



CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

CREATING THE PLAN

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368 (219) 763-6060

**2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
NIRPC Auditorium
May 27, 2010
Minutes**

Members

Mike Aylesworth, Don Babcock, Geof Benson, Mitch Bishop, David Blumenthal, Jan Dick, Dale Engquist, Phil Gralik, Jerry Halperin, Rich Herr, George Janiec, Eric Kurtz, Sergio Mendoza, Christopher Meyers, George Malis, Richard Morrisroe, Kay Nelson, Sandy O'Brien, Charles Oberlie, Pat Pullara, Mark Reshkin, Jill Ritchie, Daniel Suson, Bob Thompson, Garry Traynham, Joe Wszolek

Guests

AJ Monroe

Consultants

Phil Hanegraaf, Chris Kopp of HNTB

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Joe Exl, Kevin Garcia, Matt Hay, Ryan Hicks, Francyne Mixon, Hubert Morgan, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne, Tom VanderWoude

Chairman Chuck Oberlie called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Daniel Suson asked that the summary and the minutes be consistent as to the membership at the Saturday environmental workshop. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Daniel Suson, the minutes and summary of the April 27 meeting were approved as amended.

Outreach and Public Involvement

Hubert Morgan said that NIRPC's interns will add staff resources to broaden our database of stakeholders to bring to future public meetings. The communities will be sought out to share that information with staff to answer critical questions as to what populations need that special layer of outreach strategy so that we can design engagement strategies throughout the planning process.

A meeting was held last month with Sergio Mendoza and Vanessa Allen, co-chairs of the soon to be formed environmental justice working group who will help get the word out to particular interest groups so that in doing our comprehensive planning work, we will be able to hand off issues to the proper agency partners responsible for those issues that our not in NIRPC's element. There will be another meeting with the co-chairs. Sergio Mendoza added that a second meeting of the co-chairs will add more time needed to complete the foundation which was laid at the last meeting. After that, the date for the first meeting of the EJ working group will be set. Geof Benson added that the money being offered from the HUD/EPA/DOT partnership

may be able to be used for planning. Sergio responded that there are criteria which need to be met in order to qualify for that funding.

Scenario Process

Bill Brown reported on the development of the scenarios for the CRP. The four scenarios of trends, current plans snapshot, livable communities and urban core regeneration were referenced. Staff has been preparing data using GIS and *CommunityViz*. Getting local land use current and future has been challenging. Population and employment forecasts are based on the current trend scenarios. Phil Hanegraaf added that every GIS layer and data set have been gathered by NIRPC staff. The transportation model will not be finished until the June meeting.

Phil presented on the scenario planning and the work done to date. A lot of data analysis is being done to shape the 4 scenarios. Staff is using various types of performance measures, preliminary transportation measures (including volume-to-capacity ratios, existing and future land miles, average trip length, trip percentages, auto emissions, etc.), land use and economic measures (distribution of population and employment, density, agriculture, job/housing balance, etc.) community facilities and environmental measures (lost ag production, hydric soils impacted, flood plain/wetlands impacts, biodiversity, water and drainage)

The trends scenario will be based on overall pattern and rate of growth within the region using a curve fit estimate of 1960-2000 census figures and 2008 figures from the American Community Survey.

The local plans scenario will compare existing to future land use based on local plans developed by the municipalities and will do a "build out" analysis to 2040 and use assumptions on future development.

The livable centers scenario will build upon the work completed in the cluster workshops and will provide for "scalable" growth and focus on three sets of "points" which were identified during the workshops. These are 41 livable "centers", based on a transit framework and will look at the pros and cons of the Illiana expressway as discussed in the workshops. Phil added that the Illiana was brought up consistently at the cluster workshops and the most consistently identified path was shown.

The urban infill scenario exercise is similar to the "centers" exercise and also provides for "scalable" growth. Preliminary physical focus includes older industrial areas, major shifts in economics needed to realize sustainability, and a substantial need for reinvestment. Consensus will be needed on what some of the needs and implications for the region. A map of the region showing a suggested delineation for the urban infill boundary was shown, going along 80/94 in Lake County, US 6 in Porter County to SR 49 north to I-94. Mark Reshkin suggested NIRPC refer to an eight-year old study produced by the EPA which showed the environmental concerns of northwest Indiana dealing with industrial and other development. Their boundary was US 30 east to Valparaiso and Highway 2 northeast into LaPorte County to the county line. The map was discussed by the committee and a preferred boundary for urban infill was sought. In the cluster workshops, people expressed a desire to have more of the lakeshore preserved and one must examine the conflict between infill of the urban core and preservation of the lakeshore. A discussion followed.

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Chris Kopp then discussed the *CommunityViz* tool, using population, employment and other indicators used as performance measures in development of the four scenarios. A short demonstration of what the *CommunityViz* tool can do was given. The 2010 census figures will not be available for use until 2012 but staff is using figures from the 2008 American Community Survey. A discussion followed regarding concern about an extension of the Illiana east of I-65 since, at the workshop at PNC, several people extended it out to LaPorte and Michigan City. In general, the participants at the workshops viewed the Illiana as being counter-productive to revitalization in the north. Phil said different assumptions will be made in the model and the Steering Committee will need to decide if the Illiana should be included in the CRP. Phil resumed his presentation discussing the performance measures developed and their use in each scenario. The biodiverse areas are being identified by NIRCP staff using GIS data. They are “green” areas that are not on the map at this time. The model is not complete but the green areas will be at the end of the process. The Calumet Summit has identified the biodiverse areas. Staff and the consultant will work to map out the centers using the various data and list of measures, adding access points for transit, etc.

Congestion Management Process

Ryan Hicks discussed what needs to be done by December 1. Congestion Management uses tools to identify congestion in a specific area. The process should develop and propose alternative strategies. Federal requirements for congestion management through SAFETEA-LU must be reflected in the TIP and the Transportation Plan. 12 steps were identified to mitigate congestion, half of which have been completed. The CMP timeline was indicated. The subcommittee will be finalizing goals and objectives, review TIP projects, collect travel times on arterials and update the ITS architecture. Several measures were discussed for both transportation and transit. The survey results from 17 libraries and 100 residents will be used to indicate where congestion is and where it can be improved. Project evaluation will take place over the next two to three months. “Dry runs” of certain projects in the TIP will be done to determine “acceptability” and a scoring system will be devised in the next few weeks. The next CMP meeting is June 8 at 8:15 a.m. at NIRPC.

Other Business

Staff Announcements:

- NIRPC is required to circulate voluntary surveys at each of our public meetings due to INDOT’s requirement of our policies and procedures.
- NIRPC’s 2011-2012 UPWP is available on the website for review and comment.
- The latest CRP Newsletter is available.

Steering Committee Announcements:

- Water usage figures should be sent in GIS format. It was recommended to use DNR water registration data for consistency.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on June 24 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC. At that meeting, the committee will review the fully developed scenarios, discuss various methods to get the scenarios out for public review and begin a discussion on an approach to the next regional forum. HNTB will work with NIRPC staff in getting the data together and bring the scenarios to the Steering Committee.

Mayor Oberlie adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda
- April 27 Meeting Minutes
- April 27 Meeting Summary
- Congestion Management Process Survey Results
- Regional Plan Scenarios Update PowerPoint
- Latest CRP Newsletter
- INDOT Questionnaire

Audio tapes of this meeting are filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to schedule a time to hear them.

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.

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