

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting  
(Lake and Porter County)  
Tuesday, November 1, 2022  
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Duane Alverson (Lake County), Dean Button (Hammond), Phil Gralik (Hobart), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Michael Jabo (Valparaiso), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), George Topoll (Union Township), David Wright (Gary), Jake Dammarell, Dennis Cobb, Shawn Strange, Scott Pruitt, James Hus, Trisha Nugent, and Christopher Murphy.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Kevin Polette, and Candice Eklund.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 16, 2022, TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Mike Jabo and seconded by Dean Button.

**Public Comments** – Dennis Cobb commented on the issue with current local project bidding status. This comment will be further addressed when the committee discusses the Spending Plan Updates agenda item later in the meeting. Mr. Cobb stated that due to inflation, project costs are coming in 60-70% over INDOT's database for their bid process, which increases local match, causing some projects to fail. He proposed that TROC look at scheduling shifting to make it possible for every project to be made whole. The process is that TROC would look at each year starting with FY 2023 and look how to balance each year, with the possibility of moving one or more projects to the following year, then looking how to balance that next year and so on. This will have a cascading effect that will have some impact on the project applications for 2027/2028. He feels that it is NIRPC's and the region's best interest to take care of the projects that we already have in the TIP before adding additional stress with future projects.

**Spending Plan Update**

Duane Alverson asked what INDOT's procedures were for handling projects that come in over budget. Charles Bradsky said that INDOT can award projects up to 15% over allowed costs if four bids have been submitted. Phil Gralik offered to move DES #1902707 (Hobart's round-about project) to FY 2024 if it would help the funding situation.

Dean Button suggested the projects in the TIP need to be re-forecasted to provide NIRPC with escalated project costs so the 80/20 match allocations can be readjusted. This will assist Charles in realigning the 2023-2026 projects in the TIP.

Charles Bradsky asked the committee if they wanted to schedule another meeting to work through this situation. All attendees were in agreement and scheduled another meeting for November 29, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss updated projects costs and allocations. Every municipality that has a project in the TIP from 2023-2026 must submit updated project costs and estimates to Charles by November 23, 2022. **Correction: The TROC meeting on November 29 will begin at 9:30 because of another meeting going until 9:00.**

**2022 NOFA Update**

Charles Bradsky requested all projects being considered in the NOFA this year need to be submitted into RTIP under the CFP (Call for Projects) tab. Also note that as before please give cost estimates in today's dollars and add only 15% contingency to the estimate. There was a question-and-answer period regarding entering projects in the RTIP application.

**Other New Business**

George Topoll noted American Structure Point will provide a presentation on the Willowcreek Road extension project on November 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Porter County Expo Center.

Charles informed the committee that INDOT was creating a new eTIP system for all MPO's. The new system will be available Spring 2023, but NIRPC may not transfer to the new system until September due to their current contract.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 29 at 9:30 a.m. A future meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2023.

*The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkA0GKpg15w>*