

## Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room  
6100 Southport Road, Portage

April 11, 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, David Wright, Tyler Kent, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Beth Shrader, Margot Sabato, Joyce Newland, Susan Orona and Stephen Stofko. Others present included Mary Enright, Jeff Huet, Matt Kaiser, Mary Lupa, Dean Button, Ray Riddell, Lauri Keagle, Lindsay Quist, Phil Gralik, Joe Crnkovich, Michael Springor, Jake Ballah, Spike Peller, Eric Boria, Teri Dixon, K-Todd Behling, Jill Murr, Claudia Taylor, Jake Dammarell, Randy Strasser, Jerry Siska, Bruce Lindner and Andrew Steele. Staff present included Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Kathy Luther, Scott Weber, James Winters and Mary Thorne.

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

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

**Presentation:** Kathy Luther gave a presentation on the “protected natural and rural areas” goal of the 2040 *Comprehensive Regional Plan* to manage growth that protects farmland, environmentally sensitive areas and important ecosystems through NIRPC programs of *Greenways & Blueways 2020, Creating Livable Communities and Brownfields Coalition*.

### **Implementation Planning**

- Scott Weber explained that the Congestion Management Process of the I-65 added travel lanes between US-30 and US-231 was approved by the former Transportation Policy Committee on November 19, 2013 and I-65 added travel lanes between US-231 and SR-2 on March 18, 2014. It was asked that the Technical Planning Committee recommend the CMP for the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update Amendment #4* for adoption by the NIRPC Board next week. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Mark O'Dell, the committee voted to recommend the Congestion Management Process of the I-65 added travel lanes between US-30 and US-231 to the NIRPC Board for adoption.
- Scott Weber reported that the environmental justice analysis is being updated to look at the benefits and burdens for the above projects. We are looking at all of the criteria and are working on the models. It will be presented along with the FY 2018-2021 TIP and the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update Amendment #4*.
- Stephen Sostaric reported that five meetings were held during the public comment period for the FY 2018-2021 TIP, Amendment #4 to 2040 Plan Companion Update and the Air Quality Conformity

Analysis. The comment period ends April 21 and will be brought to this committee and the NIRPC Board in May.

### **Programming**

- Stephen Sostaric, reporting for Amanda Pollard, said meetings will be held between April 24 and May 3. Times and dates were emailed to the LPAs and the schedule will be resent tomorrow.
- Gary Evers explained FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #35, which is the final amendment to the TIP. The new FY 2018-2021 TIP is out for public comment. The amendment contains project phases for Hobart, Hammond, Michigan City, NIRPC and INDOT. 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 Beth Shrader, the Committee voted to recommend Amendment #35 to the Commission for adoption.
- Gary Evers reported that the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committees for both Lake and Porter and LaPorte Counties met this month. Gary described the programming decisions made at the LaPorte meeting to close out the 2017 funds for LaPorte. At the Lake and Porter Committee meeting, there was an additional \$340,000 bringing the total to about \$1.8 million in unobligated unprogrammed funds. The committee decided to allocate \$573,000 to four projects for Schererville, Hobart and two in Cedar Lake and are requesting authorization to fund a Lake Ridge Operating Assistance B-List project for GPTC in the amount of \$500,000. Two other projects were funded for Hammond and Lake County, both for acquisition of right of way. A deadline of close of business April 24 was established for submission of all final FMIS request letters. If not submitted funds will be reallocated to additional B-List projects. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by George Topoll, the committee voted to recommend the funding allocations as requested.

### **Topical Committee Reports:**

- Kathy Luther said the Environmental Management Policy Committee met jointly with Federal Urban Waters Partnership and heard two presentations about lead contamination.
- Mitch Barloga reported that the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee heard a presentation last month on plans for a bike share program from Miller. NICTD's bikes on trains program is back.
- James Winters reported that the transit operators will meet this morning to discuss the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. They are still working to constrain the 2017 TIP.
- There was no report from the Land Use Committee.
- Stephen Sostaric said that the Rail Vision/Freight Committee met in March to discuss the at-grade rail existing study and may be working with the engineering students at Valparaiso University. The committee's new chairman is Rich Mrozinski.
- There was no report from the Surface Transportation Committee.

### **Planning Partners:**

- Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning - Teri Dixon reported that CMAP is starting outreach for their On to 2050 Plan.
- Federal Highway Administration – Joyce Newland said the certification review is scheduled for July 18-19.

There were no requests for public comment.

**Emerging Trends:** Kathy Luther showed a “Green Streets” planning video from Montgomery County, Maryland about efforts to control stormwater runoff.

**Announcements:**

- Gary Evers announced that INDOT will hold a meeting on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) at the LaPorte District Office building, 315 East Boyd Boulevard, La Porte, IN today from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. CDT.
- Mitch Barloga said trail maps are available and installation of locally-funded trail counters has begun.
- Kathy Luther said flyers were available for the Northern Indiana Green Fleet Program and workshop next Wednesday and also for the 2017 MACOG Partners for Clean Air Awards Luncheon on April 25.
- 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 May 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.

On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by George Topoll, Kevin Breitzke adjourned the meeting at 9:55 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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