

**Technical Planning Committee**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 7, 2020**  
**Minutes**

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-04 and 20-09, extended by Executive Order 20-25, allowing such meetings for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. All persons were meeting remotely on a Google Meet platform that allowed for real time interaction and supported the public's ability to observe and record the proceedings. When the agenda item was provided for public comment, this was supported as well. A roll call was taken to motion and approve the agenda items.

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee members present were Kevin Breitzke, Blossom Mabon, Mark O'Dell, David Wright, George Topoll, Dean Button, Beth West, Mike Jabo, Beth Shrader, and Kelly Wenger.

Others present were Lauri Keagle, Jessica Miller, Esperanza Ceja, Joyce Newland, and Kathryn Vallis.

Staff present were Candice Eklund, James Winters, Joe Exl, Kathy Luther, Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Charles Bradsky, Ty Warner, Peter Kimball, and Flor Baum.

The minutes of the May 2020 meeting were approved on motion by Dean Button and a second by David Wright. Roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

**Public Comments**

No public comments to announce.

**Planning**

Joe Exl presented on the update to NIRPC's Complete Street Ordinance. The highlighted changes to the resolution included adding language of inclusivity, such as *walking, biking, rolling*, and using public transportation to lower emission vehicles. A larger change to the resolution includes the Green Street concepts addressing storm water and run-off issues. The resolution combines both Complete and Green Streets principles into a unified policy called "Living Streets." Joe Exl continued with Living Streets Planning & Design Guidelines. Significant changes include the cost of establishing Living Streets facilities that meet applicable standards would exceed 15% of the cost of the larger transportation project. The addition of vegetation improvements was also mentioned. Joe Exl added that NIRPC has funding set aside this year to come up with further guidelines and information on the stormwater practices. Roll call was announced, and the following present members voted to recommend the Resolution: Kevin Breitzke, George Topoll, Dean Button, Mark O'Dell, David Wright, Blossom Mabon, Beth Shrader, Beth West, Kelly Wegner, and Mike Jabo. There were no members who opposed. On motion by George Topoll and second by David Wright, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) unanimously voted to recommend Living Streets Ordinance, Resolution #20-17 to the NIRPC Full Commission for adoption.

Scott Weber presented on NIRPC's progress for the upcoming MOVE NWI Congestion Management Process (CMP), a federally required process. Preparation to adopt MOVE NWI is needed due to the 2011 CMP being outdated. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have recommended the CMP be updated. MOVE NWI will have passively collected data coming from several sources, especially big data as opposed to static data that is currently being used. This will be a shared responsibility between NIRPC and project sponsors. NIRPC will allocate the resources to acquire and maintain the analytical tools used in MOVE NWI. The NOFA process will include MOVE NWI as an easy-to-understand checklist to determine whether a project is exempt or needs to be screened for CMP compliance. The draft policy will be presented and reviewed at the Surface Transportation

Commission (STC) in August and scheduled to be presented to The Commission for adoption in September. Contact Scott with any questions regarding the MOVE NWI CMP.

James Winters presented on the UPWP update that includes additional language about regional planning efforts, and some added financial information pertaining to the CARES Act. The committee discussed the status of CARE funding into the UPWP. NIRPC's leadership and finance team is putting together funding tables to illustrate spending with CARES funding in regard to transportation oversight. The grant has been approved. Roll call was announced, and the following present members voted to recommend the Resolution: Kevin Breitzke, George Topoll, Dean Button, Mark O'Dell, David Wright, Blossom Mabon, Beth Shrader, Beth West, Kelly Wegner, and Mike Jabo. There were no members who opposed. On motion by George Topoll and second by Dean Button, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) unanimously voted to favorably recommend the UPWP Amendment #1, Resolution 20-16 to the NIRPC Full Commission for adoption.

### **Programming**

Charles Bradsky presented on the emergency amendment #8 to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). To keep federal funds within The Region, every year at the end of April, NIRPC obligates its unused balance of funds to an emergency amendment. Funds go through a transit project, or projects, or phases in projects that are already in the TIP. The three projects listed are as follows: 1) The Economic Corridor Study in La Porte County. NIRPC allocated \$309,269. 2) Willowcreek Road Extension Corridor Study (with NEPA) at Willowcreek Road, in Porter County. NIRPC allocated \$145,706. 3) Roundabout; Valparaiso- Campbell & Lincoln Ave, in Porter County. NIRPC allocated \$309,081.

Charles Bradsky presented the draft changes included in Amendment #9 to the TIP. The public comment report was released and made available on June 10th through July 1st, and there were no comments received in the 21 days that it was posted. This amendment comprises 57 projects and covers FY-20 to FY-24. Two projects were local. Crown Point moved funding from PE to Right of Way (ROW) in 2022. Michigan City cancelled a project in 2021. The remaining 55 projects are from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), and are as follows: 40 bridge deck overlay projects, one (1) bridge deck replacement project, 3 (3) concrete pavement rehab projects, and 11 HMA overlay preventative maintenance projects. On motion by Dean Button and second by George Topoll, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) unanimously voted to recommend Resolution #20-18, TIP Amendment #9 to The Commission for adoption.

### **Topical Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports for June.

### **Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings**

Announcements and upcoming dates were shared with the committee. Joyce Newland from Federal Highway announced that there is \$40 million in funding available to enable communities to showcase business partnerships. Applications are due August 13th. Jessica Miller from INDOT announced that a hold on the second call for projects due to the pandemic. Laurie Keagle from Southshore Clean Cities shared information on Indiana VW Mitigation Trust Program Overview.

Upcoming meetings were announced. All NIRPC meetings in July will be virtual. Charles provided a NOFA schedule and announced that the NOFA application window will be open and available starting Friday September 11th.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Technical Planning Committee (TPC) meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC offices. Notifications will be sent if cancelled.

The meeting concluded at 10:51 am.

