

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting  
(Lake and Porter County)  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Duane Alverson (Lake County), Chris Salatas (Cedar Lake), Deb Backhus (Gary), Kevin Breitzke (Porter County Surveyor), Douglas Brite (Crown Point), Dean Button (Hammond), Steve King (Merrillville), Sandy McDaniel (Portage), Wendy Mis (Munster), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Beth Shrader (Valparaiso), Anthony Schleuter (Crown Point), David Wright (GPTC), Craig Zandstra (Lake County Parks), Dennis Cobb, Jake Dammarell, Eric Wolverton, Trisha Nugent, Chris Murphy, Bob Csanyi, and Don Oliphant.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 29, 2022, TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Jeff Huet and seconded by Dean Button.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Spending Plan Update**

Charles Bradsky opened this discussion by stating FY 2023 had a surplus of \$4.6 million, which could be loaned to Evansville (who cannot repay loan until 2028), and FY 2024 had a deficit but could be balanced by change orders or if bids come in low. There is currently a deficit of \$11.5 million in FY 2025. Charles noted that discussions at the meeting held on November 29, regarding moving projects from year to year, did not take into account the various funding categories that must have funded projects, such as HSIP and CMAQ. Currently, there are no projects funded in the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program or the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Dean Button offered a PROTECT project for Hammond that could possibly fill a vacancy. Fiscal Year 2024 does not have any HSIP projects, and there is only one HSIP project being funded in fiscal years 2026-2028. The funding category for CMAQ is in compliance.

With safety being more weighted and balanced for the 2024 NOFA applications, NIRPC will begin performing Safety Audits which could assist with safety aspects of an application for possible additional points. There is \$75,000 allocated for a consultant to take on this initiative in 2024. Projects in the NOFA will be selected first.

Charles addressed the deficit balance in 2025 and 2026 by asking the committee members if they would be willing to move their projects out of these years. Dean Button stated a project in Hammond has \$100,000 in ROW Services but they are not able to start that until the environmental document is complete, therefore this money can be reallocated. Craig Zandstra said the two projects for the Vet Trail could move out to 2026 or 2027. Steve King offered to move their project on 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Merrillville to 2027. It was noted that inflation costs for the projects moving into the out years need

to be considered. Charles updated the spending plan live as discussions were taking place, but there still remained a deficit in the spending plan of \$9 million in 2025 and \$5 million in 2026. Since no other projects were offered to be moved to help balance the spending plan for 2025 and 2026, Charles will investigate the remaining negative balance and contact the mayor or city council of the other municipalities to get projects moved into out years.

### **Other New Business**

NOFA – Charles Bradsky discussed the possibility of having another NOFA to allocate the PROTECT program funds.

The three projects below were discussed at the Local Quarterly Meetings last week, where additional funding was requested. These projects are seeking approval from the TROC committee today.

- DES 2101117 for Chesterton: requested additional PE funding of \$125,032 in 2023 for their EVP project.
- DES 1173430 for Portage: want to accelerate CN from 2026 to 2024 that will require additional ROW funding for \$199,000.
- DES 1500221 for Hammond: requested \$175,107 in FY 2023 for the Chicago St. Phase 2 for change orders.

On motion by Jeff Huet and seconded by David Wright, the TROC committee approved the additional funding requests for the three projects noted above.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on May 23, 2023.

*The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkAOGKpg15w>*