

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

July 9, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

Shawn Pettit, Bruce Lindner, Stan Dobosz, Art Biciunas, Claudia Taylor, John Bayler, Tyler Kent, AJ Monroe, Mike Yacullo, Ray Riddell, Mitch Bishop, Joseph Crnkovich, Jeff Huet, Rob Strader, Teri Dixon, Tom Vander Woude, David Wright, Don Parker, Phil Gralik, Christopher Meyers, Dwayne Williams, Jezreel Rodriguez.

Guests

Ron Shimizu, Philip Roth, Craig Hendrix, Paula Armoir, Ron Wiedeman, Jim Wiseman, Katie Kukielka, Mark Pittman, Marcia Blansett, Jim Pinkerton, Keith Benman, Chris Reynolds, Mike Jabo, Peter Kohut, Glen Campbell, Thomas Gordon, Phillip Arteaja^(sp?)

NIRPC Staff

Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Stephen Sostaric, Belinda Petroskey, Jack Eskin, Amanda Peregrine, Sarah Geinosky, Gabrielle Biciunas, Kevin Garcia, Ty Warner, Mary Thorne

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- Chairman Shawn Pettit, NIRPC Commissioner and Merrillville Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- Joe Crnkovich referred to the NICTD section of the minutes, asking that the location be changed to 10th and 11th Street Corridor. On a motion by Bruce Lindner; second by Joe Crnkovich, the minutes of the June 11 meeting were approved as amended.
 - Stephen Sostaric described a proposed resolution to support Amtrak funding for the 750 mile Hoosier State service from Chicago to Indianapolis. Due to the shorter length of the route, federal legislation requires the state to subsidize it. INDOT is currently performing a feasibility study to assess whether to fund the service with a decision deadline of October 1. Stephen illustrated that from FY 2003–FY 2012, Dyer ridership has increased by over 357%, the second highest percentage gain in the entire nationwide Amtrak system. Total ridership increased over 126% for the period. Mr. Crnkovich stated that in the current biennial budget, a line item for the Indiana mass transportation fund gives INDOT discretion to use this fund to support inner-city rail. There is currently a long-distance train that runs three times a week and would continue to run. He requested the resolution be amended to say that although NIRPC supports preservation of the Amtrak Hoosier State service, that such financial support shall not financially harm the public transit providers of Indiana. David Wright said even with that change, as the state legislation is written GPTC would not support it. Steve Strains will attend the MPO conference on July 25 to gauge whether other MPOs are unified on this and if they would jointly support a resolution to the state. Belinda Petroskey asked that public transit operators be notified of any other discussion or action on this matter. The Indiana Transit Association statewide meeting is July 23-25 and this matter should be put on their agenda. On a motion by Joe Crnkovich; second by David Wright, the committee voted to table the resolution until the August TPC meeting.

2. Congestion Management Process

Ron Shimizu and Philip Roth provided a PowerPoint update on the congestion management process for the Illiana and I-65 added travel lanes. The process is federally required for any added capacity projects and was

adopted by NIRPC in 2011. The NIRPC travel demand model tested the projects, evaluated strategies and compared results to analyze travel performance measures and crash data. Model result tables were shown as to how traffic congestion would be affected. The data concluded that in the year 2040, the Illiana project would result in a daily reduction of 35,200 vehicle hours traveled versus alternative congestion management strategies.

3. Complete Streets

Mitch Barloga reported that the Commission adopted new design guidelines with some amendments. The guidelines will be available on the website and a loaner book will be available. A training workshop will be held on August 22 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Woodland Park in Portage. NIRPC is strongly encouraging participation from all NIRPC representatives who are involved in either design or planning of their roadways. Participants will receive a certificate and bonus points may be earned on your projects.

4. Planning

- a) Public Participation Plan – Ty Warner reported that the Commission formed an ad hoc sub-committee which met with Everybody Counts on July 2. Five commissioners volunteered to serve; more attended. They granted another 30 days for comments to be submitted on the draft Plan, which must be adopted according to federal regulations. Two public comment periods were already offered, one of which was already extended for two months.
- b) 2040 Plan Implementation – Eman Ibrahim said the next meeting is Thursday and will feature the Marquette Plan update and look at best practices around the region, a redevelopment project in Highland, updates on Livable Centers status and Creating Livable Centers Program. The Land Use Committee will meet July 17 at 10 a.m.
- c) ITS Architecture – Kevin Garcia said the ITS workshop will be rescheduled to August 5 at NIRPC from 2 pm to 3:30 pm.
- d) NWI Rail VISION – Jack Eskin reported that he delivered the findings of the at-grade crossing report to the working group yesterday. Jack will present to the TPC next month, with the written document finished by the end of this month. An update on Indiana Gateway project was provided, alternatives to the Chicago to Detroit high speed rail project is being reviewed; work is still being done around Whiting, Hammond, and Porter County. Completion of the project is slated for 2016. A presentation was given by the Ft. Wayne MPO on the projected Chicago to Columbus high speed rail project. Mary Elizabeth Pitts discussed a rail summit on October 24. Discussion on rail relocation and consolidation recommendations in the Marquette Plan.
- e) Air Quality Conformity – Gary Evers said the update of the conformity determination was necessary due to the addition of new non-exempt projects to the TIP and to the Transportation Plan for a State Road 49 project between US 12 and US 20 for INDOT to convert one lane of 49 into a bike and pedestrian trail. Also, the finding by EPA 12 months ago that Lake and Porter were still in non-attainment. The deadline is July 22. We ask that you recommend the new air quality conformity determination with the caveat that no substantial comments are received from the public during the comment period which ends after the Commission meeting on July 18. On a motion by Stan Dobosz and a second by Don Parker, the committee recommended adoption of the conformity determination by the NIRPC Board with the caveat that no substantial comments are received.

5. Programming

- a) Quarterly TIP Tracking – Amanda Pollard reported that tracking meetings will be held on July 22 in Schererville and Crown Point and on July 23 in Cedar Lake and Merrillville. The agenda is on line.
- b) FY 2014-2017 TIP – Gary Evers reported that a 2040 Plan amendment is needed to adjust the implementation schedule of projects to be modified by the conformity determination and will go through a 30 day public comment period and to the Commission in August. FTA decided to add transit projects into the TIP which caused a delay in going out for public comment. The comment period ends August 2 for the TIP and August 8 for the Air Quality Conformity. There are 301 INDOT projects, 121 local highway projects, 56 bike and ped

projects, 1 National Lakeshore Project and 60 public transit projects for \$725 million; \$1 billion is expected after the transit projects are added. The NICTD Dune Park platform project is for construction, not engineering. On a motion by Stan Dobosz and a second by Chris Meyers, the committee recommended the Plan amendment, the TIP and the Conformity to the Commission for approval, pending no adverse public comments are received.

6. Indiana Department of Transportation

- Chris Reynolds highlighted projects lettings for May, July, August and September.

7. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that while June ridership was down 1% over June 2012, over 22,000 passengers rode to the Blackhawks celebration on June 28. Part of the Dune Park platform is up and work will be completed by year end. Painting of the Grand Calumet River Bridge in East Chicago will begin next week. The Michigan City study 10th and 11th Street proposal discussions are progressing. Overhead catenary work continues.
- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that June ridership figures are up 3% over June 2012 but with fewer work days this year, ridership actually rose 6.4% over last year. The purpose of the Tri-City Connection has to be reviewed. The process has started. A survey has been launched on North Township ridership routes and the deadline is July 19. Some alternatives will be presented to the GPTC board in summer.

8. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

No report.

9. Planning Neighbors

- CMAP – No report.
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association – Tom Vander Woude said there is space available for the 34th Annual SSMMA Golf Outing on July 19 in Lincolnshire.
- Southwestern Michigan Commission – No report.

10. Other Business, Public Comment and Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC

Upcoming Meetings:

- *Pathway to 2040* Implementation Committee meeting – 9 a.m. July 11 at NIRPC.
- CMAQ Stakeholder meeting – 1:30 p.m. July 16 at NIRPC.
- PPP Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee meeting – 9:00 a.m. July 17 at NIRPC.
- Land Use Commitete meeting – 10 a.m. July 17 at NIRPC
- Full Commission/Executive Board meeting – 9:00 a.m. July 18 at NIRPC
- Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee meeting – 1:30 p.m. July 25 at NIRPC
- EMPC meeting – 9 a.m. August 1 at NIRPC
- ITS Architecture Workshop – 2 p.m. August 5 at NIRPC.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at NIRPC.

Chairman Pettit adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.