

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

City Hall, Michigan City

March 12, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

Art Biciunas, Mitch Bishop, Joe Crnkovich, Phil Gralik, Jerry Halperin, Jeff Huet, Denarie Kane, Tyler Kent, Bruce Lindner, Christopher Meyers, Rich Murphy, Mark O'Dell, Holly Ostdick, Don Parker, Shawn Pettit, Craig Phillips, Jezreel Rodriguez, Rob Strader, Claudia Taylor, Mary Jane Thomas, Tom Vander Woude, David Wright

Guests

Nathan Anderson, Keith Benman, Michelle Bollinger, Glen Campbell, Kevin Crawford, Jake Dammarell, Ted Gross, Matt Keiser, Stephanie Kuschel, Donald Nevorski, Donna Pappas, Spike Peller, Leslie Phemister, Jim Pinkerton, Chris Reynolds, Lisa Shrader, Bruce Spires, Rebecca "Sis" Williams, Eric Wilson, Mike Yacullo

NIRPC Staff

Mitch Barloga, Bill Brown, Kevin Garcia, Sarah Geinosky, Allen Hammond, Belinda Petroskey, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, 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.
- Bruce Lindner motioned to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting; seconded by Mark O'Dell. Motion carried.

2. Presentation – Michigan City Development Activities – Craig Phillips reported on a case study of Kenosha and Racine Wisconsin and their revitalization and lakefront development projects. Attractive factors in the Michigan City lakefront community are the presence of the NICTD commuter rail system and the "Golden Triangle" defined by Washington Park, the outlet mall and the casino. Keys to development are revitalization of the urban core, available vacant land, and strong centers. Stakeholder input will be sought on the downtown future, leading into a Lake Michigan gateway implementation strategy, identifying commonalities and implementation to attract development. Future public green space areas were identified and improvements include fishing piers and better pedestrian access. Project funding would be through some casino money, tax increment financing and possible grants.

3. Congestion Management Process – Stephen Sostaric reported that capacity expansion on I-65 from US-30 to US-231 will go through the required congestion management alternatives analysis. Tier I of the Illiana study is complete and Tier II will begin. As this is a capacity expansion project, it will go through our congestion management process.

4. Planning

- Complete Streets Guidelines – Mitch Barloga outlined the four proposed amendments to the Complete Streets manual design guidelines for best practice standards, possible conflicts with the INDOT design manual, mandates and NIRPC staff assistance. Contact Leslie at ATA with any questions on the manual. On a motion by Mark O'Dell and a second

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by Don Parker, the committee recommended the amendment to the NIRPC board for approval in April.

- Memorandum of Understanding Update Process – Steve Strains reported that the MOU between NIRPC, IDEM, INDOT and the transit operators would need to be updated due to MAP-21. A template from INDOT will come out in the near future on language standardization. We will also have a separate MOU with CMAP on roles and responsibilities because we will be using their model in the future.
- 2040 Plan Implementation – Gabrielle Biciunas reported that staff continues to meet with communities on defining their livable centers. Staff presented to Miller last night. An urban core subcommittee will meet on Thursday. The *Pathway to 2040* Committee will meet on April 11. The 2040 video will be shown at various meetings.
- ADA Transition Plans and Annual Pre-Award Certification – Allen Hammond reported that INDOT sent out a letter regarding necessary updates to the LPA's and asked that MPOs also be copied on such correspondence as we get phone calls and emails. LPA's should visit the INDOT website to do their pre-award certification annually. Go to <https://itap.indot.in.gov>.
- Intelligent Transportation System Architecture – Kevin Garcia reported that workshops will be held in April and May. A draft of the documents will be presented to the TPC by June 11.
- Northwest Indiana Rail VISION Status – Bill Brown reported that Jack Eskin continues to work on the draft rail VISION document and has met with INDOT rail staff to review a list of the 15 grade separation locations.
- Functional Classification Revision status – Bill Brown provided a spreadsheet on revision proposals and will also send it out via email. He asked communities to review the list and email him with any changes or questions. LPAs were asked to add traffic count data to the spreadsheet, where possible.

5. Programming

- Quarterly Project Tracking – No report
- FY 2014-2017 TIP Development – No report.
- FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendment #25 – Belinda Petroskey explained Amendment #25 for transit only shuttle service at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 3 replacement vehicles for Michigan City Transit and 2 replacement paratransit vehicles for Michigan City Transit. On a motion by Don Parker and a second by Christopher Meyers, the committee recommended the amendment to the NIRPC board for approval.
- FY 2012-2015 TIP Amendment – Belinda Petroskey described Amendment #26 for six INDOT bridge projects and a La Porte County intersection improvement at Johnson Road and La Porte CR 400 North. On a motion by Don Parker and a second by Joe Crnkovich, the committee recommended the amendment to the NIRPC board for approval.

6. Indiana Department of Transportation

- Chris Reynolds highlighted projects being let from February through May. For project results, go to www.bidx.com.

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- Jim Pinkerton reported that the initial phase of Tier II for the Illiana has begun. The team is meeting with local communities to get input. Land representatives are assisting landowners. INDOT and the consulting team met with Ty Warner, Steve Strains and Bill Brown last week and will be meeting with NIRPC staff monthly to work through the process. Public meetings will be held in April and June and a public hearing on Tier II will be held in the fall with inclusion into NIRPC's 2040 Plan in October, November or December. A meeting is scheduled this Thursday of the Corridor Planning Group in Peotone at 1 pm at the Will County Atrium.

7. Transit Operators Reports

- **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that ridership is down from February 2012 totals due to weather and a short month. Bids are due tomorrow at 2:30 for building a new high-level platform on the Dune Park Station and some construction around the station and parking lots. Catenary replacement continues and may take five years due to not getting the TIGER grant. The ridership survey will take place in mid-April.
- **GPTC** – David Wright reported that their ridership figures are the same. They are preparing for improvements at University Park and opening bids for several tech projects. They met with EPA representatives last week about a partnership for sustainable communities with the Gary and Miller South Shore station. Belinda Petroskey added that 5307 money goes through Chicago, then to the RTA with 3% of the funds coming into Indiana. This year, FTA decided to take issue with a phrase in the planning regulations that we have to justify how we split the funds. We received FTA correspondence as to what they will put the MPOs through in the triennial review. We will need historical documentation. The language in the federal register is for illustrative purposes only.

8. Local and Regional Transportation Projects Update.

No reports.

9. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Authority

No reports.

10. Planning Neighbors

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning – Holly Ostdick said the funding split will be discussed in the MPO policy committee on Thursday.

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association – Tom Vander Woude said the Joe Orr-Main Street project is now 10 years old. They are meeting with FHWA to update on project construction from Burnham Avenue to the Indiana State Line in 2017.

Southwestern Michigan Commission – No report.

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

Announcements –

- Craig Phillips announced a mobile workshop for the APA Conference will tour projects in the Marquette Plan on April 17 and may include a steel mill tour.

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- Denarie Kane announced that Phil Gralik is the new engineer for Hobart. Denarie is the Director of Economic Development.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Land Use Committee will meet March 20 at 10 a.m. at NIRPC.
- The NIRPC Executive Board will meet 9:00 a.m. March 21.
- Public Participation Plan Workshop dates were announced for March 25 at City Hall, Michigan City, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., March 26 at the Hammond Public Library, and March 27 at Valparaiso City Hall from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
(NOTE: On March 13, the Hammond date had to be changed. There will be two meetings held on April 2 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.)
- Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. March 28 at NIRPC.
- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. April 4 at NIRPC.
- The Ped, Pedal and Paddle Cornucopia event will be held on April 25 at Woodland Park.
- The Environmental Boot Camp will be held from May 7 to 9.

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

Chairman Pettit adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.