

Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee

Lake & Porter Counties

6100 Southport Road, Portage

September 18, 2018

Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Dean Button (Hammond), Duane Alverson (Lake County), Adam McAlpine (Valparaiso), Matt Zurbriggen (Valparaiso), M. Scott Rediger (Crown Point), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Bob Thompson (Porter County), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Dennis Cobb and Trisha Nugent. Joyce Newland (FHWA) participated via conference phone.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Trey Wadsworth, and Candice Eklund.

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 28, 2018 meeting were approved as presented on motion by Dean Button and second by Mark O'Dell.

FY 19-22 Spending Plans Ad-Hoc Committee Solution/Update

Charles Bradsky opened the discussion stating the new Spending Plan Scenario B, will be the format used going forward. The plan will continue to be available on an 11 x 17 format and will be provided at the TROC Committee meetings for review. Charles is continuing to work on balancing the budget for FY 2019, which has a deficit of \$269,474 and FY2020 having a \$16 million deficit.

Duane Alverson announced that Lake County will forego the federal funds for DES #1702159 and build their project with local funds. This includes \$116,000 and \$20,000 in FY 2019 funding and \$391,000 in FY 2020 funding. Removing this project from the Spending Plan would reduce the deficit in FY 2019 to \$133,474. The Committee agreed to use the surplus Change Order funding to balance the budget in FY 2019, which reduced the surplus from \$368,810 to \$235,336. The Committee discussed funding Change Order requests at 50% instead 80% in an attempt to provide funding through the fiscal year or possibly fund another project in FY 2019 if a surplus remains. It was decided to table this discussion and add it as an agenda item to the October 23, 2018 meeting. This would allow those members who were not able to attend, a chance to read the proposed changed and voice an opinion.

Duane Alverson asked if the Committee would consider funding a change order for \$30,000 - \$40,000 for a local bridge project in Lake County due to the state having no additional funding. Dennis Cobb showed concern because several months still remain in FY 2019 for funding requests. Duane will send Charles an email requesting Change Order funding for consideration so it could be added as an agenda item for the October 23, 2018 TROC meeting. (Note: as of 10/22/18, no requests were received).

Project Requests

The original request on the agenda for this month was to change the year for DES #1702159 Lake County. Documented under the Spending Plan update above, Duane Alverson of Lake County stated this project can be deleted from the Spending Plan as they are foregoing federal funding.

NOFA Guidelines / Instructions

Charles Bradsky presented the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Fall of 2018. Dennis Cobb communicated his concerns with a NOFA in 2018 instead of 2019 due to various costs, considerations and contingencies and these will be for projects that will not be able to completed until 2023, 2024 or beyond. Most communities cannot plan that far out because of a possible change in political leadership. Trey Wadsworth spoke to the concerns of Dennis but stated there would be a NOFA in 2018 because there are some funds available and NIRPC has not had a call for project in four years. Trey also mentioned that NIRPC needs to be good financial stewards of the region's money by having a programed TIP.

Dennis Cobb questioned if it would be unfair to apply the new NOFA considerations to items already in the Spending Plan in future years and that are not in the TIP. Charles Bradsky said that is a possibility and would need to be a separate agenda item added to the October 23, 2018 meeting. Currently Charles is planning on these NOFA rules only applying to all projects accepted under the next NOFA. Charles also stressed that if a project is needing to be moved before the next TIP comes out (in February 2019), to notify him with the information. The next TIP will be a five year TIP and cover the years 2020 – 2024.

Charles Bradsky also talked about the new online application. The application will be available November 19, 2018 with a completion day by January 4, 2019. Charles suggested the Committee to ask any question or setup a meeting to insure their applications are created correctly.

Letting Results

1382594 – Cedar Lake – Low bid was \$1,834,216.54. NIRPC contributed \$1,467,373 of Group I STBG funds to this project for construction. Since the spending plan only has \$1,500,000 allocated for this project and NIRPC is required to be fiscally constrained, only \$32,627 (of the \$122,174) was given for CE. Charles said that he discussed this with Jill Murr of Cedar Lake, and if more funds become available, NIRPC will be willing to contribute more towards the CE. But at least something was programmed, and more funds can easily be added later.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments

No public comments were discussed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.
The next meeting will be held on October 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.