



**COMMITTEE MEETING ~ NIRPC AUDITORIUM
JUNE 26, 2014
MINUTES**

Members & Guests – Jake Dammarell, Craig Phillips, Shannon Eason, Richard Morrisroe, Bob Huffman, Trisha Nugent, Chris Moore, Mark O'Dell, Jim Mandon, John Novacich, A J Monroe, Bob Thompson, Phil Gralik, Bruce Spires, Tim Burkman, Skyler York, Stan Dostatni, Eric Wolverton, Mark Heintz, Dennis Cobb, Jim Ton, Ryan Marovich, Craig Zandstra, Jan Dick, Mark Schreiber, Mary Jane Thomas, Julia Surber

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Stephen Sostaric, Gary Evers, Meredith Stilwell

Chairman Jan Dick called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

South Shore Trails - Update

Since the air show has been cancelled, South Shore Trails will not be providing valet bike parking.

Pedal

Transportation Alternatives Program: REMANDED Programming

The TAP programming from the May 3PC meeting was presented to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for approval and was remanded back to the 3PC with three policy actions to be considered. No action was made by the TPC in regard to the applications themselves or the scoring of the applications. Final scoring and rankings are not up for debate, just the programming is the focus with the three policy actions to be considered as follows.

1. 3PC will consider previously under-funded partial projects to make them whole as they have done in the past, with a focus on unused FY 2014 TAP monies toward these projects.
2. Individual project max requests for pedestrian and bicycle project requests were set too high which basically restricted the amount of projects which could have been funded. A revised max request for this category will be reset by the 3PC.
3. A limit on how many new TAP projects each community could submit will be established.

Funding previously under-funded partial projects was addressed with Mitch proposing to put FY 2014 allocated funds of \$992k into the 2015 program year to fund previous under-funded projects and allocate funding going forward from there until 2021. **Shannon Eason motioned and Bruce Spires seconded to add the 2014 allocated funds into the 2015-2021 programming to fully fund the partially funded projects. Chairman Dick called for a vote with all in favor saying aye. With only one vote opposing, the motion passed.**

The motion resulted in the funding of the previously underfunded projects of:

- Chesterton: Westchester-Liberty Trail, Phase 2 project = \$547,725
- Griffith: Oak Savannah – Erie-Lackawanna Connector = \$110,000
- Hammond: Marquette Greenway – Chicago to Hammond Marina = \$242,600

Discussion began regarding the maximum request cap of \$2m with the points of unfairness in changing the amount since it was already voted on previously and if the maximum is set to low there is the risk of having partially completed projects being brought up.

Discussion shifted to the topic of the number of project applications a community could submit. There is currently no limit to the number of project submissions per community and it was commented that limiting the number of projects would be a mistake since big communities with larger populations could have more projects. Mark O'Dell motioned and A J Monroe seconded to limit one new application project award per sponsor, per category for this round of funding. Further discussion transpired with Gary Evers

noting that this particular restriction is not on any of the other funding programs. It was also voiced that the program is aimed at funding best projects in the region and has never been about splitting fairly between communities. Bonus points, multi-sponsor and overmatch points awarded were also mentioned with Mitch noting that application criteria will be reviewed and addressed at the next application review. The question was raised regarding do the votes mean anything since this subject was already voted on previously. **Chairman Dick called for a vote by show of hands on the motion by Mark O'Dell and seconded by A J Monroe to limit one new application project award per sponsor, per category for this round of funding. With 8 in favor of the motion and 7 opposed, the motion passed.** Chairman Dick remarked he would like to see a roomful of people when issues are addressed and Mitch commented that this is a new type of program done at NIRPC and has opened up a lot of issues.

The discussion reverted back to the maximum fund request subject with a suggestion to limit project requests to \$1,050,000 and a comment that the maximum request issue being addressed does not include Safe Routes to School or the environmental category. Gary Evers noted that currently the maximum request for the Group 1 Program is around \$9.6m, which funds about four projects at that rate and has proven to be too much. He also noted that in two years there will be around \$2m on the table and the Committee will probably not want the \$2m cap at that time and proceed with caution because it is unknown what Congress will do in the next few months. **Phil Gralik motioned and James Mandon seconded to keep the maximum funding request for the pedestrian and bicycle category at \$2m. Chairman Dick called for a vote by show of hands on the motion. With 12 in favor and 4 opposed, the motion passed.**

Programming took place with the following results (*NOTE: Due to the vote at this meeting to allow only one funded project per sponsor for this round, the City of Hammond tentatively chose the Erie-Lackawanna Trail Bridge at Conkey & Calumet until they could confer with Mayor McDermott*)

2015 = \$558,800:

Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phases II & III	PE	112,000
Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phases II & III	ROW	500,000
SRTS	LaPorte	Handley Elementary School	PE	27,300
Env & Historic	Hobart	Deep River Stormwater Outfall & BMP	PE	31,500
TOTAL				558,800

2016 = \$1,135,023:

Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phases II & III	ROW	501,000
SRTS	LaPorte	Handley Elementary School	CN	248,600
Env & Historic	Hobart	Deep River Stormwater Outfall & BMP	CN	197,423
Env & Historic	Michigan City	Old Lighthouse Museum Repairs	CN	160,000
SRTS	Valparaiso	Northview Elementary	PE	28,000
TOTAL				1,135,023

2017 = \$1,287,327:

Ped & Bike	Chesterton	Westchester-Liberty Trail	CN	547,725
Ped & Bike	Griffith	Erie-Lackawanna/Oak Savannah Connector	CN	110,000
Ped & Bike	Hammond	Marquette Greenway Chicago to Hammond Marina	CN	242,600
Ped & Bike	Schererville	Pennsy Greenway Phases II & III	CN	387,002
TOTAL				1,287,327

2018 = \$2,000,000:

Ped & Bike	Hammond	Erie-Lackawanna Trail Bridge at Conkey & Calumet	CN	2,000,000
TOTAL				2,000,000

2019 = \$894,640

SRTS	Valparaiso	Northview Elementary	CN	277,840
Ped & Bike	Porter County	Calumet Trail Phase V	PE	200,000
SRTS	Hobart	Middle School Corridor	CN	247,200
Ped & Bike	Portage	Marquette Greenway Ameriplex	PE	169,600
TOTAL				894,640

2020 = \$1,400,000

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

2021 = \$1,066,210

Ped & Bike	Portage	Marquette Greenway Ameriplex	CN	1,066,210
TOTAL				1,066,210

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.

Gary Evers asked if a cap should be placed on the awards and what he should do procedurally if a sponsor requests more money than originally requested. He noted if a bid comes in under, there will be money left over. Mitch stated that a "B List" will be established for additional funds that might be available and Portage's Marquette Greenway Ameriplex project is on the hook for any extra money to complete their funding. Gary remarked that CMAQ projects are capped. The consensus was to place the cap at the requested amount and the sponsor would need to come back to request additional funds in the next round; a policy will be set in place for the next round of funding.

Finally, Gary informed the group that although the allocations have been made, this is a starting point and does not mean it will necessarily go that way. Things are handled as they come through and while money cannot be overspent in one year, it can be underspent and moved to the following year.

Paddle –

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

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates: *The three bike bridges in Hammond are almost completed and ribbon cuttings for all three will possibly be held in July.*

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

C. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.): *The night rides in LaPorte, Lansing, Hammond and Valparaiso are all coming in July and August. Currently a Starlight Express Pass is being offered by South Shore Trails. This allows a discount for signing up for all four night rides.*

D. Next Meeting is Thursday, August 28, 2014

Meeting Adjourned at 3:26 p.m.