

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

October 14, 2014

MINUTES

Members Present

Stan Dobosz, Art Biciunas, Claudia Taylor, Jezreel Rodriguez, Bruce Spires, Mark O'Dell, Bruce Lindner, David Wright, Dave Decker, Jeff Huet, Teri Dixon, Deb Backhus, Joe Crnkovich, Mary Jane Thomas, Joe Simonetto, Phil Gralik, Tom VanderWoude

Guests

Jennifer Alander, Lisa Shrader, Lyndsay Quist, Ismail Attallah, Ron Wiedeman, Craig Hendrix, Jake Dammarell, Chris Moore and Denis Cobb.

NIRPC Staff

Belinda Petroskey, Sarah Geinosky, Stephen Sostaric, Amanda Pollard, Mitch Barloga and Mary Thorne.

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- a) Vice-Chairman Stan Dobosz called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- b) The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- c) On a motion by Bruce Lindner and a second by Bruce Spires, the minutes of the September 9 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Presentation

Mitch Barloga gave a presentation on a Pro-Walk/Pro Bike conference held in Pittsburgh from September 8-11. Topics included performance measures, demand measures, beyond MAP-21 and regional non-motorized plans. Safety was the biggest concern. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx endorsed bike and pedestrian safety. Mitch Barloga said statistics showed that 80% were overweight and 50% were obese. GirlTrek is a program aimed at getting African-American women walking and over 20,000 women nationally have joined. He will be contacting urban communities to promote this program. A video on protected bike lanes and a video on Pittsburgh's Rough Diamond Trail Project were shown.

3. Planning

- a) 2040 CRP Update Meetings – Stephen Sostaric reported that to date half of the public meetings were held. The meeting schedule was provided in the agenda. He noted that comments can also be given via regular mail, on the NIRPC comment line 219-763-6060 extension 160, via email at comments@nirpc.org, as well as on Facebook and Twitter. Visit www.nirpc.org for more information.
- b) Quarterly Tracking – Amanda Pollard reported that the next round of project tracking meetings will start on November 3rd. A schedule was provided. Communities should attend their meetings and turn in their quarterly reports.
- c) Functional Classification System – Sarah Geinosky reported that she and Scott Weber have met with various communities throughout the region to create an inventory of how our roads work. There are still

a lot of communities they still need to meet with. Contact Sarah or Scott if your community has not yet met with them. Results will be brought to the Transportation Policy Committee by the end of this year.

- d) Public Participation Plan Update – Stephen Sostaric said the 45 day public comment period ends October 31. A public meeting will be held on October 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hammond Library.
- e) ITS Architecture – Mitch Barloga reported for Scott Weber and said the draft document will be presented at the November TPC meeting. Contact Scott Weber with any questions.

4. Programming

- a) Belinda Petroskey described Amendment #23 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for transit projects for East Chicago Transit under 5307 and projects under Section 5339 for Gary Public Transportation Corp., South Lake County Community Services, and three for Valparaiso. No adverse comments were received during the public comment period. On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by Joe Crnkovich, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended Amendment #23 to the NIRPC Commission for adoption.
- b) Belinda Petroskey described Amendment #26 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for a project sponsored by the City of Fort Wayne for the Lincoln Highway Byway Corridor Management Plan to be included in the TIP. No local funds would be expended. On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by David Wright, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended Amendment #26 to the NIRPC Commission for adoption.
- c) Belinda Petroskey described Amendment #27 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for a preventive maintenance project on a 8.65 mile stretch of SR 55 from SR 2 to south of US 231. On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by Bruce Spires, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended Amendment #27 to the NIRPC Commission for adoption.

5. Indiana Department of Transportation

Lisa Shrader reported that the September letting listed for a bridge on Clay Street over the Kankakee River has been let. The ITS Traffic Management Systems expansion project shown in the November letting is not awardable at this time.

6. Transit Operators Reports

NICTD – Joe Crnkovich reported that ridership was up in September about 2.5% over September 2013 due to good weather, Chicago events and on-time performance of 99%. Ridership is still down for the year due to the bad winter. The Calumet Bridge work west of the East Chicago station is essentially finished. Catenary work is ongoing, and will be completed in about 5 years. Bridge replacement at North Point Road will be completed in mid-November and a service outage is in effect through October 28 east of the Michigan City shops to South Bend. Bus shuttle service is available. A rebuild is in progress on the 14 year old and 31 year old cars. Gerald Hanas is retiring and new General Manager, Michael Nolan, will start on October 27. A public meeting on the West Lake Corridor study draft EIS will be held on October 28 at the Center for the Performing Arts on Ridge Road in Munster from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

GPTC – David Wright reported that ridership for August decreased over August 2013 due to less work days. Ridership is stabilizing. The meeting at the Gary Chamber of Commerce in Buffington Harbor on the Broadway Corridor last night went well. Their consultant will be completing the current conditions report. The steering committee will meet at the Chamber, and an open house will be held on November 17 at 9:00 a.m. at the Purdue Tech Center, 9800 Connecticut Drive. Three new buses will be on the street next week. Lake Shore South ridership increased from a few dozen passengers to several hundred per week. More outreach is being done. Bus pass purchases arrangements are being worked out with North Township.

7. **Regional Transportation Partners** – No reports were given.
8. **Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration** – No reports were given.
9. **Planning Neighbors** – Teri Dixon of CMAP, reported that their Go to 2040 Plan update was approved last Thursday.
10. **Other Business, Public Comment, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings**
 - a) **Announcements** – None.
 - b) **Public Comments** – None.
 - c) **Upcoming Meetings** –The schedule for both NIRPC committee meetings and the remaining 2040 CRP update public comment meetings was provided in the materials. The Executive Board/Full Commission will meet on October 16 at 9 a.m. The Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee will meet on October 23 at 1:30 p.m. (Note: the P3 meeting was subsequently cancelled.) The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet November 6 at 9:00 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at **9:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 12**, at NIRPC since November 11 is Veteran’s Day.

Stan Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:10 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. 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. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program.