



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC Auditorium April 23, 2015 Minutes

Members & Guests – Shannon Eason, Mark Heintz, Walter Lenckos, Julie Mandon, Chris Moore, John Novacich, Jerry Rosko, Joe Rurode, Mark Gordish, Jan Orlich, Marino Solorio, Bob Huffman, Mark Schreiber, Mitchell Bishop, Ron Brown, Greg Vitale, Nicole Lopez, Tina Rongers, Mark O'Dell
Staff – Mitch Barloga, Steve Strains, Meredith Stilwell

Vice-Chair Shannon Eason called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. with self-introductions.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails - Update

Don Parker was asked to speak at the Calumet Summit in May regarding planning for non-motorized connecting of people to the historic sites in the proposed Calumet National Heritage Area. Upcoming activities for SST include providing information to the public on National Trails Day in June; partnering with local groups to promote their trail and bicycling events, and providing bike parking at the Gary Air Show and Pierogi Fest. SST wants to help communities and organizations promote their events through their website and Chicago's ChainLink bicycle events website. Information should be forwarded to Don Parker.

B. Gary USDOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Assessment Day - Presentation

Over the last 20 years pedestrian fatalities have risen 20%. In September of 2014, Secretary Foxx announced a USDOT led initiative to reverse this trend stating, "Safety is our highest priority no matter the mode of travel." The initiative targets walking and biking to school or shopping and transit in a safe, predictable and easy manner. An 18 month campaign assessment project is planned in every state. The city of Gary was selected in Indiana with FHWA the designated lead agency to guide the effort. Gary touts multi-modal transportation opportunities and this effort enhances a number of their current initiatives underway including the EPA/HUD/USDOT Partnership for Sustainable Communities; White House Strong Cities, Strong Communities Program; the GPTC "A Livable Broadway" Study; and NIRPC's Creating Livable Communities (CLC) Program. Many participants and agencies are helping with the project. The Gary USDOT assessment project and workday took place on April 18th. There was a great turnout and the participants were split into four major groups with three of those pedestrian based and one bicycle group. Each pedestrian group split into sub-groups at various street sections and the bicycle group was tasked to analyze the 35th Street corridor between IUN and Ivy Tech. Each group completed an assessment checklist.

Pedal

A. CMAQ, HSIP & STP-2 Funding Cycle – Finalize Rankings

An application review and ranking meeting was held April 22 for trail projects submitted. Draft rankings were supplied to those in attendance in a handout. While the rankings are not binding, they add value to the decision making process. Mitch noted that all extra materials for point justifications from communities had been submitted to him.

For Lake and Porter County rankings, Hammond was ranked first with 82 points. The Erie-Lackawanna Trail to Marquette Greenway connector project connects to East Chicago. East Chicago was ranked second with 79 points. The Toll Road to Indianapolis Boulevard project would connect with Hammond. Roxana Marsh is being used as a catalyst project. Burns Harbor and Merrillville tied for third with 69 points. The Burns Harbor Marquette Greenway East Branch connector project has been broken down into a phased approach with this phase being a one mile connector to the Porter Brickyard Trail. The Merrillville C & O extension project begins at Innsbrook Country club and extends to SR 55 and will include a pedestrian bridge. Schererville ranked fourth with 54 points for their multi-agency project with

Dyer that starts at the Pennsy Greenway near Indianapolis Boulevard and proceeds west to Dyer Central Park. All rankings remained the same after discussion.

For LaPorte County, the City of LaPorte was ranked first with 65 points for the Chessie Greenway Phase II which runs from Pine Lake Avenue into the downtown district, and down 1st Street toward the west end of town. LaPorte County and Michigan City were tied for second with 64 points. The LaPorte County project would connect the state of Michigan to Singing Sands 3 and runs roughly one mile. The Michigan City project, Singing Sands Phase 3A, starts at Liberty Trail and ends at the city boundary where LaPorte County will pick it up. After discussion, it was determined that Michigan City had an extra point to be counted as well as addition points for two additional generators and three block area with employees raising their score 6 points to 67 total. With these changes the new rankings were Michigan City first with 67 points and City of LaPorte and LaPorte County tied for second with 65 points.

Mitch asked for a vote to approve the scores. Upon motion by Mark O'Dell, second by John Novacich and no opposition the motion carried for recommendation from 3PC.

Paddle –

NWI Paddling Association – Update

Shannon Eason noted that Michigan City is having a problem getting the floodway permit from DNR for the ADA kayak launch at Hansen Park. They expect to receive it within 30 days, but have postponed the ribbon cutting until June 27th. NWIPA will still host their fun float their on May 31st.

Greenways + Blueways 2020 – Update

There will be conversations with stakeholders; listening sessions throughout the region and trail counts. Plan preparation will take place in the latter part of the summer with hopefully a release date in December.

Grab Bag

A. Project Updates:

- Schererville: The railroad abandonment extension for the Pennsy has been consummated and the signed agreement for right of way services has been sent to INDOT. There is still an issue on how to get underneath the tracks since the railroad wants to tear down the existing bridge the trail would go underneath. Another opening is being explored as an alternate possibility.
- Chesterton: The 40% plans for the Westchester Liberty Trail Phase II were submitted to INDOT in March.
- La Porte: SEH was selected to do engineering and has been approved by the Board of Works and INDOT.

B. Miscellaneous Issues, Concerns, Gripes:

- A video was shown featuring underground bicycle parking.

C. General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.):

- The City of Hobart will be having a ribbon cutting for the Oak Savannah on Friday, May 15 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Pennsy Depot. There will be a guided tour of the new portion of trail.
- The City of East Chicago is working with NWIPA to organize a kayaking event at Roxana Marsh in August. East Chicago are finishing a walking/biking trail at Washington Park. All three major parks in the city will have a ½ mile trail around them.
- Mitch Announced that the Sign 'Em Up Program is taking a new twist and big news will be coming shortly.

D. Next Meeting is Thursday, May 28, 2015

Meeting Adjourned at 2:56 p.m.