

LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING
NIRPC Virtual Meeting
November 5, 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 20-47. 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.

Greg Stinson called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. with a roll call. In attendance were Greg Stinson, Beth Shrader, Amy Blaker, Robert Thompson, Craig Phillips, George Topoll, Nick Bellar, David Wright, Nick Minich, Kevin Breitzke, Joyce Newland, Tom Vander Woude, Eric Wolverton, Trisha Nugent, and Sarah Nimetz.

NIRPC staff present were Eman Ibrahim, Ty Warner, Charles Bradsky, Flor Baum, Kevin Polette, Gabrielle Biciunas, and Candice Eklund.

The minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting were approved on motion by Nick Bellar and second by George Topoll. With Greg Stinson, Beth Shrader, Amy Blaker, Robert Thompson, David Wright, George Topoll, Nick Bellar, and Nick Minich voting in the affirmative, and no one voting in the negative, the motion passed.

Review of NOFA Applications

Scott Weber reviewed the 2020 Notice of Funding Applications (NOFA) for new roadways, quality of place, and planning. There were a total of eight projects from six communities submitted. Eman reviewed the project scoring for each of the following projects. The scoring changes that were discussed and agreed on by the committee were made live by Eman. The total scoring for roadway projects will be provided at the Surface Transportation Committee (STC) meeting on November 10, 2020.

- City of Hobart - 83rd Avenue Extension and Intersection Improvements. Funding request is \$5,554,000 for Construction Engineering (CE) and \$332,640 for Professional Engineering (PE). Phil Gralic with the City of Hobart was not in attendance, so Eman provided an overview of the project. Nick Bellar noted that NIPSCO is the owner of the parcel for this project and questioned if the City of Hobart has contacted them. Eman will confirm with Phil because NIPSCO is not listed as a partner in the agreement.
- City of La Porte - North-South Corridor Project Phase I. Funding request is \$935,322. Nick Minich presented on behalf of this project. Nick will provide Eman the route map of the Transit Triangle bus service in Michigan City to verify the bus stops are within a half mile of the project area. Craig Phillips suggested modifying questions that have a scoring of only 0 or 5 to include middle scoring selections for future NOFA applications. Charles Bradsky expressed concerns with funding this project if it did not come to fruition, due to the funding allocations available in Group 2. Nick stated the project has support and commitment from the community.
- Porter County - Willowcreek Road - CR 700N to SR 130. Funding request is \$4,770,940.08. Robert Thompson presented on behalf of Porter County. Scoring was discussed and changes were made live.
- Town of St. John - Cline Avenue Extension. Funding request is \$8,437,500. Craig Phillips presented the project's importance as it connects the Town of Schererville to the Town of Cedar Lake. This project is a collaboration between Lake County, the Town of Schererville, and the Town of St. John. Eman reviewed the application and the committee agreed to the discussed scoring changes. Craig will provide supporting documentation substantiating point revisions.
- City of Lake Station - Central Avenue and Fairview Avenue Intersection Improvement. Funding request is \$1,125,000 for CE and \$67,500 for PE. A representative from the City of Lake Station was not present. Eman reviewed their application and noted the supporting documentation needed to complete the scoring for this project. Eman will notify Scott Weber, NIRPC, to discuss the project at the STC meeting on November 10.

- Town of Schererville, Kennedy Avenue Improvements from US 30 to Main Street, Phase 3, Oak Street to Main Street. Funding request is \$4,851,700 for CE and \$291,162 for PE. Also, scored was the application for Phase 4, US 30 to Junction Avenue. Funding request is \$7,411,500 for CE and \$444,690 for PE. Jeff Huet presented stating the project is a resubmittal of phase I but has now been moved to phase four due to the state funding for the overpass segment. Phase 3 of the project was funded for ROW only in the 2018 NOFA but is now requesting funding for PE and CN. Eman reviewed the application and revised the points agreed on by the committee.
- The City of Valparaiso - TOD Multi-Use Trail. Funding request is \$1,971,675 for CE and \$118,301 for PE. Beth Shrader stated the trail segment that connects the investment made in TOD are based on the Chicago Dash commuter service between Valparaiso and Chicago. Eman reviewed the application and no scoring changes were made.
- Gary Public Transportation Corporation (GPTC) - Funding request of \$200,000. David Wright stated this funding is being requested for GPTC's rolling planning projects for 2025 and 2026. After Eman reviewed the application it was agreed David Wright would provide the specific supporting mapping documentation to Eman for scoring completion.
- NIRPC - Acquire funding to conduct Road Safety Audits (RSA) - Funding request is \$15,000 yearly. RSA's are required for any project requiring Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding. NIRPC will provide technical assistance to conduct four RSA's per year. Scoring is not applicable since this is a sub planning project.

All supporting documentation discussed above must be submitted to Eman and Charles Bradsky by November 20, 2020. Eman Ibrahim thanked all of the communities for their hard work and time spent on their NOFA application submissions.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be on January 7, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Hearing no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.