

Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage

May 9, 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, George Topoll, Geof Benson, David Wright, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Beth Shrader, Margot Sabato, Joe Rurode and Stephen Stofko. Others present included Jeff Huet, Frank Rosado, Jr., Ray Riddell, Lauri Keagle, Joe Crnkovich, Claudia Taylor, Jerry Siska, Deena Schriks, Robin Bardozi Tillman, Bruce Lindner, Mike Yacullo, Don Oliphant, Karie Kochneke, Ismail Attallah, Tom Schmitt, Chris Moore, Jake Dammarell and Andrew Steele. Joyce Newland participated via conference phone. Staff present included Kathy Luther, Gary Evers, Stephen Sostaric, Scott Weber, James Winters and Mary Thorne.

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

The minutes of the April 11, 2016 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Margot Sabato.

Implementation Planning

- Stephen Sostaric said the public comment report for the FY 2018-2021 TIP, Amendment #4 to 2040 Plan Companion Update and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis was in the packet. There were no comments warranting an extension of the comment period.
- Scott Weber reported on the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the FY 2018-2021 TIP, Amendment #4 to *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update*. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Tom MacLennan, the committee voted to recommend the Air Quality Conformity Determination to the NIRPC Board for adoption.
- Scott Weber reported that the Environmental Justice Analysis shows that there are no adverse impacts to the environmental justice areas. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Mark O'Dell, the committee voted to recommend the Environmental Justice Analysis to the NIRPC Board for adoption.
- Kathy Luther described Amendment #4 to the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update* adding the NICTD double tracking project, moving the West Lake Extension project into the list of financially-constrained capacity expansion projects and scope revision for the Illiana Expressway and changing the terminus for the I-65 added travel lanes from US 30 to SR 2. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by George Topoll, the committee voted to recommend Amendment #4 to the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update* to the NIRPC Board for adoption.

Programming

- Gary Evers said the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program is the largest we have ever done. It consists of 650 projects with a total street value of \$1.6 billion. Several projects of significance were noted. The TIP is fiscally constrained and consistent with the State implementation plan for air quality and has been completely vetted. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by George Topoll, the Committee voted to recommend the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program to the NIRPC Board for adoption.

Topical Committee Reports:

- Kathy Luther said the Environmental Management Policy Committee heard a presentation on botany in the Dunes and reviewed the President's skinny budget. The committee will raise the priority of environmental budget cuts to the legislators.
- There was no report from the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee.
- James Winters reported that the transit operators resolved a significant problem last month and constrained the 2017 TIP without any significant service cuts. The operators will convene following this meeting to discuss the project selection process.
- There was no report from the Land Use Committee.
- Stephen Sostaric said that the Rail Vision/Freight Committee will meet on June 21 at 9 a.m. to work on grade crossings and the possibility of getting assistance from Valparaiso University School of Engineering students.
- Scott Weber said the Surface Transportation Committee met last week and discussed the Household Travel Survey coordinated jointly with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. The committee also overviewed HB 1002. Questions should be directed to Ty Warner. INDOT will be developing guidance on how the federal-state funding swap program is to be implemented. Ty Warner will be involved in working with INDOT on behalf of the MPOs to help give input on how it will be put into practice. The committee will meet again on June 6.

Planning Partners:

- Federal Highway Administration – Joyce Newland said the certification review is scheduled for July 18-19.

There were no requests for public comment.

Emerging Trends: James Winters showed a brief video from Strong Towns on the fiscal impacts of sprawl on a municipality's budget.

Announcements:

- Kathy Luther announced that NIRPC is hiring two interns for an 8-12 week period. Applications for the paid positions are due by June 1.
- South Shore Clean Cities will hold a Work Awareness workshop on May 25. The Green Drives Conference is in Naperville on May 18.
- Great Lakes Basin Transportation recently announced a vague build program with plans for new rail, road, and air transport capacity or the Midwest region. Much more information is needed.

- Kevin Breitzke announced the upcoming meetings and noted the office is closed on May 29 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Now that Purdue Northwest is occupying a space in the building, the remodel is complete and an Open House will be held here on June 15 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The next Technical Planning Committee meeting will be on June 13, 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 10:05 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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