

Technical Planning Committee

NIRPC – Virtual Meeting

November 9, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's extended Executive Order 21-29. 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. A roll call was taken to motion and approve the agenda items.

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call.

In attendance were Kevin Breitzke, Anthony Kenning (DLZ), Beth West (La Porte), Chris Murphy (Structurepoint), David Wright (GPTC), Eric Wolverton (Structurepoint), George Topoll (Union Township), Jake Dammarell BFS), Jessica Miller (INDOT), Jodi Coblentz (DLZ), Kelly Wenger (NICTD), Laurie Keagle (SSCC), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Robin Barzoni-Tillman (Michigan City Transit), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Thomas Schmitt (Schererville), and Steve King (Merrillville).

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Charles Bradsky, Meredith Stilwell, Candice Eklund, Kevin Polette, Denarie Kane, Eman Ibrahim, Matthew Paskash, Peter Kimball, Scott Weber, Thomas Dow, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of September 14, 2021 were approved on motion by Mark O'Dell and second by George Topoll. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Scott Weber presented on Resolution 21-19, Adopting Safety Performance Measure Targets (PMT) for 2022. Res 21-19 is in support of the PMT that INDOT has adopted statewide. Res 21-19 will make a technical amendment to the *NWI 2050 Plan* and FY 2022-2026 TIP. The changes to the NWI 2050 Plan and the FY 2022-2026 TIP were presented and supplied in page 5 of the meeting packet (click [here](#)). With the revision of Performance Measure for the Number of Fatalities on page 28 of the FY 2022-2026 TIP, on motion by George Topoll and second by Mark O'Dell, the Technical Planning Committee approved to recommend Resolution 21-19 to The Commission.

Thomas Dow presented on the Regional Transportation Plan Update. Under federal law, NIRPC is required to develop a *Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)* every four years because of our non-attainment status with Air Quality. Then next plan update is due May 16, 2023. A tentative schedule for producing the plan was discussed and provided in the meeting packet. Three major steps have been identified: Finding Meaning by evaluating the existing and historic conditions; Creating Purpose by considering future scenarios & setting the preferred vision; and Purpose Driven Planning by shaping the future of The Region. The MTP must include all modes of surface transportation, as well as considering the impacts of transportation. NIRPC has already selected a consulting firm to help update the Regional Travel Demand model. The contract will be presented to the Executive Commission for approval. A written report at the end of each phase will be provided to the TPC upon completion.

Mitch Barloga spoke on Next Level Trails (NLT) Funding. The current NLT cycle is active and in its third round. It is offering \$25M to regionally significant projects, and \$10M for locally significant projects. Eligible match entails monetary contributions, land value, and in-kind donations of materials and labor. NIRPC encourages interested communities to submit their application before the December 1 deadline. For more information, please contact Mitch at mbarloga@nirpc.org.

Mitch also spoke on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Overview. The IIJA passed the Senate in August and passed the House last week. It will allow \$1.2T in spending over the next five years. Highlights of the IIJA include the following: Significant investments in addressing at-grade rail crossings; Creates new Bridge Investment Program; Modernizes public transit; New investments in Vision Zero projects; New climate initiatives; Funding to improve the electric grid; Boosting environmental funding for wildlife crossings & brownfield restoration. NIRPC will obtain guidance about the new programs and division of funds by state and MPO's over the next year.

Topical Committee Reports

The Environmental Management Policy Committee met in October and will be on hiatus until January. Ped Pedal and Paddle Committee met in November and will be on hiatus until January. The Surface Transportation Committee met in November to discuss Res 21-19, and their next meeting will be in February. The Land Use Committee met in November to discuss putting together the TOD that supports the ongoing regional efforts of the RDA and NICTD. An E-commerce presentation was also given at the November meeting. All meetings are recorded and can be viewed on NIRPC's YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyyqyHDk-qkUERzdDwU73_Q.

Reports from Planning Partners

Laurie Keagle (SSCC) reported on events and programs. Please click [here](#) for complete details of the SSCC report. Visit www.southshorecleancities.org or contact Lauri at lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org.

Other Business

Mitch presented a video on Emerging Trends. The videos depicted the large technological improvements that are coming to The Region.

Adjournment

The next TPC meeting will be held on January 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.