

Technical Planning Committee Meeting

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
6100 Southport Road, Portage
February 14, 2017
MINUTES

Vice Chair Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members present included Kevin Breitzke, George Topoll, David Wright, Julie Ritzler, Tyler Kent, Mark O'Dell, Tom MacLennan, Beth Shrader, Margot Sabato, Susan Weber, Stephen Stofko and Kay Nelson. Joyce Newland and Mary Enright participated by conference phone. Others present included Mike Yacullo, Joe Crnkovich, Deb Backhus, Jack Eskin, Shannon Eason, Skyler York, Aaron Borngraber, Ray Riddell, Dean Button, Dennis Cobb, Jake Dammarell, Jeff Huet, Don Oliphant, K-Todd Behling, Matt Deitchley, Claudia Taylor, Karie Koehneke, Bob Thompson, Lauren Orchard, Teri Dixon, Jerry Siska, Fred Williams, Tom Silich, Bruce Lindner, Ron Wiederman, Tom Regalado and Chris Moore. Staff present included Mitch Barloga, Gary Evers, Kathy Luther, Joe Exl, Scott Weber, James Winters, Eman Ibrahim, Amanda Pollard, Gabrielle Biciunas and Mary Thorne.

The survey was available at the table.

The minutes of the January 10, 2016 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Beth Shrader and a second by Kay Nelson.

Presentation: Kathy Luther presented an overview of the first goal of the 2040 Plan for a vibrant region – thriving economy and each objective of the goal showing NIRPC's role in implementation projects.

Implementation Planning

- Joe Exl presented on the Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway Initiative implementation and cost-share with Section 319 funding of \$300,000. The deadline for submission is October and the cap is \$50,000 per project. Contact Joe Exl at NIRPC for more information.
- Mitch Barloga reported that approval of the Greenways + Blueways Plan Update has been delayed to receiving significant public comment, as well as public comment periods for the West Lake double tracking and Extension. The revised plan update will be ready for public comment in May and final approval in June.
- David Wright, Gary Public Transportation Corp. showed a YouTube sneak preview of a video promoting benefits of public transit in Northwest Indiana.

Programming

- Gary Evers reported that the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee for LaPorte County met earlier this month. Reports were given from the operators and two lettings will close out the year.

- Gary Evers explained FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #34, changes to existing projects in Valparaiso, Michigan City and LaPorte County and deleting a Valparaiso project. The amendment was reviewed by the Interagency Consultation Group and no public comments were received. On a motion by Mark O'Dell and a second by George Topoll, the Committee voted to recommend Amendment #34 to the Commission for adoption.

Topical Committee Reports:

- Kathy Luther reported that a live streamed presentation was made at the Environmental Management Policy Committee earlier this month.
- Mitch Barloga reported that the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee heard a presentation from Justin Kiel, LaCrosse Town Council. The town has a Complete Streets Policy. The committee will hear a presentation on plans for a bike share program from Valparaiso Parks at their meeting on February 24 at 1:30 p.m. The roll out is on April 19.
- James Winters reported that the transit operators will meet this morning to continue to constrain the project selection.
- Eman Ibrahim reported that the Land Use Committee met last month and heard a presentation from the City of Gary on the Creating Livable Centers grant for the downtown, Horace Manna and Emerson areas. A summary of the plan is on the NIRPC website. There are plans to move from a polygon-based to a parcel-based data system which will give more accurate transportation modeling data.
- Mitch Barloga, reporting for Stephen Sostaric, said that the Rail Vision/Freight Committee met on February 7 to discuss structure and membership. The next meeting is in March.
- Scott Weber reported that the Surface Transportation Committee met last week and heard a presentation on the Indiana Toll Road construction, the 80/90 Push. In answer to a question by Dennis Cobb, Mitch Barloga said that Ty Warner is working with the legislators almost daily on the final rulemaking for performance based planning and staff will provide an update at the next Technical Planning Committee meeting.

Reports from Planning Partners:

- Teri Dixon reported that CMAP is doing a call for projects for CMAQ and TAP with a deadline of March 23. They are also beginning outreach on their 2050 Plan for climate change, technology, urban living, depleted public resources and economic restructuring.
- Susan Weber reported that the new Secretary of Public Transportation is Elaine Chao, who served as Secretary of Labor under President George W. Bush. The partial apportionment has been issued, and the full apportionment should be in May.
- Mary Enright reported that there will be a STIP meeting on April 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Central at INDOT's LaPorte District office.

Emerging Trends: James Winters showed two videos on Solar cell roofs and the application of this technology.

Announcements:

- Kathy Luther said IDEM's new Commissioner is Bruno Pigott.
- Kay Nelson will appoint an alternative as she will be in Washington next month.

Kevin Breitzke announced the upcoming meetings and noted the office is closed on February 20 in observance of Presidents' Day. The next Technical Planning Committee meeting will be on March 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office. Hearing no other business, he adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone number or email below should you wish to receive a copy or a portion of it.

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