

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

February 12, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

John Bayler, Art Biciunas, Joe Crnkovich, Stan Dobosz, Jerry Halperin, Tyler Kent, Bruce Lindner, Mark O'Dell, Don Parker, Shawn Pettit, Jezreel Rodriguez, Claudia Taylor, Mary Jane Thomas, Tom Vander Woude, Dwayne Williams, Richard Wodkun, David Wright, Joyce Newland and Teri Dixon (via conference phone)

Guests

Keith Benman, Marcia Blansett, Michelle Bollinger, Glen Campbell, Kevin Crawford, Jake Dammarell, Jim Harmening, Craig Hendrix, Michael Jabo, Matt Keiser, Pete Kohut, John Novacich, Jim Pinkerton, Bruce Spires, Rudy Velasko, Rebecca "Sis" Williams, Jim Wiseman

NIRPC Staff

Mitch Barloga, Bill Brown, Jack Eskin, Gary Evers, Sarah Geinosky, Belinda Petroskey, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne

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.
- The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- Don Parker motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting; seconded by Mary Jane Thomas. Motion carried.

2. Mitch Barloga presented on Complete Streets design guideline put out last year by the Active Transportation Alliance for completely and safely accommodating all forms of transportation. Mitch gave an overview of the manual, which is available at www.atpolicy.org. Training sessions would be held. NIRPC would like to adopt this as a guideline only for communities doing road improvements. Recommendations are requested from Ped, Pedal & Paddle and TPC in March with adoption by the Full Commission in April to coincide with the next finding cycles. Discussion followed.

3. Planning

- NWI Rail Vision Working Group Update – Jack Eskin reported that the group met Friday to discuss an update of the regional at-grade crossing report. The completion date has been moved back to early May to accommodate a revised scope. More structural research is needed on what would be a site specific level and look at the new financing landscape under MAP-21 to determine funding resources for the at-grade crossing projects. An internal intermodal study will commence in the spring with completion in early May, to study viability of potential intermodal facilities in the region and educate stakeholders on the workings of the freight industry. A discussion was held with Professor Robert Rescott, Purdue University Calumet, on the possibility of doing an engineering class study on the intersection at the Arcelor-Mittal east gate and U.S 12.
- Public Participation Plan Update – Steve Strains reported that the review and comment period was extended to February 15. The plan has been revised based on comments received and a new comment period needs to be opened. On a motion by Shawn Pettit and a second by Don Parker, the committee moved to close the current public comment period. On another motion

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by Shawn Pettit and a second by Don Parker, the committee moved to open a new public comment period which would end on March 29th. A public meeting will be held in each of the three counties.

- Functional Classification Revision status – Bill Brown reported that the current system, which is in the planning emphasis areas to be discussed later in the meeting, is still showing some changes that reflect old transportation plans. Some examples were cited. MAP-21 provided some input on classification changes. Some of the classifications are no longer consistent with the MAP-21 provisions and must be changed. Action should be taken by the end of this year as part of the planning emphasis area.
- Conformity Update – Bill Brown reported that the CRP must demonstrate conformity by July, which is the one-year deadline after the 2012 nonattainment designation. TIP project solicitation will take place late this month; the project deadline is late March. The list of projects must be identified by April 11; the Inter-Agency Consultation Group meeting is April 18 which could begin the conformity analysis. The analysis ends May 9, the draft TIP will be ready by May 10 and both will go out for public comment until June 10. TPC would take action to recommend on June 11 and the NIRPC Executive Board would adopt the plan and conformity on June 20. We have new draft motor vehicle emissions budgets, based on the new MOVES model and new vehicle fleet data. No public comments were made to IDEM on the new budgets and approval of the budgets should coincide with our adoption. Brief discussion followed.

5. Programming

- Quarterly Project Tracking – Gary Evers reported that field visits to LPAs are continuing. Reporting forms and tracking system information is on the NIRPC website. Contact Gary to schedule your review. Gary provided spreadsheets with information on demo/earmark fund balances; projects to be deleted from the INDOT SPMS system and STP Group I construction projects. Stephen Sostaric led the HSIP update and a handout of guidelines was provided for Lake and Porter counties. There will be two project categories: high crash locations will be eligible at 75% of HSIP funds and low cost/high impact projects will be eligible at 25% of HSIP funds. Go to INDOT's HSIP local project selection guidance document for the seven eligible project types. The solicitation target date is March 1.
- FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendment – Gary Evers explained Amendment #22 which would add new projects or phases for three INDOT projects, a Gary project, a Valparaiso project and two Gary/US Steel locomotive retrofit projects. On a motion by Shawn Pettit and a second by Mary Jane Thomas, the committee recommended the amendment to the NIRPC board for approval. Amendment #23 was an emergency amendment for Hanna railroad crossing. It is a safety issue and the work will be done by INDOT.
- FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendment – Belinda Petroskey described Amendment #24 for transit only for electronics replacement projects for NIRPC, Opportunity Enterprises, Porter County Aging and Community Services, and North Township, Dash and V-Line Marketing for Valparaiso, Operating Assistance and JARC Operating Assistance projects for GPTC and substation transformer replacement for NICTD in Ogden Dunes should be on the list for \$400,000. An edited total for a project for South Lake County Community Services increased by \$400. On a motion by Shawn Pettit and a second by Don Parker, the committee recommended the amendment as amended to the NIRPC board for approval.

6. Indiana Department of Transportation

The letting list through April was available.

7. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that a contract for the ridership survey was awarded to Blackstone Group, with questionnaires to go out in Late March. Proposals for a joint strategy with the RDA were received. The schedule will be changed to reflect added service to the Chicago Auto Show on weekdays through Monday. For schedule information, go to www.nictd.com. Projects will resume when the weather improves.
- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that ridership figures for January were up over 2012. Two IT projects were let. GPTC will attend Transit Day tomorrow in Indianapolis. They will put information from any other transit agencies on their table.

8. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

No reports.

9. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

A letter was included in the packet on planning emphasis areas for implementing MAP-21 in FY 2014. Dates are being set for NIRPC's quadrennial certification review interviews in either late June or July for the FHWA/FTA site visit.

10. Planning Neighbors: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and Southwestern Michigan Commission

No reports.

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

Announcements –

- Michigan City will host the March TPC meeting, details to follow.

Upcoming Meetings:

- South Shore Clean Cities Annual Meeting is at noon on February 12 at Avalon Manor in Hobart.
- The NIRPC Executive Board will meet 9:00 a.m. February 21.
- Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. February 28 at NIRPC.
- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. March 7 at NIRPC.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at City Hall in Michigan City.

On a motion by Shawn Pettit and a second by Joe Crnkovich, Chairman Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.