

Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage

July 11, 2017

MINUTES

Chairman Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members present included Kevin Breitzke, George Topoll, David Wright, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Margot Sabato, Lyndsay Quist, Kay Nelson, Tyler Kent, Susan Weber and Stephen Stofko. Others present included Justin Mount, Ray Riddell, Jeff Huet, Brandon Arnold, Jill Murr, Jake Dammarel, Joe Crnkovich, Mike Yacullo, Claudia Taylor, Don Oliphant, Mitch Bishop, Karie Koehneke, Kelly Wenger, Don Parker, Chris Moore, K-Todd Behling and Andrew Steele. Joyce Newland participated via conference phone. Staff present included Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Gary Evers, James Winters, Eman Ibrahim, Amanda Pollard, Stephen Sostaric, Sarah Geinosky, Gabrielle Biciunas and Mary Thorne.

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

The minutes of the June 13, 2016 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Tom MacLennan and a second by Margot Sabato.

Presentation: Kathy Luther presented on the Clean Environment Goal of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, and gave examples of strategies for air, water and land quality. Kay Nelson had several comments on the emissions testing program, added pollution as a result of road construction and the VW Settlement plans.

Implementation Planning

- Stephen Sostaric reported on the US 30/I-65 Safety Study Comment Report. No significant comments requiring modification of the study were received.
- Mitch Barloga described Resolution 17-16, the US 30/I-65 Safety Study. David Wright noted that there were no cost estimates given by the consultants for local bus service. On a motion by David Wright and a second by Joe Crnkovich, the Technical Planning Committee recommended the US 30/I-65 Safety Study to the Commission for adoption.

Programming

Mitch Barloga presented Resolution 17-17, the first amendment to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for local agencies and INDOT. The LaPorte County projects went through the TROC process. Mitch Bishop noted that the sidewalk project in Westville is for right of way acquisition and not construction. Susan Weber said the new TIP has been incorporated into the statewide TIP on July 3. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Kay Nelson, the Technical Planning Committee recommended Amendment #1 to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program as amended to the Commission for adoption.

Topical Committee Reports:

- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet on August 3 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC and hear a presentation from NIPSCO on the LED streetlight change out program.

- Mitch Barloga said the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee heard a presentation from the Active Transportation Alliance on Complete Streets. NIRPC will hold a workshop next year prior to the call for projects. The committee will meet on July 27 at 1:30 and hear from the Calumet Collaborative. Joyce Newland said INDOT is doing complete streets training on August 29 from 8:30 to 4 at the Roxana Community Center in East Chicago and from 8:30 to 4 on August 30 at the LaPorte District office. Training is open to the LPAs.
- James Winters reported that the transit operators met last month and worked with Kelly Wenger to make some small changes to the TIP. Last week the federal apportionment was released for 2017 and we are well within the budget. The operators will meet briefly following this meeting and then celebrate the retirement of Gary Evers and Joe Crnkovich.
- Eman Ibrahim reported that the Land Use Committee met last month to hear a presentation on the new trains and how to plan for an increase in the elderly population.
- Stephen Sostaric said the Freight Committee heard a presentation last month from Rich Mrozinski on the Kingsbury Industrial Park and discussed rail crossing funding programs. The committee will meet on September 20.

Planning Partners:

- Federal Highway Administration – Susan Weber said the certification review is scheduled for July 18-20. There will be a public meeting on July 19 and a report will be given to the Full Commission at its July 20 meeting. There are three opportunities for public engagement – GPTC board room, Commission meeting on July 20 and in Michigan City.

There were no comments from the public.

Emerging Trends: Eman Ibrahim showed a brief video on Project “Via Verde”, bridge landscaping in Mexico to help improve air quality.

Announcements:

- James Winters reported that he attended the Indiana Transit Association board meeting whose lobbying efforts resulted in a 4-5% increase in public mass transit funds (PMTF) this year.
- Kathy Luther introduced interns Ryan Bennett and Timothy Little who will be helping with GIS and sprawl analysis.
- Mitch Barloga announced Gary Evers’ retirement after 24 years at NIRPC. Cake was available to help fete him.
- Sarah Geinosky said the draft Marquette Action Plan will be out for public review and comment very soon.
- Kevin Breitzke announced the upcoming meetings.

The next Technical Planning Committee meeting is September 12 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Tyler Kent, 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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