

Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage

October 10, 2017

MINUTES

Chairman Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members present included Kevin Breitzke, Geof Benson, George Topoll, John Bayler, David Wright, Tom MacLennan, Lyndsay Quist, Mark O'Dell, Bill Emerson, Jr., Kay Nelson, Joe Crnkovich, Tyler Kent, Susan Weber and Margot Sabato. Others present included Zully Alvarado, Jessie Renslo, Mike Yacullo, Jeff Huet, Brandon Arnold, Kelly Wenger, Chris Moore, Karie Koehneke, Claudia Taylor, Carl Lisek, Ismail Attallah, Jerry Siska, Frank Rosado, Jr., Bruce Lindner, Jim Vangan, Jamie Ugelde^(sp), and Andrew Steele. Staff present included Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Scott Weber, Gabrielle Biciunas, James Winters and Mary Thorne.

The INDOT participation survey was available at the table in the lobby. The minutes of the September 12, 2017 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Geof Benson and a second by George Topoll.

Presentation: Mitch Barloga introduced Zully Alvarado, Causes for Change and Jessie Renslo, Gary's Miller Spotlight, presenting on the increased mobility, accessibility and transportation options goal of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. Strategies were presented for communities to incorporate accessibility for everyone. They encouraged designers, planners, engineers and financiers to think about sidewalks, roads, projects and services with ADA in mind at the earliest onset of a project as retrofitting is much more costly. Design should include auditory signage as well as height appropriate signage where possible. In Indiana, 1 in 5 people has a disability and there are over 100,000 people with disabilities in Lake County alone. The world's disability community is 1.379 billion and the economic influence is over \$1 trillion of disposable income. For more information, visit causesforchange.org.

Implementation Planning

Mitch Barloga reported on a yearly TIGER grant program offered by the USDOT. The maximum ask is \$25 million and the minimum is \$5 million. We have applied for funding under this grant for the balance of the 58-mile Marquette Greenway route in an ask amount of \$24.2 million. The total project amount is \$33 million. The local match is 20% minimum, but the more the local match, the better the change of acquiring funding. The due date is October 16.

Programming

- Mitch Barloga reported on the public comment report for amendment 4 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program which was adopted by the NIRPC Board. It was released for a 7-day public comment period which began on October 3 and ended October 9. One negative comment in opposition to the amendment was received. Mitch read the comment as well as the response of staff. The amendment was vetted through the inter-agency consultation group as well as the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee. The changes listed in the amendment are minor and not significant to warrant modification.
- Mitch Barloga presented Resolution 17-22, the fourth amendment to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for local agencies. The projects went through the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee process, and the interagency consultation public. The Merrillville project combines two projects which increased the award. The Gary PTC project

fund type is CMAQ. Other actions in the amendment include change in years for projects in Hammond, Valparaiso, Cedar Lake and Highland. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by George Topoll, the Technical Planning Committee recommended Amendment #4 to the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program to the NIRPC Board for adoption.

Topical Committee Reports:

- Geof Benson said the next meeting of the Environmental Management Policy Committee is scheduled for November 2 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.
- Mitch Barloga said the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. on October 26 to discuss the TIGER grant.
- James Winters said all federal grants for transit were accepted and thanked Susan Weber for her assistance. Tom MacLennan, LaPorte Transporte, received the 2017 Propane Auto Gas Fleet Award. The transit operators will meet after the TPC meeting. NIRPC has been tasked to organize a LakeShore South forum to research finding more local funding for the GPTC LakeShore South route which is at risk of being defunded. The challenge is in getting all parties to the table at the same time. David Wright added that another public forum on the issue will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Hammond Public Library, 564 State St. The Lake County Council approved funding for the service in the first reading of their budget. Discussion followed. South Lake County Community Services is holding a public meeting on October 19 to discuss expanding services to the City of Hobart.
- Scott Weber reported that the Surface Transportation Committee will meet on December 5 at 8 a.m.

Planning Partners:

- Federal Transit Authority – Susan Weber said the grant season is at the wire and she is interested to see how the TIGER grant shakes out.

There were no comments from the public.

Emerging Trends: Mitch Barloga showed a brief video on the benefits of proactive planning, “Corridor Planning for Livability and Mobility.”

Announcements and Events:

- Joe Crnkovich announced his retirement at the end of the month. Kelly Wenger will be his replacement. He commented that there is still a long way to go in transit.
- Susan Weber announced public hearings on the South Shore double tracking project tomorrow from 6-8 pm at the Creative Arts Center in Gary and on Thursday at the Convention Center at the Blue Chip in Michigan City. Comments will be taken through October 23.
- Ty Warner announced that NIRPC has hired Trey Wadsworth of the Massachusetts DOT as Director of Transportation. A candidate will be hired soon to take over for Gary Evers.
- Kevin Breitzke congratulated NIRPC as host of the Indiana MPO Conference this year. The mobile tours touted the assets in the region.
- Kevin Breitzke read the list of upcoming meetings.

The next Technical Planning Committee meeting is **December 5** at 9 a.m. at NIRPC. Hearing no other business, Kevin Breitzke adjourned the meeting at 10:30 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.