

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

January 10, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present

Nancy Adams, Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Art Biciunas, Joe Crnkovich, Stan Dobosz, Stan Dostatni, Angie Fegaras, Jeff Huett, Denarie Kane, Mark O'Dell, Don Parker, Shawn Pettit, Craig Phillips, Jezreel Rodriguez, Claudia Taylor, Bob Thompson, Jim Ton, Richard Wotkun, David Wright

Guests

Eric Bechinske, Keith Benman, Marcia Blansett, Glen Campbell, Jake Dammarell, Phil Gralik, Marge Hefner, Janet Henderson, Craig Hendrix, Pete Kohut, Trisha Nugent, Leslie Phemister, Lori Reno, Jeff Schultz, Lisa Shrader, Stu Summers, Rebecca Williams, Eric Wilson

NIRPC Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Gary Evers, La'Kisha Girder, Allen Hammond, Eman Ibrahim, Stephen Sostaric, Tom Vander Woude

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- Chairman Stan Dobosz, NIRPC Commissioner and Griffith Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- Jim Ton made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 6 meeting; seconded by Shawn Pettit. Motion carried.

2. Planning

- *Pathway to 2040* Comprehensive Regional Plan Implementation Committee – Eman Ibrahim reported that the staff is putting together an implementation matrix, working with every NIRPC committee to list the plan element goals, objectives and strategies to implement the plan. Eman presented the draft transportation matrix to the committee. Actions can be taken by NIRPC, local government, INDOT, etc. Best practices are shown as well. A full version of the transportation matrix will be reviewed at the next TPC meeting. All matrices will be put together and reviewed by the Pathway to 2040 CRP Implementation Committee. Copies of the summary document and the DVD were also available at the meeting.
- Railroad Vision Working Group – Tom Vander Woude reported that rail representatives met at NIRPC on December 13. The list of recommendations for grade separations is almost complete. The next meeting is January 18 at 2:30 p.m. to reach a consensus and finalize the list. Brief discussion followed.

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- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plans – Allen Hammond reported that the goals can be met through the actual transition plans. Some municipalities and local public agencies have plans in place, but they need to be implemented throughout the years to come as well as documented to the public. Self-evaluation inventories can be used to insure compliance with the ADA transition plans looking at intersections, sidewalks and buildings. GIS technology can be used to assist in inventories, resolutions and executive orders are other tools to document compliance. There are no exceptions from Title II requirements for even small communities. Public entities of less than 50 employees (which includes elected officials, police, fire, etc.) are not required to comply with transition plans and have limited regulations, such as designating an ADA coordinator, nor are they required to maintain a self-evaluation on file for 3 years and have a grievance policy for possible ADA complaints. We do have some LPAs who are not required to do all the details that the larger entities are doing, but they are still doing them. FHWA or the state could require small communities to have these policies and tools in place. We are currently half way through our communities.

According to federal regulation 28 CFR 35-104 on transition plans, all public entities regardless of size must comply with the ADA Title II requirement by December 31, 2012 to avoid a cut off of federal funding. Resources are available at Great Lakes ADA Center at www.adagreatlakes.org or at 800-949-4232. Contact Allen Hammond for assistance.

- Congestion Management – Bill Brown said that Stephen Sostaric will now be responsible for congestion management and Kevin Garcia will be responsible for the ITS Architecture work.

3. Programming

- Amendment 8 of the FY2012-2015 TIP – Gary Evers said Amendment #8 is for added phases to Cedar Lake and Dyer Safe Routes to Schools projects and a rail crossing intersection improvement on SR 312 for INDOT.
- Amendment 9 of the FY2012-2015 TIP – Gary Evers said the amendment would add a right-of-way phase to the 133rd Avenue reconstruction project in Cedar Lake.

Shawn Pettit made a motion to approve the addition of amendments 8 and 9 to the FY2012-2015 TIP; seconded by Jim Ton. Motion carried.

- Quarterly Project Tracking – Gary Evers said about 50% of the LPAs turned in their reports for the quarter ending September 30. Problems occur with reports turned in by park boards on enhancement and safe routes to schools projects. Those communities that did not report on their projects must still do so. Reporting on stand-alone demonstration projects will not be enforced until June 30. If you are sending reports directly to Marcia Blansett, please provide a copy to NIRPC. NIRPC will then compile an analysis of these reports in the near future.

4. INDOT –

- Lisa Shrader – Letting list for November and December had a couple of corrections: the lighting maintenance contract will be readvertised on February 8, 2012. The last project for US 12 will be readvertised on February 8, 2012. The calendar year letting summary was also provided; however, it should read 2011.
- Angie Fegaras –
- Cline Avenue – Discussions are being held with American Bridge on another solution.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge – Contract has been awarded; construction to start in March with Borman restrictions to be announced.
- Illiana Corridor – They are working on February dates for the next round of the CPG meeting with another public meeting, to be announced. Comments received at previous public meetings are being analyzed. Next large hearing will be in late May or early June.

5. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that December ridership was up 4% over 2010, but they are still running about 2/10th of 1% behind last year overall, due to the blizzard in February and weekend outages which are now over. The catenary is essentially complete, with a few minor items being attended to. Signalization is almost complete with Michigan City to South Bend switched to centralized traffic control. The 130th and Torrence Bridge is under construction with completion slated for the end of this year. Bridge painting on the Grand Calumet Bridge in East Chicago is scheduled for this year as well. A small bridge in Chicago will be rebuilt this year. The Michigan City study should be complete this summer.
- **RBA** – No report.
- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that year-end ridership information will be presented at the February meeting. A significant service enhancement will take place on January 30. Evening service on all routes except one peak only route will be expanded with evening service restored past 10 p.m. Final maps and timetables will be posted on the GPTC website by the end of the week. David had maps of the two CMAQ funded routes available at the meeting.

6. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

Highways – Stan Dostatni reported that the City of Hammond is moving along on the former 312 route project of Chicago Avenue/Sheffield Avenue/Gostlin Street from East Chicago to the Illinois State Line. Engineering selection is in process.

7. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

No reports.

8. Planning Neighbors: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Southwestern Michigan Commission

No reports.

9. Other Business, Public Comment and Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC

- Staff Announcements:
Bill Brown reminded the committee of the two-day ITS Architecture Workshop sponsored by FHWA being held January 10 and 11 at the Borman Traffic Management Center in Gary to help with an update of what was done about 10 years ago. Participants will include the Fort Wayne and South Bend MPOs, Indiana Toll Road, Indiana State Police, CMAP, GPTC, NICTD, RBA, TransPorte, emergency responders, East Chicago, Hammond, Hobart and Schererville. All cities and towns in the three-county region are welcome to attend as well as the local demand response transit services.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - ❖ Land Use Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m.
 - ❖ ITS Architecture Workshop on January 11 and 12 at the Borman Traffic Management Center in Gary
 - ❖ The *Pathway to 2040* Implementation Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 18 at 9:00 a.m.
 - ❖ NWI Rail VISION Working Group will meet on January 18 at 2:30 p.m.
 - ❖ The NIRPC Full Commission/Executive Board will meet on Thursday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m.
 - ❖ The Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee will meet on Thursday, January 19 at 1:30 p.m. at NIRPC.
 - ❖ The Local Government Assistance Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25 at the Festival Park Community Center, 111 E. Old Ridge Road, Hobart.

10. Next Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at NIRPC.

On a motion by James Ton and a second by Shawn Pettit, Chairman Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Thorne
NIRPC Planning Secretary
1/24/12