



Committee Meeting ~ NIRPC May 26, 2016 Minutes

Members & Guests – Bob Huffman, Jeff Sheridan, Will Farrellbegg, Craig Zandstra, Dalia Zygus, Walter Lenckos, Mark Gordish, Robert Boklund, Jan Dick, John Novacich, Tim Kinsgland, Chris Moore, Taghi Arshami

Staff – Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell

Co-Chair John Novacich called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm.

Ped

A. South Shore Trails Update – None.

B. G + B 2016 Map Revealed

Active Transportation Alliance has released a draft copy of the map update that features new colors clearly identifying routes which has been a problem with previous maps. Redesigned legends and symbols have been incorporated to clearly explain Bikes on Trains, identify both USBR 36 and USBR 35 routes as clearly as possible and identify renamed beach locations. Mountain bike routes have also been marked and better clarity on water trail routes. Trail names are marked on the map and Mitch revealed the updated Prairie Duneland logo which was approved by both Portage and Chesterton.

Map sponsors and CMAQ funds have made the map possible. 50,000 maps will be printed in the next couple of weeks with possible reprints for subsequent years dependent upon demand. The map will be free to the public and while NIRPC will distribute the map to libraries, municipalities will be asked to pick up their maps from the NIRPC office. Online PDFs will be available on the NIRPC website and a link to Google Maps will also be available. Flat maps will also be available for framing. Two maps were available for review by the Committee after the meeting.

Pedal

A. Unified Trail Wayfinding Guide

NIRPC has been working a design standards guide for trails funded with federal money. Core elements of sign standards for trailheads and welcome to community signs featuring trail logos and other logos dependent upon the trail were presented. Near street signs will have nearby destination markers on them and there will be regulatory signs and mile marker signs as well. There is also the option of thermoplastic on-trail surface signs at street crossings. All trail heads will have a map sign for the entire trail and will also have logos. Materials are also designated and were chosen in an attempt to try to avoid vandalism and for cost as well.

The guide will be released in June and will include design, dimensions and materials to be used. The first set of signs will be hopefully be installed on the Prairie Duneland and Erie Lackawanna next spring. Communities will be worked with for their signs. While the design standard to abide by is for regional trails funded with federal dollars local trails are highly

encourage to adopt the standards as well. The design standards will be a major element of next NOFA solicitation in late 2018.

Paddle

A. NWI Paddling Association – None

Grab Bag

A. NEW NIRPC Committee Structure – 3PC Leadership change!

The new committee structure adopted by NIRPC in 2015 is now being implemented. Transit has had their own committee and there is now a surface transportation committee which is a technical planning committee. The new TPC (Technical Planning Committee) is a combination of the old TPC (Transportation Policy Committee) and the 2040 implementation committee and will run things through the 2040 CRP lens. While the newly formed Transportation Resource Oversight Committee (TROC) and the new TPC will be the committees making decisions on federal funding, 3pc will still continue to set priorities.

The new chairman of 3PC is Joe Stahura, Mayor of Whiting. Decision making will continue as usual, but with new leadership. The June 3PC meeting is cancelled and the new leadership will begin in July. The new TPC will also commence in July.

B. Project Updates

Hammond: Mark Gordish reported north to East Chicago has been paved for the Marquette Greenway phase III and now just needs landscaping which will hopefully done shortly. Grand Cal from downtown to East Chicago is in the process of getting a contract with First Group Engineering. State line connection is moving forward with right of way being worked on. The contract for the Calumet Avenue Bridge over Conkey is signed and possibly will be built in 2017.

Lowell: Jeff Sheridan reported that the Freedom Park Trail application has been submitted and accepted.

Valparaiso Pathways: Jan Dick reported that two miles of trail are going in on Memorial Drive on the east side of town and extends from Evans Ave north to Vale Park. The funded Vale Park Road trail extended west from Campbell is also going in. Valpo will have over 16 miles of trail by year end.

Porter County Parks: Walter Lenckos reported they are still waiting on word from NIPSCO regarding the Calumet Trail. NIPSCO has requested all of the right of entry for the private lands they need to access.

Hobart: Tim Kingsland announced they are having the grand opening of their ADA kayak launch on June 18 at 9:00 am.

Lake County Parks: Craig Zandstra reported First Group Engineering started on the acquisition between Broadway and Iowa Street along 231 with parcels hopefully acquired in late 2016, early 2017. The Oak Savannah-Erie Lackawanna connection should start in late summer. They are wrapping up the agreement with NIPSCO for their portion of the C&O by Oak Ridge Prairie for the connection. The engineer has been met with and plans and specifications for bid documents are almost ready to go and most likely will go out to bid in

late summer with construction in summer or fall. They are also close to getting a purchase agreement on another parcel on Oak Ridge will give title to a portion of the C&O corridor which will allow continuation where Merrillville ends into the park.

Schererville: John Novacich reported they are starting into the acquisition process for the Pennsy phases II and III. Geotech work is being done now and they will be in contact with the Railroad regarding the crossing at 213. They are hoping to get some parcels and go from there. They are still trying to make a connection along Route 30 from the Pennsy to the Erie Lackawanna toward Merrillville.

General Announcements (upcoming rides, events, etc.) –

The City of Hobart is holding a free Kayak Crazy race on Lake George at 1:30 pm June 18th during their water fest. Prizes will be awarded.

Taghi Arshimi spoke about a new land banking law which is coming July 1st concerning urban areas and looks to be an opportunity for non-urban areas to pick up land as it become part of county property.

The Next Meeting is Thursday, July 28, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 2:40.