake Porter and LaPorte Counties. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Beth Shrader, the Technical Planning Committee voted to recommend the changes to the National Highway System to the Executive Board for adoption.
- Stephen Sostaric announced that survey boards were available in the lobby for design options for the I-65/US30 Safety Study and invited meeting participants and guests to contribute their input on these boards.

### **Programming**

- Mitch Barloga announced that NIRPC will hold a 30-day public comment period for the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, Amendment #4 to the 2040 CRP Update Companion and Air

Quality Conformity Analysis. Additions in Amendment #4 include NICTD's 25 mile double tracking project from Gary to Michigan City and the 9 mile Westlake Corridor Project between Hammond and Dyer. Modifications are the moving of the completion date of the Illiana from 2020 to 2040 and the removal of INDOT's I-65 Added Travel Lanes between SR 2 and SR 10. Gary Evers added that this is the largest TIP he has ever seen, driven by the NICTD projects and the improvements at St. Joseph County Airport for a total of \$1.6 billion over four years, of which \$1.2 billion is public transit. Five public open houses will be held through March. Comments can be submitted to NIRPC through April 13. Approval will be sought from the NIRPC Board at its May meeting. See the NIRPC website for more information.

- Gary Evers reported that the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee for Lake and Porter Counties met on February 28. Of the \$4 million projected for the March letting, only \$3 million was needed to satisfy requests. The next meeting is March 28 and the next LaPorte County TROC meeting is April 5 or 6. HB 1002 is in the senate right now. The bill proposes swapping out all of the highway federal funds for state funds and we would no longer be transferring funds to FTA and INDOT would issue a contract directly with transit operators, with implementation in a year or two.
- Gary Evers explained FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #34, changes to existing projects in Valparaiso, Michigan City and LaPorte County and deleting a Valparaiso project. The amendment was reviewed by the Interagency Consultation Group and no public comments were received. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Mark O'Dell, the Committee voted to recommend Amendment #34 to the Commission for adoption.

#### **Topical Committee Reports:**

- Geof Benson said the Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet on April 6 at 9 a.m. The Committee may try to get electronic consensus to draft a resolution for support for NOAA and the Lake Michigan Coastal Program. The Trump Administration is talking about slashing or cutting the Great Lakes Initiative, which would cut a lot of funding in the Great Lakes states.
- Mitch Barloga reported that the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee heard a presentation last month on plans for a bike share program from Valparaiso Parks. The launch is on April 19. The next meeting is March 23 at 1:30 at NIRPC.
- James Winters reported that the transit operators will meet this morning to continue to constrain the project selection for the transit TIP.
- Stephen Sostaric said that the Rail Vision/Freight Committee meets tomorrow at 9 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC.
- Scott Weber reported that the Surface Transportation Committee will meet on April 4 at 9 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room.

There were no reports from our planning partners or USDOT.

**Emerging Trends:** Mitch Barloga showed a planning video from Winston-Salem.

#### **Announcements:**

Kevin Breitzke announced the upcoming meetings and noted the office is closed on April 14 in observance of the Good Friday holiday. The next Technical Planning Committee meeting will be on April 11,

2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office. Hearing no other business, he adjourned the meeting at 10:10 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.*

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