

Technical Planning Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room, 6100 Southport Road, Portage
August 14, 22018
Minutes

Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Members present included Geof Benson, Tom Schmitt, George Topoll, Susan Weber, David Wright, Mark O'Dell, Kelly Wenger, Tom MacLennan, Margot Sabato, Dean Button, Kay Nelson, Julie Ritzler and Tyler Kent. Others present included Jerry Siska, Bruce Lindner, Jake Dammarell, Doug Ferguson, Claudia Taylor, K-Todd Behling, Jill Murr, Joe Van Dyk, Greg Lorig, Tim Werner and Stephen Stofko. Joyce Newland of the Federal Highway Administration participated via conference phone. Staff present included Mitch Barloga, Trey Wadsworth, Charles Bradsky, Dominique Edwards, Scott Weber, James Winters, Peter Kimball, Candi Eklund and Mary Thorne.

The INDOT participation survey was available at the table in the lobby. The minutes of the July 10, 2018 Technical Planning Committee meeting were approved on a motion by George Topoll and a second by Dean Button. There were no public comments.

Presentation

James Winters presented on the development of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan. This plan is a federal requirement in order for eligible transit operators to receive funding for improving mobility for people with disabilities, people who are elderly and people with low incomes. Meetings will be held today at the Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso at 2:30 pm; tomorrow at the Gary WorkOne office at 5 pm; and on Thursday, August 16 at the Michigan City Public Library at 3:30 pm. A survey is available on the NIRPC website. Contact James Winters for more information.

Implementation Planning

4.1 Dominique Edwards reported that 2050 Plan pop up events will be held on August 14, 25, 28, 30 and September 1. To date, 394 responses have been received. Location and times of events are available in the meeting packet and on the NIRPC website.

4.2 Mitch Barloga said he is working with Active Transportation Alliance and Health by Design to schedule a Complete Streets workshop in the fall. More information will be sent as the date is worked out.

Programming

5.1 Charles Bradsky referenced the comment report for FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #16 for INDOT and local projects and #14 for INDOT projects. The projects will be in this Transportation Improvement Program and the next adopted Transportation Improvement Program. Projects in the out years of 2022 and 2023 are illustrative.

5.2 Resolution 18-13, Amendment 16 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for the above referenced INDOT and local projects were vetted and supported by the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee. On a motion by Dean Button and a second by Mark O'Dell, the Technical Planning Committee recommended Resolution 18-13, Amendment 16 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program to the NIRPC Board for adoption.

City of Gary's Appeal

Joe Van Dyk presented the City of Gary's appeal on two project scope change requests. One project was denied by the Transportation Resource Oversight Committee (TROC) at an ad hoc meeting on July 31. A second project had no action by TROC. A third scope change proposal was passed by the committee. The original Ridge Road project was awarded over 10 years ago but a local match was lost due to the economic downturn. The City of Gary wants to shift \$3 million towards the 15th Avenue Gateway project which is in a key economic development area. The remaining funding would shift to the East Lakefront Complete Streets project which would advance transit-oriented development and economic development around the Miller South Shore commuter station and improve access to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Local match is available for both projects. The action sought is to either sustain TROC's decision or overturn it.

Discussion took place on deficits in 2019 through 2022; Charles Bradsky will provide a list of 5-year and older projects to the committee. Discussion took place on the draft scope change policy. Charles said the Lake & Porter TROC adopted it; LaPorte TROC didn't think they would need it and did not adopt it. The "5 year" language needs more clarification. It was suggested that any policies created by subcommittees should be sent to the Commission for final adoption. Joyce Newland offered that if a project has a complete environmental, the decision cannot be vacated. If there is a no build option then you can be released from that. Joe Van Dyk said Ridge Road had no federal money spent and no environmental done. Charles said the proposed projects have had environmental done.

Dean Button moved to sustain the TROC decision on the request by the City of Gary; seconded by Mark O'Dell. Kay Nelson asked that NIRPC provide a white paper to the Commission on the full issue. Dean Button amended his motion to sustain the TROC decision on the request by the City of Gary in order that the Full Commission can provide the direction on this and future actions. Mark O'Dell seconded the amended motion for discussion, which followed. It was noted that clarification on the scope change policy is needed. Dean Button again amended his motion to sustain the TROC decision on the request by the City of Gary with a summary white paper to be provided to the Commission in order that the Commission can provide the direction on this and future actions. Mark O'Dell seconded the motion. On a roll call vote by Geof Benson, the committee voted to recommend the motion to the Commission on 7 yes and 2 no votes.

Charles Bradsky said at the next quarterly tracking meeting on Friday, he will ask the City of Gary if the Commission denies their appeal, what they intend to do with this project. If the sponsor cannot construct the project in the letting year, it will move to a date mutually agreed upon by the sponsor and NIRPC. Joyce Newland added that if projects don't move in a timely manner, the money will be taken away.

Topical Committee Reports

- The Environmental Management Policy Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on September 6.
- The Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee will meet at 11 a.m. on September 6.
James Winters reported that the transit operators will meet immediately after this
- Meeting.
- The Land Use Committee meeting will be announced.
- The Surface Transportation Committee will meet on August 7 at 9 a.m.

Planning Partners

Susan Weber said she will be attending the public meetings for the Coordinated Public Transit

Human Services Transportation Plan.

Emerging Trends: Due to time constraints, no video was provided.

Announcements

- South Shore Clean Cities is hosting a propane vehicle event from 10 to 2 today.
- Congratulations were offered to Geof Benson for being named Chairman of the MPO Council.

The next Technical Planning Committee meeting is September 11 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC. Hearing no other business, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 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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