

NIRPC Full Commission Meeting
NIRPC Office, Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
July 21, 2016
Minutes

Chairman Jim Ton called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that there was currently a quorum of the Executive Board.

Commission members present included Kyle Allen, Jr., Jeannette Bapst, John Baylor, Geof Benson, Toni Biancardi, Kevin Breitzke, Mary Brown, Bob Carnahan, Bill Emerson, Jr., Will Farrellbegg, Tom Fath, Sylvia Graham, Michael Griffin, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Cary Kirkham, Kathryn Kniola, Tom McDermott, Jr., Ron Meer, Roger Miller, Diane Noll, Lori Reno, Rick Ryfa, Tom Schmitt, Dave Shafer, Joe Stahura, Greg Stinson, James Ton, George Topoll and Dave Uran.

Guests present included Rick Powers, Justin Mount, Dean Button, Jeff Huet, Lindsay Quist, Deb Backhus, Carl Lisek, Julia Surber, Don Oliphant, Jim Nowacki, Daryl Lampkins, David Wright, Tim Zorn and Andrew Steele.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Steve Strains, Dave Hollenbeck, Angie Hayes, Kathleen Honl, Kelly Wenger, Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Belinda Petroskey, Gabrielle Biciunas, Gary Evers, Scott Weber, Sarah Geinosky, Eman Ibrahim, Stephen Sostaric, James Winters and Mary Thorne.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 16 Executive Board meeting were approved on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Geof Benson.

Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner

- Ty Warner announced the availability of the new Ped, Pedal and Paddle Greenway & Blueway maps. Please see Mitch Barloga for a supply.
- Yesterday was the opening of the Dunes-Kankakee Trail segment from the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center to the State Park and the Town of Porter. The trail will eventually connect to the Kankakee River.
- A flyer was available for a ribbon-cutting event on July 26 at NIRPC from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. which will announce the electric vehicle charging station installed at NIRPC as well as the success of NIPSCO's *Around Town* EV Charging Stations in partnership with South Shore Clean Cities.
- A Title VI workshop will be held August 30 at NIRPC. Gabrielle Biciunas added that the workshop, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be led by Federal Highway Administration. All recipients of federal assistance, such as cities, towns and counties, are required to attend. Register through Mary Thorne.
- Ty Warner presented Eman Ibrahim with a staff service award for 10 years of service.

Presentation: Mitch Barloga presented on the roles and decision making processes of the new Technical Planning Committee (TPC), with a history of the entire NIRPC committee restructuring as chaired by Blair Milo. He described the graphic of the new structure as approved by the Full

Commission in May of 2015. In early 2016, Commissioners were surveyed for their preferred committees, and assignments were then made by the 2016 Chair Jim Ton based on those preferences, working with the Executive Director. The term for committee appoints is the calendar year. Great care was taken to ensure the right fit between commissioners and the committees they had indicated they wished to serve on. The Technical Planning Committee, which is a combination of the old Transportation Policy Committee and the Pathway to 2040 Committee, will receive funding requests from the Transportation Resource and Oversight Committee, ensure that projects support the implementation of the 2040 vision and federal transportation planning requirements and recommend projects to the Commission for adoption. The committee consists of 12 commissioners, 4 per county; three transit operators, 1 per county; 1 Northwest Indiana Forum representative; 1 INDOT representative; 1 NICTD representative; a Federal Highway Administration representative and a Federal Transit Administration representative (both non-voting). Mitch Barloga explained the various processes through flow charts. Most of the “heavy lifting” will be done at the topical committee level.

Jim Ton said that proxies are allowed for committees only. A quorum consists of the majority of members present but a minimum of three. Geof Benson added that updates on the new committee structure work were provided at every board meeting since the beginning of the discussion about reorganizing NIRPC committees. Blair Milo presented on the new committee structure at the March, April and May 2015 meetings. She also offered to do special sessions with Commissioners who may have had more questions and invited Commissioners to working sessions where the new committee structure was formulated. Jim Ton said as there were many new Commissioners, final committee preference surveys were sent out in April 2016. The assignments will be up in December, and new assignments will be sought for 2017 by the new Chair at that time. In order for the 2040 Plan to be successfully implemented, Ton said we must work on what is best for the whole three-county region, and the Commissioners on the TPC from each county represent that entire county. Proxies may be assigned by each Commissioner but they must be from and serve that community. It was also pointed out that there will also be a new subsection in each NIRPC resolution that that particular matter coming before the Commission went through the appropriate process.

Mitch Barloga concluded that the TPC now takes in all facets of planning, incorporating everything NIRPC has mandated in the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. Tweaking may need to be done, but the committees need to begin their work in order to see where any improvements can be made.

At this point in the meeting Chair Jim Ton noted that there was a quorum for a meeting of the full Commission.

Technical Planning Committee:

Michael Griffin reported that the first meeting of the Technical Planning Committee took place on Tuesday, July 12th. The Committee heard three presentations from staff regarding the roles and responsibilities of the new committee, a brief overview of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, and a review of the Implementation Matrix outlining the goals and objectives from the plan, and strategies to implement. The Committee also heard updates from the Topical Committees either through NIRPC staff or committee members. This will be a regular agenda item at all future TPC meetings. Please see Mitch Barloga for details on these reports.

Griffin then relayed the actions for consideration by the Commission:

- The first action is on Resolution 16-25, the twenty-sixth amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. Gary Evers described this amendment for new Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects previously authorized by Resolutions 15-28, 15-29 and 16-08 for Lake County, Crown Point, Valparaiso, Kouts, Hammond and Gary and changes to existing projects for the City of LaPorte, Valparaiso, Gary, Portage, Hammond, LaPorte County, Porter County and Crown Point. The amendment went out to the Interagency Consultation Group and public comment. The Technical Planning Committee recommends action on Resolution 16-25. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Kevin Breitzke, the Commission adopted Resolution 16-25, Amendment 26 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.
- The second action is on Resolution 16-26, the twenty-seventh amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. Gary Evers described this amendment for new congestion mitigation/air quality (CMAQ) projects previously authorized by the Commission through Resolution 15-18 for Hammond, East Chicago, Burns Harbor, New Chicago, Cedar Lake, City of LaPorte, Crown Point, Portage and NIRPC. The amendment went out to the Interagency Consultation Group and public comment. The Technical Planning Committee recommends action on Resolution 16-26. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Robert Carnahan, the Commission adopted Resolution 16-26, Amendment 27 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.
- The final action is on Resolution 16-27, the twenty-eighth amendment to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program for INDOT projects. Gary Evers described this amendment for seven new or significantly modified INDOT projects or phases. The amendment went out to the Interagency Consultation Group and public comment. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Dave Shafer, the Commission adopted Resolution 16-27, Amendment 28 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program to the NIRPC Board for approval. The Technical Planning Committee recommends action on Resolution 16-27. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Robert Carnahan, the Commission adopted Resolution 16-27, Amendment 28 to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee will be Tuesday, August 9th at 9 a.m. in NIRPC's Lake Michigan Room.

Report of the Chair – Jim Ton

The first leg of the Dunes-Kankakee Trail extending north and south is complete. Jim Ton congratulated the City of Gary for hosting the very successful Air Show.

The transit operators have requested that the direct recipients of FTA funds (Gary Public Transit Corporation and Michigan City Transit) have a vote on the Technical Planning Committee in addition to the transit representative from each county. NICTD is a direct recipient and already has a vote on the committee. As the committee structure was adopted by the Full Commission, the Executive Board voted to bring this matter to a vote by the Full Commission. On a motion by Kevin Breitzke and a second by Greg Stinson, the Commission voted unanimously to add the direct FTA recipients (Gary

Public Transit Corporation and Michigan City Transit) to the membership of the Technical Planning Committee.

Environmental Management Policy Committee:

Geof Benson welcomed the new members of the TPC. He went on to report that the minutes of the May meeting were in the packet. The committee did not meet in June. The next meeting will be held on August 4 at 9 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at NIRPC.

Finance & Personnel Committee:

Diane Noll reported that the committee met earlier in the morning and there are two items for action by the Commission:

- The first is Resolution 16-24, the NIRPC Conflict of Interest Written Code of Standards and Conducts for Federal Procurements. On a motion by Diane Noll and a second by Greg Stinson, the Commission approved Resolution 16-24, the NIRPC Conflict of Interest Written Code of Standards and Conducts for Federal Procurements.
- The second item is the procurement recommendations for three replacement vehicles for Opportunity Enterprises, Porter County Aging & Community Services and South Lake County Community Services. On a motion by Diane Noll and a second by Robert Carnahan, the Commission voted to adopt the procurement recommendations for three replacement vehicles as presented.

Indiana Department of Transportation:

Rick Powers said work continues on I-80/94. Work on the sign boards is being done and INDOT will work to resolve the written concerns by GPTC on standing water issue at 5th Avenue in Gary. There may be a blockage within a city sewer line and they are working with the City of Gary to remedy the situation. Mowing and herbicide applications are taking place along the Borman. *Restore I-94* is underway. The I-65 expansion project is still in the preliminary planning stages to advance in 2017. The final RFP should be out August 1 with the selection of the preferred proposer in September with construction expected in spring of 2017. All cable barriers outside of construction areas are up.

Other Business:

- Robert Carnahan asked if the Homebuilders' Survey related to trails has been updated; Mitch Barloga said that was put out in 2002 by the National Association of Realtors and he will see if it has been updated.
- Tom McDermott resigned from the Transit Operators' Roundtable, where he had been appointed and, upon his recommendation, Ron Meer will take his place. Chair Jim Ton confirmed the change.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

- James Nowacki, Gary, referred to the new Greenways & Blueways map and said there was no Walter Street in Gary. He also expressed gratitude for INDOT and the City of Gary working to rectify the water issue mentioned earlier.

- David Wright, GPTC, thanked INDOT for taking action on the standing water issue.

Announcements:

- Bob Carnahan announced Cedar Lake will host the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
- Dave Shafer asked that communities observe the National Night Out.
- Michael Griffin said today the Lake County Convention & Visitors Center will distribute the 1818 U.S. flag to any Lake County community that wants one as a part of Lake County's observation of the Indiana bicentennial celebration.
- Mitch Barloga said trails maps can be picked up by Commission members at the NIRPC garage immediately following the meeting.

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Kyle Allen Jr. and a second by Kevin Breitzke, Jim Ton adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

For requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

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