

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room

February 4, 2020

Minutes

Jeff Huet called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. In attendance were Dean Button, City of Hammond, Jeff Huet, Town of Schererville, and Acting Chair. Sandy Kolb, City of Portage, and A.J. Monroe, City of Portage, George Topoll, Union Township, and Kevin Breitzke, Porter County.

NIRPC staff present were Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Mitch Barloga, Candice Eklund, Peter Kimball, and Flor Baum.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting were approved on a motion by Dean Button as concurred by Jeff Huet.

Mitch Barloga presented on the Living Streets Resolution draft policy that is merging both Complete and Green Streets elements into one policy. The draft policy will be presented and reviewed by each topical committee, including TPC, before being recommended to the Commission meeting for final approval on March 19, 2020. All comments need to be submitted to Mitch Barloga at mbarloga@nirpc.org or 219-254-2518 by the end of February. If approved, the policy will be used at the next Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Scott Weber presented on FY-2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This is one of the four core planning documents that, as an agency, NIRPC is required to adopt, and will be adopted annually. The UPWP is NIRPC's strategic planning on how funds will be allocated. The goal is to formally adopt the next UPWP by March of 2020. Currently there is a working draft that includes a Data Planning Program and a Spatial Analysis, which Peter Kimball is prominently working on. The working draft of the UPWP will continue to include Congestion Management, Travel Demand Modeling, and Air Quality Conformity. The working draft for the UPWP will include a new addition of a more integrated Surface Transportation Planning Task, with an emphasis on corridor management, which was requested by INDOT. The draft is not yet viewable to the public.

Scott Weber presented on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). NIRPC is Federally required to administer a CMP for northwest Indiana since it is a region greater than 200,00 people. A CMP is a framework for managing congestion in a way that suits users' expectations. The draft will be presented to the Technical planning committee. The final draft of the CMP will be presented to the Commission in May to officially adopt the document.

Scott conducted an anonymous polling, with present members, with a focus on objectives and strategies of the CMP. The objectives were categorized into four areas: 1. Travel time reduction 2. Mode shift 3. Improve access 4. Maximize efficiency of resources. These objectives will enable NIRPC to stretch Federal dollars and encompass more projects. The strategies of the CMP were also categorized into four areas: 1. Travel demand management 2. Improving operations 3. Addressing land use 4. Adding capacity. The committee discussed adjusting the wording, "adding capacity," to either, "strategic capacity," or, "responsible capacity."

Peter Kimball gave an update on the Designation of Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC). The FHWA is finalizing the application now. A sub-committee was formed, and had their first meeting, to

figure out the allotted mileage. The sub-committee talked about presenting corridors to the MPO Council on a case by case basis.

Scott Weber gave an update on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). A survey was distributed last fall and it is being tabulated. The CMP will formally be adopted by the Commission in May. The draft will be released by the end of March. Feedback will be accepted in April.

Scott Weber gave an update on the Annual Performance Dashboard. This is a project in the current work program to create an interactive dashboard on the NIRPC website. Members of the public can view all the performance measures connected to the NWI 2050 Plan. The dashboard is expected to go live in December of 2020.

Scott Weber gave an update on the Connected and Automated Vehicles (CV/AV) Project. A brochure is being created, and it will be distributed in June of 2020 to inform the public of best practices for the deployment of connected and automated vehicles.

Scott Weber gave an update on the 2018 Household Travel Survey Data. NIRPC is partnering with Valparaiso University for the Household Travel Survey to address geographical differences within our region and mode choices. Results are expected by the end of April.

There was no other business.

The next Surface Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2020 at NIRPC.

On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Kevin Breitzke, Jeff Huet adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.