



CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

CREATING THE PLAN

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368 (219) 763-6060

2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Steering Committee Meeting NIRPC Auditorium August 27, 2009 Minutes

Members

Mike Aylesworth, Don Babcock, Geof Benson, Mitch Bishop, Joan Bliss, David Blumenthal, Lee Botts, Cassandra Cannon, Kathy Chroback, Jan Dick, Beth Downes, Joe Ebert, Dale Engquist, Jerry Halperin, Eric Kurtz, George Malis, Sergio Mendoza, Christopher Meyers, Sandy O'Brien, Chuck Oberlie, Lauren Riga, Garry Traynham, Joe Wszolek

Guests

Keith Benman, Tim Bietry, Tim Brown, Tim Cole, Joe Crnkovich, Joe Csikos, Vince Galbiati, Marge Hefner, David Kusher, AJ Monroe, Steve Nigro, John Parsons, Mark Reshkin, Africa Tarver, Mary Wellnitz

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, La'kesha Girder, Matt Hay, Ryan Hicks, Eman Ibrahim, Christopher Mercado, Belinda Petroskey, Lauren Rhein, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne

Welcome & Minutes

Mayor Oberlie chaired, calling the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with self-introductions. On a motion by Eric Kurtz and a second by Geof Benson, the minutes of July 23 the minutes were approved as presented.

Presentations on the State of Transportation in Northwest Indiana

- Tim Brown discussed the Regional Bus Authority and transit issues in the region. The presentation highlighted the history, timeline, operators, ridership and RBA's five focus areas, current conditions of fixed route services as well as the consolidation plans which will improve service, lower costs, unify government relations and economies-of-scale through region-wide coordination of operating activities.
- John Parsons discussed current and upcoming NICTD projects. Ticket vending machines will soon be available as another means to purchase tickets. The new "Gallery" cars have been well received with positive feedback from riders. Current and future projects were presented, such as the feasibility study linking Gary Chicago Airport and the South Shore, and both proposed realignments in South Bend and Michigan City.

NICTD has not taken a position on the Regional Transportation referendum in November.

Outreach Subcommittee

NIRPC staff is currently working on the Outreach Coordinator Position and RFQ. A report will be given next month. The next step is to continue outreach efforts and participation to the September Workshops.

Goal Setting Workgroup Report:

The matrix of the Draft Goals and Objectives was reviewed at the meeting. Members came to a consensus for each of the comments provided by NIRPC staff. Further comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to NIRPC staff Gabrielle Biciunas at gbiciunas@nirpc.org. Vince Galbiati will report on economic development and issues related to the Economic Development Commissions throughout the region.

Subregional Cluster Workshops

The summary and invitation letter to the Workshops was available at the meeting. Steering Committee members were asked to participate as well as invite and encourage others to participate. Registration can be done online at www.nirpc.org or by calling the NIRPC office.

Other Business

Staff Comments – Eman Ibrahim gave an update on the data and mapping progress, saying 75% has been completed.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on September 24 at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Oberlie adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Handouts provided:

- Agenda
- July 23 Meeting Minutes
- July 23 Meeting Summary
- August 13 Goals/Objectives/Strategies Matrix
- Regional Bus Authority EasyGo handout
- EasyGo brochures
- 2nd CRP Newsletter

Audio tapes of this meeting are filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to schedule a time to hear them.

Respectfully submitted September 10, 2009
Mary Thorne, Planning Secretary
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission