

Land Use Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 17, 2014

**Members & Visitors:** Kevin Breitzke, Michael Barry, Greg Falkowski, Sergio Mendoza, Craig Phillips, Brian Poland, David Wright

**NIRPC Staff:** Eman Ibrahim, Gabrielle Biciunas, Meredith Stilwell, Sara Geinosky, Steve Strains

### 1. Call to Order by Chairman

Chairman Breitze called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

#### Approval of the December 18, 2013 Minutes

On motion by Sergio Mendoza and second by Brian Poland and with no opposition, the December 18, 2013 minutes were approved.

### 2. Committee Roles and Responsibilities for the 2040 Plan Update

NIRPC is required every four years to update their long-range transportation plan. The Land use Committee helped establish the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan with data reviews and feedback during the process. The update for the CRP is beginning with the goal to finish by March 2015. The analysis originally done will not be completed again. The focus of the Land Use Committee will be on the Growth and Conservation Chapter and what is required from NIRPC and what should be done.

The roles and responsibilities of the committee were given in a handout for review. The new CLC funding programmed was established using Group 1 STP funding of \$400k. The seven communities awarded grants from the program were East Chicago, Gary, Highland, Chesterton, Town of Porter, Winfield and Crown Point. The Land Use Committee assisted with the criteria, scoring system and application for the program. Eman asked the Committee for any suggestions or modifications regarding the roles and responsibilities as presented in the handout. *Discussion followed with the following suggestions:*

- *Change wording in the bullet point "Reviewing and validating population trends and forecast data" to "Reviewing and/or validation population trends and forecast data in case of special census cases. I*
- *Add "Sharing" to the bullet point "Developing and reviewing strategies from the Comprehensive Regional Plan.*
- *Better understanding regarding community zoning definitions.*
- *Add "historic preservation" to list in bullet point "Promoting an educational process that emphasizes the importance and interdependency of regional issues..."*
- *Add bullet point "Contribute to and monitor local and regional elements of performance based planning".*

### 3. Growth / Regional Land Use Planning

#### a. MAP21-Performance Based Planning Presentation

Due to new requirements NIRPC is transitioning to a performance based planning approach to transportation decision making which is based on outcomes and will be heavy on data. Performance measures will need to be established and targets to achieve set. The new approach has to be incorporated into plans and programs and progress reported annually. The benefits of this planning approach are an increase in transparency and accountability; improved system performance; focused federal-aid program on national goal areas; improved investment decision making; and more efficient use of limited available funds.

Planning and performance must be incorporated into long-range and short-term programming processes, TIPS and STIPS and must show the progress that is expected. The US Department of Transportation will evaluate the appropriateness of state targets. The elements of the performance-based planning and programming elements are strategic direction; long-range planning; Programming; and implementation and evaluation. NIRPC is currently in the identifying targets step within the long-range planning element.

Performance measures should be: based on readily available data and technical methods; meaningful to the general public; and amendable to reflect local priorities. Target-setting should be: based on local cost-

effectiveness and cost benefit analysis and bounded by available resources and date. Collaboration, coordination and cooperation are key.

**b. 2040 Plan Update-Growth & Conservation** (Presentation/Handout)

A public meeting was held at PNC regarding environmental and growth. New numbers have been received on population and vacancy rates which will be reviewed. Between 2010 and 2012 there was a change in demographics and a big surprise was a loss in population. A review needs to be done as to why. Housing vacancy is increasing and is one of the discussions to be held during the update. Total housing is increasing. If there have been no major changes, the data regarding regional existing land use that was collected from municipalities during the 2040 plan creation will be used. Changes are not anticipated for INVIision Northwest Indiana, the vision for a vibrant; revitalized; accessible and united region, which was established during the plan creation.

The growth and revitalization principles are support urban reinvestment; ensure environmental justice/social equity; protect natural resources and minimize impact to environmental features and watershed; and integrate transportation and land use. The current vision map was reviewed and it was noted that a new green infrastructure map has been received from Chicago Wilderness with an emphasis on more preservation. It is desired to incorporate their map to update the vision map. The 2040 CRP growth and conservation goals: livable urban, suburban and rural centers; revitalized urban core; and managed growth that protects farmland, environmentally sensitive areas and important ecosystems as well as topic areas were reviewed by Eman.

Growth and conservation strategies are currently regional growth; reinvest; link land use and transportation; smarter land use decisions through land suitability; new ways to determine and address housing needs; green cities; create livable centers; rural and unincorporated framework; and local food system. During discussion regarding the growth and conservation chapter it was suggested to have conversations with La Porte County and the city of La Porte regarding CLC funding before they have discussions regarding the 2015-2017 funding. Other areas of discussion were the addition of areas targeted by CLC projects to the performance measures of the reinvest strategy, and possibly adding tracking demolition permits, big box tear-downs, tax sales and using the post-office's quarterly vacancy report to performance measures in the new ways to determine and address housing needs strategy. The job-housing balance of .8 jobs per 1.5 housing units was questioned and Eman determined the measure would be reviewed to see if that figure was correct and if not it would be corrected. When the group was asked if any other areas under growth and conservation were missing, none were given.

**4. Announcements**

- a. A handout of upcoming NIRPC 2040 CRP update public meeting dates was provided
- b. Next Meeting Wednesday November 19, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m. (NIRPC Packer Room)**

On motion from David Wright and second by Michael Barry the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.