

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

January 8, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

John Bayler, Art Biciunas, Joe Crnkovich, Stan Dobosz, Jerry Halperin, Jeff Huet, Bruce Lindner, Christopher Meyers, Mark O'Dell, Don Parker, Deb Scurlock, Claudia Taylor, Bob Thompson, Dwayne Williams, David Wright, Joyce Newland (via GoToMeeting), Teri Dixon (via GoToMeeting)

Guests

Deb Backhus, Keith Benman, Marcia Blansett, Michele Bollinger, Glen Campbell, Janet Cypra, Ted Gross, Jim Harmening, Craig Hendrix, Michael Jabo, Jim Pinkerton, Chris Reynolds, Doug Robinson, Tim Werner, Rebecca "Sis" Williams, Jim Wiseman

NIRPC Staff

Mitch Barloga, Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Jack Eskin, Gary Evers, Sarah Geinosky, Allen Hammond, Eman Ibrahim, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, John Swanson, Mary Thorne, Ty Warner

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- Chairman Stan Dobosz, NIRPC Commissioner and Griffith Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. John Swanson introduced NIRPC's new Executive Director, Ty Warner.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- Don Parker motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11 meeting; seconded by Dwayne Williams. Motion carried.

2. Gabrielle Biciunas presented the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan video which is also available on YouTube, Facebook and NIRPC's website. The *Pathway to 2040* Implementation Committee will meet this Thursday, January 10 at 9:00 a.m.

3. **Congestion Management Process** – Stephen Sostaric said the focus will be on heavier congested areas. A case study will be done on US 30 at the Illinois - Indiana state line at Dyer. NIRPC staff will work with Dyer and other stakeholders in the area, INDOT, Lake Central School Corporation to study alternative transportation and connectivity opportunities. Bill Brown added that INDOT will request we amend our 2040 plan to include the Illiana. An analysis will be done to consider alternatives to congestion problems in the area.

4. Planning

- Regional Transportation Plan – Bill Brown reported that the plan needs to be updated and described the process, looking at the various elements of the plan, the regulations as well as recommendations from the 2009 certification review. The deadline is mid-2015.
- NWI Rail Vision Working Group Update – Jack Eskin reported that work continues on the at-grade crossing study. The completion date is scheduled for late January and it will be ready for the next TPC meeting in February. Outreach continues. Findings will be submitted at the next Rail VISION meeting on February 8 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

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- ADA Transition Plans Status – Allen Hammond reported that the seven steps of compliance include documentation of removing ADA barriers. LPA's with fewer than 50 employees must work on their ADA assessments using a form provided by FHWA. A link will be emailed for the January 15th ADA audio conference call.

5. Programming

- Quarterly Project Tracking – Gary Evers reported that field visits to LPAs will begin on January 23 with the three LaPorte County LPAs and the on January 24 here with Lake County Highway Department and the City of Gary. We need copies of contracts, master agreements with INDOT, PE contracts involving federal funds, right-of-way, LDI contracts and construction and construction engineering contracts by February 1st. We are reporting in to INDOT Project Accounting by contract number. Their records and ours must agree. Email your PDFs to Amanda Pollard at aperegrine@nirpc.org. Reporting forms and tracking system information is on the NIRPC website.
- TAP – Mitch Barloga reported on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project selection criteria, revising the transportation enhancement application to reflect the TAP, which combines Safe Routes to Schools, RTP and TE projects. We will receive about \$1.1 million in federal funds. The TAP cycle is independent of STP and CMAQ and will be done separately. On a motion by Don Parker and a second by David Wright, the committee recommended the new revisions to the NIRPC board for approval.
- FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendment – Gary Evers explained Amendment #21 which would add new projects or phases for Cedar Lake, LaPorte County and Portage. On a motion by Stu Summers and a second by bob Thompson, the committee recommended the amendment to the NIRPC board for approval. Gary added that a schedule was provided and the new TIP will be adopted by the NIRPC board at their June meeting and then go on to review by INDOT, FHWA and FTA in July. Stephen Sostaric will handle HSIP. CMAQ and STP Group 1 meetings will be held for Lake and Porter Counties and STP Group II for LaPorte County. There are some funding allocations for projects in our own CRP. Gary asked for committee volunteers.

6. Indiana Department of Transportation

The letting list for January through March was available. The Nine Span Bridge demolition will start Monday and reconstruction will continue through 2013.

7. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that detours are listed on their website to accommodate the Nine Span Bridge demolition. Ridership for the year was down 39,000 (1%) due to the NATO summit, and holiday eves falling on Monday. Metra has instituted a 10.5% fare hike at the Hegewich station. Ridership survey proposals are being reviewed and it is hoped that a contract would be awarded at their board meeting on January 25. NICTD is working with the RDA on the strategic plan; RFPs are due at 2:30 p.m. February 5 with awarding a contract jointly with the RDA in March. Catenary work east of Michigan City continues. A jackknifed truck on the toll road caused damage to the rails and catenary on December 29; however, service was back up that day.

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- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that ridership figures will be reported at the TPC meeting next month. A minimum of 12% increase is expected over 2011. The DDE and ITS documents are taken care of and two software projects are going out for bid sequentially starting in February. Changes in MAP-21 allows for smaller bus agencies in larger metro areas to be eligible for operating assistance. GPTC is solidifying numbers for an operating amendment to be submitted to NIRPC in February to update some service levels. A landscape project will be done at the Metro Center and the Black Oak area. GPTC will be submitting an application to NOAA and DNR for the Broadway project corridor study.

8. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

No reports.

9. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

The certification review will be conducted this year.

10. Planning Neighbors: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Southwestern Michigan Commission

No reports.

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

Public Comment – Ted Gross, resident of Lowell voiced opposition on behalf of residents of south Lake County to the Illiana Tollway.

Announcements –

- Geof Benson invited everyone to attend the reception for John Swanson's retirement and Ty Warner's welcome on January 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the NIRPC Auditorium.
- Mitch Barloga announced that the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee will discuss Complete Streets guidelines. Go to atpolicy.org/design for more information.
- Bill Brown announced NIRPC's new website.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Pathway to 2040 Implementation Committee meets January 10 at 9 a.m.
- The Land Use Committee meets January 16 at 10 a.m.
- New Commissioner Orientation is January 17 at 7:30 a.m. in the Packer Room.
- The NIRPC Full Commission/Executive Board will meet 9:00 a.m. January 17.
- Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. January 24 at NIRPC.
- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. February 7 at NIRPC.
- The Northwest Indiana Rail VISION Workgroup meets at 9:00 a.m. February 8.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at NIRPC.

Chairman Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.