

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

October 9, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present

Nancy Adams, Deb Backhus, John Bayler, Art Biciunas, Aj Bytnar, Joe Crnkovich, Stan Dobosz, Jeff Huet, Tyler Kent, Bruce Lindner, Mark O'Dell, Craig Phillips, Claudia Taylor, Rebecca Williams, Dwayne Williams, David Wright

Guests

Marcia Blansett, James Dammarell, Daryl Williams-Dotson, Robert Earnshaw, Frank Fixer, Peter Kohut, Nick Minich, Catherine Reynolds, Chris Reynolds

NIRPC Staff

Bill Brown, Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Belinda Petroskey, Stephen Sostaric, Hubert Morgan, Eman Ibrahim, Kevin Garcia, Allen Hammond

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.
- Joe Crnkovich motioned to approve the minutes of the June 12 meeting; seconded by Aj Bytnar. Motion carried.

2. Presentation – Mitch Barloga gave a debrief on the Pro Walk/Pro Bike Conference held in Long Beach, California. The presentation will be put on the website. He attended sessions on reducing deaths, street design, future of government funding, bike friendly businesses, safe routes to schools and advocacy of multi-partner engagement. Statistics revealed included: Vehicle miles traveled have been decreasing since 2004. One-third of America's population will be diabetic by 2030. Forty-eight percent of 25-35 year olds are willing to live in dense urban areas. For those born between 1998-2007, there has been a 28% drop in driver's licenses. Also, auto purchases by 21-34 year olds are decreasing. The conference encouraged at least 15 minutes of day of exercise. For more information go to www.rethinktheauto.org.

3. Presentation – Hubert Morgan briefed the committee on the updated Public Participation Plan. It includes engagement techniques, TIP process and meeting design approaches. Gary Evers added that the plan is a guideline to addressing projects in the TIP. A minimum of a five-day comment period is designated for minor amendments to the TIP and a minimum 30-day comment period for major amendments. Emergency amendments can be made without an adoption by the Board. Hubert asked for a recommendation for the public comment period to begin and go through the end of November with adoption by the Board at their December 13 meeting. Dwayne Williams motioned to recommend the plan go out for public comment period; Art Biciunas seconded; motion carried.

4. Congestion Management Process – Stephen Sostaric discussed mobility (speed) v. accessibility (origins and destinations) which is the core of the 2040 plan. By creating livable centers we can create more accessible urban areas through land use and growth management strategies.

5. Planning

ADA Transition Plans – Allen Hammond reported that responses to his survey indicated that two transition plans have been submitted with the majority being submitted in October or November. Towns and small cities under 50 employees are required to document any ADA barriers by appointing an ADA coordinator, completing a public notice, creating a grievance procedure and form

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and completing an assessment on sidewalks and ramps using a form which Allen can provide. This must be completed by the end of the year.

- Belinda Petroskey announced the annual public hearing on compliance by public transit operators with the ADA will be held on November 1 at Purdue University Calumet and streamed live in LaPorte on NIRPC's website.
- 2040 CRP Implementation – Eman Ibrahim reported that staff continues to outreach to the communities to present the 2040 plan. Two are taking place in October in Whiting and Valparaiso. The *Pathway to 2040* Committee will meet this Thursday at 9 a.m. and will feature a presentation on the Green Infrastructure Pilot Program.
- ITS Architecture – Kevin Garcia reported that there were no major developments.
- Urban Area Boundary – Kevin reported that a few meetings with stakeholders need to take place. Action will be postponed until the next TPC meeting.
- Air Quality Conformity Update – Bill Brown reported that the Interagency Consultation Group reached an agreement on a new set of emissions budgets for motor vehicles, incorporating new vehicle fleet information produced in 2009 and process modification to use the new MOVES indicator. A 15% margin of safety was incorporated and we should be able to meet the emissions targets. IDEM is sending information to the EPA for action in the next few months. We are aware some projects that would require a potential plan amendment with a new conformity analysis that would use the new motor vehicle emissions budgets.

6. Programming

- Quarterly Project Tracking Part III – Gary Evers reported that an updated report was made available for the three county region.
- Amendment #20 is a minor amendment for INDOT projects and projects in Lake and Porter counties. On a motion by Joe Crnkovich and a second by David Wright, Amendment #20 was recommended for action by the NIRPC Board.
- Gary Evers said INDOT changed the process for handling HSIP projects. They will issue a process statement that shows the flow of projects and approvals from start to finish. An eight-step process was provided to NIRPC.

7. Indiana Department of Transportation

- Bill Brown reported on the lettings report which includes the trail project around the NIRPC building.
- At 1 p.m. today a meeting on the Illiana will take place at the Will County Fairgrounds in Peotone, Illinois.

8. Transit Operators Reports

NICTD – Joe Crnkovich reported that September ridership is down slightly from August 2011 due to less work days. The catenary Phase 3 utility pole replacement work east of Michigan City continues and the Dune Park platform should be ready for letting later this year. The bridge over Trail Creek needs to be raised above water level. New schedules were provided.

GPTC – David Wright reported that August ridership saw a 17% increase over 2011 at 63,800 while reducing vehicle miles by 1%. For September, with fewer weekdays ridership was at 56,000. The preliminary scope was added to the Broadway Study. There are three more ARRA projects: signage at the Metro Center, internal IT project and the Transit Enhancement part of the grant on the operations facility on 35th Avenue at the Metro Center and structural building improvements.

9. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

No reports.

10. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

Bill reported that NIRPC received a memorandum regarding the National Highway System. All principal arterial roads including Ridge, part of Cline, 61st Avenue, etc. are part of the National Highway System. Two maps were provided.

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

No reports.

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

Other Business:

Indiana APA Northern Region is hosting an Active Transportation Alliance gathering on October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Winona Lake.

◇ Hubert Morgan, Mitch Barloga, Bob Thompson and Craig Phillips are working on a mobile workshop for the APA conference in April focusing mainly on the northern part of the region. More information will follow.

◇ Upcoming Meetings:

◇ Pathway to 2040 CRP Implementation Committee – 9:00 a.m. October 11

◇ Executive Board/Full Commission – 9:00 a.m. October 18

◇ Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee – 1:30 p.m. October 25

◇ Local Government Assistance Advisory Committee – 9:00 a.m. November 28

◇ Towns and Small Cities – time T/B/D November 29

◇ Environmental Management Policy Committee – 9:00 a.m. November 1

◇ ADA Consent Decree Public Hearing – 1:00 p.m. November 1 at Purdue University Calumet, 2200 169th Street, Hammond, Student Union/Library Building, 3rd Floor-Alumni Hall

12. Next Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at NIRPC.

Chairman Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.