

2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
NIRPC Auditorium
November 23, 2010
Minutes

Members

Vanessa Allen, Reggie Arkell, K-Todd Behling Geof Benson, David Blumenthal, Kathy Chrobak, Dale Engquist, Keith Kirkpatrick, George Malis, Christopher Meyers, Kay Nelson, Joyce Newland, Sandy O'Brien, Pat Pullara, Mark Reshkin, Jill Ritchie, Bob Thompson, Olga Velazquez

Guests

Keith Benman, Roberto Castaneda, Kristi Delaurentiis, Sterling El-Amin, Lorraine Guillen, Maria Guillen, Asher Harris, Marge Hefner, Mike Jabo, Laurie Johnson, Matt Maloney, Emmett Mosley, Jim Ton

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Ryan Hicks, Eman Ibrahim, Kathy Luther, Jody Melton, Hubert Morgan, Chase Morris, Bob Niezgodski, Belinda Petroskey, Steve Strains, John Swanson

Co-Chair Kathy Chrobak called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. On a motion by David Blumenthal and a second by Christopher Meyers, the minutes and summary of the October 14th meeting were approved.

Matt Maloney presented CMAP's final *GoTo2040* Plan. The major focus of the policy-based plan is on economic prosperity for a skilled workforce, infrastructure and quality of life for the 284 municipality, seven-county MPO. Twelve key recommendations and implementable actions were presented.

NIRPC's 2040 Plan steering committee recommended to the full board the preferred scenario which is trying to rein in sprawl. Hubert Morgan and Kevin Garcia are meeting with local communities to determine where they want to see development. Two stakeholder meetings took place in order to craft criteria to select and judge project proposals. The next meeting will be November 30th at 9:00AM at NIRPC to finalize criteria using the goals and objectives, the system used in the 2030 plan and a lead designation process to structure the criteria. Kay Nelson voiced her concern over the request for steering committee endorsement of the 54 criteria points without knowing the discussion. Google Wave is a program which will be used to provide a dialogue to allow people to comment without having to come to the meeting. An email will be sent to the committee with further information and instructions.

Bill Brown briefed the committee on the CRP framework, outlining the timeline with projected final adoption of the Plan by the NIRPC board on April 28, 2011. The next step is the population and employment forecasts to be plugged into the transportation modeling.

Kristi DeLaurentiis of the Metropolitan Planning Council presented on the purpose, strategy, current efforts and results of the Gary & Region Investment Project (GRIP). The GRIP launch meeting on October 27th identified and ranked key transformative projects already underway. More information and a survey can be found on the MPC website, www.metroplanning.org. Input is welcome.

Jodi Melton and John Swanson provided an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process to make Northwest Indiana an Economic Development District which makes the region eligible to receive certain types of federal funding. Ongoing management of the process will include added collaboration between staff, local governments, economic development officials, workforce development officials, higher education, business and citizens. Two grants were awarded to Hobart and Schererville. More information on the CEDS process is available on the NIRPC website.

Sandy O'Brien questioned why the priority "growth and infill" area that was gray shaded on the map of the region (the one on the nirpc.org/FutureNW/2040HomePage.htm website) was so very large and included what are currently green field areas that shouldn't be targeted for development. Steve Strains said he'd get back to Sandy with an answer on that.

- A freight workshop will be held at NIRPC on December 15 at 8:30 a.m. to identify barriers and opportunities for the region.
- The Quality of Life Council's next quarterly meeting is at Bethel Church in Crown Point on December 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and the topic will be *Race and its Effects on the Region*.
- The Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee's all-day "Cornucopia" event on trails will be December 14 at the Red Mill County Park. Please RSVP as breakfast and lunch will be served.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on January 27, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

Mayor Chroback adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda

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- October 14 Meeting Minutes
- October 14 Meeting Summary
- CMAP's *Goto2040* Plan PowerPoint
- NIRPC's 2040 Growth and Revitalization Vision
- CEDS Organization and Development

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to hear it.

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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