

Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee
Lake & Porter Counties
6100 Southport Road, Portage
May 28, 2019
Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Chairman/Commissioner Jim Biggs, Dean Button (Hammond), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Adam McAlpine (Valparaiso), Commissioner George Topoll (Union Township), Jill Murr (Cedar Lake), Bob Thompson (Porter County), Jeff Sheridan (Lowell), Mark Gordish (Hammond), Bob Fulton (Hobart), David Wright (GPTC), Sarah Kobetis (Gary), Craig Zandstra (Lake County Parks), Jake Dammarell, and Trisha Nugent.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky and Candice Eklund.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Jim Biggs called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Dean Button and second by Mark O'Dell, the March 26, 2019 TROC Lake and Porter meeting minutes were approved as presented.

FY 2020 Fiscal Constraint Report

Charles Bradsky presented the Fiscal Constraint Report generated from the new Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) system. Charles noted the report currently does not reflect the special funds such as HSIP, STBG, CMAQ and TA. These funding categories will be incorporated into the report for the next meeting, in addition to reporting the individual years for 2021-2024.

Dean Button inquired why the total funding programmed for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 reflected higher totals in comparison to other years. Charles explained the totals were correct but the line items for the transit projects had been omitted from viewing.

Amendment Status & Project Requests

Charles Bradsky informed the Committee that during the local quarterly meetings he was made aware of two projects that will not be moving forward in 2020 and will be removed from the current TIP.

The project for the City of Hobart, DES #1401034, is a legacy project and was underfunded at \$734,850. Bob Fulton requested moving the construction funding programmed in 2020 for right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions from 2024 to 2020, moving the construction phase to 2024 (or beyond) on the same project. Charles Bradsky asked the group about clarification for the rules limiting PE & ROW to \$200,000 or 7.5% of CN costs. Dean Button stated that the 7.5% should only apply to projects selected under the new NOFA, but was unsure about the \$200,000 limit. Jeff Huet mentioned that under the old programming rules HSIP project were excluded from the \$200,000 limit. On motion by Dean Button and Second by Bob Fulton, the Committee approved moving the funding of \$734,850 from construction costs to right-of-way acquisitions in 2020. The City of Hobart understands that they will need to apply for construction phase again in the next NOFA.

With this approval, \$555,040 remain in available federal funding for FY 2020. Charles stated that at the next TROC meeting TROC will decide where to put these funds.

Letting Results Update

The three lettings in April were all awarded. DES #1600418 for Gary came in 5% under budget, DES #1601159 for Valparaiso came in 7% over the estimated budget and DES #1601726 for Winfield came in slightly over budget.

Charles Bradsky stated all projects will no longer have a letting date after February. Letting dates after February could result in not having enough flexibility to adjust schedules and can put a constraint on reallocating the funds timely and risks the funds being returned to INDOT/FHWA.

Other New Business

Charles provided a demonstration of the RTIP system and held a Q & A session. Charles also requested all Local Public Agency's (LPA's) access the system and request a login if they had not already done so. The RTIP can be viewed by the public on NIRPC's website or accessed by the Employee Representing the Community (ERC's) at <https://rtip.nirpc.org/secure2>. Jim Biggs suggested Charles send a group email to the committee to re-visit the RTIP with instructions and utilization of the system.

The response to the new RTIP system has been positive. After each LPA enters their projects into the system, Charles will receive an email confirmation to either approve or notify them with any questions. To continue using the LTAP system to enter project information, send an email to Charles, who will forward the request to INDOT.

The Technical Planning Committee (TPC) created a working group to review the 2019 NOFA procedures and create the NOFA for 2020. This new working group will include two members each from Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties, one transit operator from each county, one consultant, and three NIRPC staff (Trey Wadsworth, Charles Bradsky and James Winters). The first meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2019 and will continue until July 2020. Jim Biggs inquired the process for selecting the one consultant. Charles stated NIRPC leadership created the list of working group members. Jim Biggs said he felt it would be more appropriate for the TPC committee to decide the members, or rotate members to be fair to the other firms, rather than NIRPC leadership making the decision. Correction: NIRPC leadership did not make the decision on the working group make-up. Since this is a TPC working group, the TPC Chairman decided the list of working group members in consultation with NIRPC leadership.

Jeff Huet questioned when the projects that were added to the spending plan by NIRPC staff would be vetted. Charles offered the projects would be discussed at the first meeting, the results would be brought before the TPC Committee in July and then go through a 30-day public comment period.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.