

Technical Planning Committee

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room

YouTube Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Hqq35XknBtU?feature=share>

February 28, 2023

Amended Minutes

Please Note: A third motion was added under Programming for FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Draft project selection.

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Beth Shrader (Valpo Transit), David Wright (GPTC), Michael Jabo (Valparaiso), Dean Button (Hammond), Beth West (La Porte Transit), Ryan Lisek (DCI), and Mark O'Dell (Chesterton).

Also in attendance were Wendy Mis (Munster), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Duane Alverson (Lake County), Dennis Cobb (FGE), Robert Csanyi (Robinson Engineering) Julio Archavala (East Chicago), Terry Martin (C&G), Courtney Anderson (Ciorba), Amy Blaker (Lochmueller), Jessica Clark (Lochmueller), Chris Salatas (Cedar Lake), Scott Pruitt (FGE), Chris Murphy (Structure Point), Eric Wolverton (Structure Point), Don Oliphant (CBBEL), Jake Dammarell (BF&S), Leslie Beck, Deb Backhus (Gary), Jane Whedbee,

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Charles Bradsky, Scott Weber, Ty Warner, Kevin Polette, and Candice Eklund.

On motion by Mike Jabo, second by Dean Button, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) approved the minutes of January 10, 2023.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Scott Weber presented on Resolution 23-04: Updated transportation Air Quality Conformity Interagency Consultation Procedures. The five agencies prepared a protocol for determining transportation air quality conformity in compliance with Federal regulation. The protocol includes conformity procedures in relation to transportation plans, programs, and projects.

Scott reviewed both attachments that were also provided on the NIRPC web:

- [Transportation Air Quality Protocol](#)
- [Air Quality Conformity Interagency Consultation Group Guidance](#)

On motion by Dean Button, second by Mark O'Dell, the TPC voted to recommend Res 23-04 to the Executive Board.

Kevin Polette presented on the Metropolitan Planning Agreement (MPA) with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The Memorandum of Agreement is between NIRPC, INDOT, The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), and The Gary Public Transportation Corporation. Federal law requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), State Dept. of Transportation and Operators of Public Transportation Systems to engage in a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing transportation planning process. The agreement was sent to NICTD and GPTC in February for review. GPTC submitted changes and were added to the agreement. The new language is, "GPTC

plans, operates, and maintains local and regional transit service in the City of Gary and several adjacent communities.” No additional comments were received. On motion by David Wright, second by George Topoll, the TPC voted to recommend the MPA with INDOT to the Executive Board.

Programming

Charles Bradsky spoke on the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Draft project selection. Charles presented the program of projects. NOFA applications were discussed categorized, discussed, and points were adjusted on the subcommittee level to be presented to the TPC. Changes were made live.

On motion by Dean Button, second by Mark O’Dell, the TPC approved, as amended/corrected to the Group I projects discussed. However, the projects will have to come to TPC again before going to the Commission for approval.

Addition: On motion by Mike Jabo, second by Mark O’Dell, two transformative projects (Porter County’s Willowcreek Rd project and Schererville’s Kennedy Ave. project) will be allowed to have funding priority in 2029.

Group II was not discussed. However, Charles will take the top scores and fund projects accordingly. If funding amounts need adjusting, Charles will make those changes as needed.

On Motion by George Topoll, second by Mike Jabo, The TPC approved Group II projects with top scores to be funded accordingly.

Topical Committee Reports

Nothing to report.

Reports from Planning Partners

Ryan Lisek (DCI) reported on reported on upcoming events and programs within NWI. Please visit www.drivecleanindiana.org for more information.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

The next TPC meeting is slated for April 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.