

NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
May 18, 2017
Minutes

Call to Order

Chairman Michael Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Executive Board members present included Geof Benson, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Michael Griffin, Justin Kiel, Blair Milo, Diane Noll, Ed Soliday, Greg Stinson and James Ton.

Other Commissioners present included Jan Bapst, Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Christine Cid, Bill Emerson, Jr., Will Farrellbegg, Jack Jeralds, Jeff Larson, Tom Schmitt, Brian Snedecor, Dave Shafer and George Topoll.

Guests present included Rick Powers, Justin Mount, Lyndsay Quist, Matt Deitchley, Jon Kruger, David Wright, Bill McCall, George Van Til, Jim Nowacki, Mike Hawkins, Satya Tallamraju, Pam and Julie (Concerned Families of the West Lake Corridor Project), Jill Murr, Christopher Murphy, Joseph Crnkovich, Tom Silich, Silvia Collins, Satyah Kobetis, Nick Barbknecht, Tim Zorn and Andrew Steele. Joyce Newland participated via conference phone.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Angie Hayes, Mitch Barloga, Scott Weber, Gary Evers, Eman Ibrahim, Stephen Sostaric, Meredith Stilwell, James Winters and Mary Thorne.

Michael Griffin announced that by general consent, the Technical Planning Committee report would be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Technical Planning Committee

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met on May 9. There are four actions for consideration. The Public Comment Report for the Air Quality Conformity, the *2040 Comprehensive Plan Companion Update Amendment #4*, and the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program was available in the packet. Stephen Sostaric explained the report. There were no significant comments requiring another comment period.

The first action is on Resolution 17-11, the Air Quality Conformity for the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update, Amendment #4* and FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. Scott Weber explained the Conformity Determination which concludes that emissions will be below the motor vehicle emission budgets in the State Implementation Plan for the ozone non-attainment area. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Geof Benson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 17-11 the Air Quality Conformity for the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update, Amendment #4* FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Scott Weber explained Resolution 17-12, the Environmental Justice Analysis for the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update, Amendment #4* and the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. The analysis shows the impacts range from positive to none and do not outweigh the potential benefits of the projects. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Geof Benson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 7-12, the Environmental Justice Analysis for the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update, Amendment #4* and the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Mitch Barloga explained Resolution 17-13, Amendment #4 to the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update*, the inclusion of two new transportation expansion projects consisting of the NICTD double tracking and West Lake Extension projects and also moving the Illiana out to 2040 and changing the southern terminus of the I-65 added travel lanes to SR 2. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Geof Benson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 17-13, Amendment #4 to the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Companion Update*.

Mitch Barloga explained Resolution 17-14, the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. It consists of 650 projects including those mentioned above, with a total street value of \$1.6 billion. The Transportation Improvement Program is fiscally constrained and consistent with the state implementation plan for air quality and has been completely vetted. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt Resolution 17-14, the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

The next meeting of the Technical Planning Committee is scheduled for June 13 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Approval of Minutes

Michael Griffin noted the departure and the arrival of a Commissioner, adding that there was still a quorum. The minutes of the April 20, 2017 meeting of the Full Commission were approved on a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Greg Stinson.

Report of the Chair

Michael Griffin said that the Cline Avenue Bridge resolution of support for expediency in rebuilding the bridge will be tabled until he can meet with Mayor Anthony Copeland.

Report of the Executive Director

- Ty Warner reported that the previous votes taken were historic, having adopted the largest TIP in NIRPC's history, and appropriate as it is National Infrastructure Week.
- Today, Governor Holcomb signed HB 1144 for the NICTD double tracking and West Lake Corridor.
- The House and Senate Bills to abolish the MPO consolidation rule passed and President Donald Trump signed the bill last Friday.
- The Triennial review is in June and the Quadrennial review is in July.
- An Open House will be held here in the building on June 15 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- The vehicle disposition sale is in June.
- Flyers from Construction Advancement Foundation on two workshops for LPAs and contractors were available. One is on May 24 from noon to 2 p.m. on Construction Manager at Risk laws and one is on June 30 from noon to 2 p.m. on asphalt technology.
- There is a Community Crossings local road and bridge funding meeting on May 31 at the INDOT LaPorte District Office. Sessions are from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- INDOT is working on guidance for implementation of the swap provision. Michael Griffin explained the funding swap idea to allow locals to get access to funds from the state.
- Ty Warner introduced NIRPC's HR Consultant, Mike Russell.
- Ty Warner thanked NIRPC staff for their work on the Transportation Improvement Program and coordination with NICTD.

Michael Griffin commented on the significance of the transit development district for economic development and quality of place.

Finance & Personnel Committee

Dave Shafer reported for Karen Freeman-Wilson. The committee met this morning. There are three items for consideration. The first are budget amendments adding \$14,000 in additional Lake Michigan Coastal grant funds for the Deep River Dam Study and adding \$2,000 from the Shared Ethics Advisory

Commission to be used for the Communication Partner Agency. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Diane Noll, the Executive Board voted to adopt the budget amendments.

The second action is the Deep River Dam Study agreement between NIRPC and Flatland Resources, LLC at a contracted price not to exceed \$44,780. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopt the Deep River Dam Study agreement.

The third action is procurement recommendations for the purchase of a replacement utility vehicle for East Chicago Transit not to exceed \$28,000 in federal funds and the purchase of security cameras and lighting for the City of Valparaiso not to exceed \$100,000 in federal funds. On a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Diane Noll, the Executive Board voted to adopt the procurement recommendations as presented.

Environmental Management Policy Committee

Geof Benson said the committee discussed priorities of the President's proposed skinny budget cutting a lot of funding to NOAA, Coastal, GLRI, EPA, etc. and submitted a request to the Legislative Committee to consider crafting an official position for NIRPC with regard to proposed federal budget priorities.

Legislative Committee

Blair Milo thanked the EMPC committee for their work on the skinny budget letter. There was passage of a temporary spending bill through the fall. The Legislative Committee is dialoguing with the National Association of Regional Councils as to the content of the spending bill and the ultimate federal budget. The Indiana General Assembly finished their session and Blair Milo thanked Ed Soliday for his outstanding leadership in having an opportunity to have a long term transportation spending plan. There is an aggressive timeline for the Community Crossing program which creates greater opportunity for local government to access funding for improvements to local roads and bridges.

Ed Soliday urged locals to get their applications in. The Community Crossings program is data driven and we must first take care of current infrastructure and then build for the future. The local match can be from any source. A community must have an asset management plan. Available funds will be about \$200 million per year. A county above 50,000 in population, the match is 50/50. For populations under 50,000, the match is 75/25. For populations under 10,000, the match is 75/25. The process time is under 90 days. Ed Soliday encouraged applications this year as there was \$58 million left on the table last year due to a low application rate.

Ty Warner commended Justin Kiel for developing an asset management plan for LaCrosse at his kitchen table, adding that this program is available to any size community.

Indiana Department of Transportation

Rick Powers asked that people register for the meetings to be held on May 31 at the LaPorte District office at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for the Community Crossings Program. There are also other district meetings being held throughout the state. INDOT is working on the swap program guidance document, but it will not affect FY 2018 projects. The I-65 widening project work will begin in June; be cognizant in construction areas. Blair Milo offered the use of a larger facility for the meetings on May 31 if needed. Blair Milo presented Matt Deitchley with a "Bravo-Zulu" (well-done) award for his dedication to his work and in his responses to some questions in La Porte. Several Commissioners thanked INDOT staff for all their work.

Other Business

Bob Carnahan noted that the April meeting was that of the Full Commission.

Public Comment

Jim Nowacki, Gary, discussed complete streets, sidewalks and flooding issues. Rick Powers responded that INDOT has been working with the City of Gary and the Gary Sanitary District on the water issue.

Announcements

- Blair Milo said La Porte is hosting the Maple City Grand Prix from June 9 to June 11 on Stone Lake.
- Bob Carnahan said "16 Plus" will be held at 9 a.m. tomorrow in Schererville to discuss what took place in the Legislature.
- Dave Shafer announced the National Association of Regional Councils Conference and Exhibit will be held June 4 to 7 in Monterey, California. Geof Benson is standing for president-elect. Blair Milo is on the Board of Directors and Ty Warner is on the Board of Executive Directors council. Dave Shafer is past Chair.

Adjournment

Hearing no other business, Michael Griffin adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.

For 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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