



COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM
MAY 29, 2014
MINUTES

Members & Guests – Jake Dammarell, Craig Phillips, Shannon Eason, Richard Murphy, Richard Morrisroe, Bob Huffman, Trisha Nugent, Craig Hendrix, Brian Niksch, Chris Moore, Mark Gordish, Mark O'Dell, Jim Mandon, John Novacich, A J Monroe, Brian Snedecor, Bob Thompson, Phil Gralik, Bruce Spires, Pete Kohut, Alex Brown, Tim Burkman, Skyler York, Stan Dostatni, Eric Wolverton, Sedrick Green, Jake Ballah, Glenn Gaby, Mark Heintz, Glen Campbell, Don Parker
Staff – Mitch Barloga, Kathy Luther, Scott Weber, Gary Evers, Amanda Pollard, Meredith Stilwell

Vice-Chair Bruce Spires called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

South Shore Trails - Update

The Ride of Silence was held in Chesterton with excellent cooperation from the Chesterton Police Department. The ride was quiet, but enjoyable.

Pedal

Transportation Alternatives Program: Appeals & Programming– Mitch Barloga

Peer review and ranking meetings were held at NIRPC for the Bike and Ped and Safe Routes to School applications. All justifications for points claimed on applications have been submitted to Mitch. Overmatch additions after application submissions was discussed. Mitch gave the staff perspective that overmatch makes sense since it takes less of the TAP funding and believed it should be brought in. With arguments presented for both sides, Vice-Chair Spires called for a vote on the matter. **Mark O'Dell motioned and A J Monroe seconded to approve allowing overmatch after the application submission. With only three votes in favor of the motion, the motion failed.**

Technical issues for appeals and adjustments were then presented by Mitch. Projects detailed were:

- Hammond transit points: GPTC started a new bus route system that includes a bus stop approximately 1,000 feet away from one project and 2,000 feet away from another project. At the time of application submission the new bus route system was only a plan and the 5 points for transit was given during review. The route has now been solidified and information submitted to Mitch for verification; staff agreed to accept the justification. The scores for Hammond do not change.
- City of Portage Marquette Greenway at Ameriplex question regarding the EJ zone: It was determined the entire project lies within an EJ zone. Points increased from 91 to 96, moving the project ranking from being tied for 7th place to 5th place.
- LaPorte Chessie Greenway, Phase II: claimed points for being in an EJ zone, but the 2040 CRP does not show the area as an EJ zone. During the meeting it was confirmed by Eman Ibrahim that the poverty level on the east side of LaPorte, where the project is located, is 19.3%. Score and ranking do not change since the points were already awarded.
- Michigan City Singing Sands, Phase II (Marquette Greenway): Received 5 points for one trail connection and appealed that they should receive an addition 5 points for another connection for continuing the trail segment in another location. Vice-Chair Spires felt the points should be awarded and asked if anyone disagreed with the points being awarded for connection. With no opposition, Michigan City was awarded the 5 points, raising their score from 90 points to 95 and raising the ranking from 9th place the 6th.

All other justifications needed for points to remain as when reviewed were submitted and justified to Mitch prior to the meeting.

Bonus points for previously awarded TE and TAP funding received and whether that discourages finding other monies to fund trails was questioned and it was also questioned if many of the bonus

points actually lead to extra money being spent for projects (i.e. additional parking lots). Vice-Chair Spires stated the application was discussed at the March 3PC meeting and that would have been the time to bring up the concerns. He noted the concerns could be addressed at the next funding round since the application was already decided upon. Discussion followed regarding the Portage and Porter County applications and their desire to put additional parking lots back in their applications. It was determined Portage did not mention the parking lot in their application and it has to be included in the budget portion of the application and Porter County claimed the transit system points to the parking lot issue did not apply since it was an either/or point category. It was recommended the application be reviewed within the next couple of months while all the issues are fresh in everyone's minds rather than waiting two years for another funding cycle. The consensus was that it was a good idea and Mitch suggested possibly having a rolling review.

- Valparaiso-LaPorte Ave. Pathway: The project had points deducted for project readiness and Tim Burkman appealed to the group that the project is being built on INDOT right of way and the intent of the project readiness is within the ROW owned by INDOT who is a project sponsor. Mitch noted the application was reviewed and the dialog regarding the subject took place at the scoring meeting. NIPSCO is the only exception in the owned by project sponsor category. The scoring cannot be appealed and maybe something else to review during the next application review.

Craig Hendrix asked that the Pines be reviewed since they were considered to be an EJ zone in the 2030 Plan. Eman Ibrahim remarked that the Pines did not meet the threshold in the 2040 Plan.

John Novacich stated the score for Schererville's application for the Pennsy Greenway-Erie-Lackawanna connection should be lowered to 74.5 since they were awarded 2 points instead of 1 for aquisition. Ranking does not change.

The programming of funds is for the years 2015-2021. In two years, another round of funding will take place adding on 2022 and 2023 to the programming. Mitch suggested that the 1st place rankings in all categories should be programmed in first. There was no issue from the group in proceeding in that fashion. The charts of the projects were reviewed along with the breakdowns of requested for each year. During the programming discussion, Gary Evers indicated that there is one year's worth of funding at slightly less than \$1m for fy 2014 that has not been included in the totals yet and can be placed where needed. He noted that INDOT is regulating carry-over now and they have to approve.

Discussion was held as to whether the fy2014 funds should go toward the projects that were not fully funded during the last funding round or if the money should be included with this round of funding. Suggestions were made to hold off committing the \$1m for now and to allocate the money toward new project applications.

Vice-Chair Brian Nicksch brought up the fact that the Hammond bridge project on the Erie-Lackawanna at Conkey and Calumet Avenue was to be discussed further after the review meeting since a suspension bridge is possibly a higher cost than a normal bridge. The bridge would be placed where an at-grade trail already is located. It was indicated that Hammond would still be requesting the same amount of money and there are safety issues at the current trail. Discussion was held with Mitch noting it is a Committee decision as to whether this is a TAP worthy project. **Vice-Chair Spires called for a motion to vote. Shannon Eason motioned and Mark O'Dell seconded that the project should be ineligible for TAP funds. With 5 for the ineligibility motion and 7 against, the motion failed. With that vote, the Hammond bridge project remained in 3rd place and eligible for TAP funding.**

Further discussion was held regarding the fy2014 money. **Richard Morrisroe motioned to add the \$992k fy2014 money to the fy2019 thus allowing for the 3rd place Hammond bridge project to be fully funded when combined with roll-over from previous years' surplus funds. James Mandon seconded the motion. After discussion a vote was taken. With 7 votes in favor and 6 votes opposed, the motion passed to add the fy2014 monies to fy2019.** It was commented that this was a sad vote and a sad day. Vice-Chair Spires stated that somewhere along the line, the 3PC needs to make a statement that the partial projects need to get funded.

Programming took place with the following results:

2015 = \$946,340:

Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phase II and III	PE	112,000
Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phase II and III	RW	501,000
SRTS	La Porte	Handley Elementary School	PE	21,840
Env & Historical	Hobart	Deep River Stormwater Outfall	PE	31,500
Ped & Bike	Hammond	Grand Calumet Trail from Hammond to Marquette Greenway	PE	280,000
TOTAL				946,340

2016 = \$1,124,480:

Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phase II and III	RW	500,000
SRTS	La Porte	Handley Elementary School	CN	189,280
Env & Historical	Michigan City	Michigan City Old Lighthouse Museum Exterior	CN	160,000
SRTS	Valparaiso	Northview Elementary	PE	28,000
SRTS	Hobart	Middle School Corridor	CN	247,200
TOTAL				1,124,480

2017 = \$899,425:

Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phase II and III	CN	387,002
Env & Historical	Hobart	Deep River Stormwater Outfall	CN	197,423
Ped & Bike	Hammond	Grand Calumet Trail from Hammond to Marquette Greenway	RW	315,000
				899,425

2018 = \$647,440:

SRTS	Valparaiso	Northview Elementary	CN	277,840
Ped & Bike	Porter County	Calumet Trail Phase V	PE	200,000
Ped & Bike	Portage	Marquette Greenway at Ameriplex	PE	169,600
				647,440

2019 = \$2,525,000

Ped & Bike	Hammond	Grand Calumet Trail from Hammond to Marquette Greenway	CN	525,000
Ped & Bike	Hammond	Erie-Lackawanna Trail @ Conkey & Cal Ave	CN	2,000,000
				2,525,000

2020 = \$525,000

Ped & Bike	Hammond	Grand Calumet Trail from Hammond to Marquette Greenway	CN	525,000
				525,000

2021 = \$1,400,000

Ped & Bike	Porter County	Calumet Trail Phase V	CN	1,400,000
				1,400,000

The next step is the programming chart will be presented to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) as a recommendation from 3PC and then to the NIRPC Commission for final approval.

Paddle –

- a. **NWI Paddling Association – No update given**

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates: *None*

B. Miscellaneous Issues, Concerns, Gripes: *None*

C. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.) *None*

D. Next Meeting is Thursday, June 26, 2014

Meeting Adjourned at 4:08 p.m.