

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(LaPorte County)
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Minutes**

This meeting was convened as an *electronic meeting*, in accordance with House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1437. All persons were meeting remotely on a Zoom 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.

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by Candice Eklund. In attendance were Jay Sullivan (LaPorte County), Mitch Bishop (LaPorte County), Nick Minich (LaPorte City), Craig Phillips (LaPorte City), Skyler York (Michigan City), and Beth West (TransPorte LaPorte).

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Meredith Stilwell, Kevin Polette, Flor Baum, and Candice Eklund.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 26, 2021, TROC meeting were approved on motion by Nick Minich and seconded by Beth West. With Jay Sullivan, Mitch Bishop, Nick Minich, Craig Phillips, Skyler York, and Beth west voting in the affirmative, and no one voting in the negative, the motion passed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Spending Plan Update

Charles Bradsky presented the current spending plan. The table below outlines the additional funding from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) for Group 2.

	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>
Additional					
Group 2	\$456,241	\$510,514	\$565,872	\$622,237	\$679,932
Total	\$3,173,427	\$2,967,264	\$2,815,992	\$2,872,457	\$2,930,052

Discussions were had on the spending options below for FY 2022. Charles noted the additional funding in FY 2022 was a result of MACOG paying back the funds that were loaned to them. There is \$737,000 in additional funding to use this year.

- LaPorte – Chessie Trail project needs to move to FY 2023 or FY 2024 due to not being let in FY 2022.
- Charles noted highway funds cannot be flexed for operating assistance for the transit operators but will address this internally at NIRPC to see if help is available to supplement them.
- Charles will discuss possible bus purchases with NIRPC staff.
- Craig Phillips and Nick Minich will contact Charles if they have a planning project to move forward.
- Various projects were discussed, and Craig Phillips, Nick Minich, and Mitch Bishop will coordinate these with Charles through email.
- Liberty Trail – Skyler York and Jake Dammarell stated they will not be able to use the \$46,500 in PE funding and it is uncertain what ROW is needed at this time.
- Jake Dammarell stated there is an estimation of \$208,000 would be needed for a project that was selected for review of an alternative project.

2022 NOFA Update

Charles presented on NIRPC’s 2022 NOFA, *Invest NWI*, and said the NOFA Continuous Improvement Plan working group made adjustments to the NOFA process. One of the goals is for submitted applications to be 100% complete and all supporting documentation be included. Changes also included CMAQ calculations will need to be completed with the submissions, transformational projects must be scheduled to let in July, and they have tightened requirements for legacy and transformational projects and for PE/ROW funding. A community’s

workshop for the NOFA will be held on March 31, 2022, with the applications being submitted between September and October.

Other New Business

Charles presented on the FHWA Highway Safety commitment to Vision Zero Goal and discussed the six foundational principles. When the requisitions come out for IJJA, INDOT will be looking at HSIP qualifications because there will be more funding for those projects.

The confusion with the TIP/STIP continues with the 2022-2026 TIP because the STIP has not been approved by the FHWA yet. INDOT is hopeful the STIP will be approved by mid-February. Once approved, Charles will submit an emergency amendment to ensure the TIP and STIP are in sync.

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Future meetings are scheduled for August 16 and November 11.