

**NIRPC Executive Board Meeting**  
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN  
October 18, 2018  
Minutes

Call to Order - Chairman Geof Benson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube and filmed for local public access.

Executive Board members present included Geof Benson, Anthony Copeland, Justin Kiel, Tom McDermott, Jr., Greg Stinson, Jim Ton and George Topoll.

Other Commissioners present included Jeannette Bapst, Jim Biggs, Kevin Breitzke, Robert Carnahan, Christine Cid and Jeff Larson.

Guests present included Justin Mount, Lisa Shrader, Adam Parkhouse, Amy Stenley, Adam Parkhouse, Christopher Murphy, Don Oliphant, Ismail Attallah, David Wright, Andrew Steele and Tim Zorn.

Staff present included Dave Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Daria Sztaba, Trey Wadsworth, Talaya Jones, Charles Bradsky, Eman Ibrahim, Mitch Barloga, James Winters, Lisa Todd, Peter Kimball, Scott Weber and Mary Thorne.

There were no public comments.

Minutes – The minutes of the September 20, 2018 Full Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Anthony Copeland.

Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner

- The NWI Forum strategic plan for regional development (*“Ignite the Region: Northwest Indiana’s Strategy for Transformation”*), was released and an implementation meeting recently held to ensure progress is made in the strategies. NIRPC’s particular roles in the plan could be summarized in the acronyms of EDD, TOD, and GIS. A brief video produced in conjunction with the plan (*“In the Middle of Everywhere”*) was shown.
- NIRPC’s Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan won the Medium Metro Achievement award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), an Outstanding Planning Project award from the Indiana MPO Council, and the Outstanding Overall Achievement award from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. There is an Indiana Association of Regional Councils meeting in November. Warner thanked staff for their work on the plan, particularly project managers Mitch Barloga and Kathy Luther.
- Warner attended the NARC Executive Director’s Conference and once again facilitated a 2-½ hour session on innovations from 50 Regional Council Executive Directors from around the county.

Report of the Chair – Geof Benson

Geof Benson reported that he attended the National Association of Regional Councils Board Meeting in Cleveland as President. Justin Kiel is also on the NARC Board and Dave Shafer is past-president of NARC. Chairman Benson will be keynote speaker at the Indiana Association of Regional Councils meeting in November. NARC is working to get out ahead of the next transportation funding reauthorization.

Finance & Personnel Committee –

- George Topoll said the committee met this morning to review the financial status, reconciliation of expenses, and approve the claims register.

- Lisa Todd reported on the following procurements: 18-05.03 for the City of Hobart Conservation Zoning and sub-Area Plan; 18-24.01 for the purchase of two vehicle replacements for East Chicago Transit; 19-02, for the purchase of one vehicle replacement for North Township, two for Opportunity Enterprises, five for Valparaiso's V-Line and one vehicle replacement for South Lake County Community Services; and 19-03, one replacement vehicle for City of Valparaiso ChicaGo Dash. On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Jim Ton, the Executive Board voted to approve the procurements as presented.

#### Environmental Management Policy Committee –

Kathy Luther reported that the Committee met twice this month to review at length the draft Programmatic Investment Approach for the 2050 Plan and 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. The second portion of the first meeting was held jointly with the Urban Waters Partnership on an EPA sub-area contingency plan for the region, particularly on petroleum spills. The meeting participants provided significant input on the notification and communication aspects of the plan.

#### Technical Planning Committee –

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Technical Planning Committee met on October 9 and heard staff presentations on Transit ADA Inventory, 2050 pop up events and the new Programmatic Investment Approach with revisions made from input received at all of the topical committees. Mitch Barloga briefed the Executive Board on the changes to the Approach. The transit operators are also meeting to provide their input. Kevin Breitzke said the Technical Planning Committee recommends action on the following items:

- Resolution 18-17, an amendment to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Performance Plan changing the targets for traffic congestion measures which is consistent with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's targets. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to adopted Resolution 18-17.
- Resolution 18-18 adopts the Transit Asset management Group Plan for Small Transit Providers as explained by James Winters. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Anthony Copeland, the Executive Board voted to adopted Resolution 18-18.
- No comments were received during a 30-day public comment period on Amendment 17 to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program which ended September 30.
- Resolution 18-14, Amendment to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program was explained by Charles Bradsky. On a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Tom McDermott, Jr., the Executive Board voted to adopted Resolution 18-18.

Charles Bradsky said NIRPC's R-TIP is now online. Go to <https://rtip.nirpc.org>. This new electronic transportation improvement program platform presents open information about funding of transportation projects in the region.

The Technical Planning Committee will meet on November 13 at 9 a.m. at NIRPC.

Indiana Department of Transportation – Amy Stenley said INDOT is looking for CDL drivers. The rate of pay is \$15 per hour. INDOT is beginning to prepare for winter operations.

#### Other Business –

Tom McDermott expressed his frustration with idling trains blocking intersections in his community as a result of a recent Indiana Supreme Court decision which struck down the 1865 state law allowing local governments to fine railroads for violating stopped time limits. Discussion followed on the length of time trains are stopped and the issue of safe crossings by students, parents and vehicles trying to get to school or work on time as well as the very serious issue of blocking emergency vehicles and how this issue has negatively impacted communities across northwest Indiana. Tom McDermott made a motion, seconded

by Jim Ton, to form a task force to research what other MPOs are doing about this issue and how to address this increasingly problematic issue.

Announcements –

- Mitch Barloga announced the complete Streets Workshop will be held at NIRPC on December 7 from 9am to 4 pm.
- Bob Carnahan announced several events occurring in Cedar Lake, including Trunk or Treat, the Parade of Lights and Wonderland of Trees.
- Lisa Todd announced NIRPC's vehicle disposition sale with viewing on November 6 from 9 am to 2 pm and sale on November 7. Sealed bids will be opened on November 7 at 1 pm.
- Kevin Breitzke said the Household Travel Survey is going on and the last two 2050 pop up events will be held Friday, October 19 at Valparaiso's Harvest Festival in Central Park Plaza from 4 PM to 6:30 pm and on Saturday, October 20 at the Michigan City Farmer's Market from 8 am-1 pm.
- Jim Ton announced that Chesterton is installing a Safe Haven Baby Box. Questions can be directed to Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc.

Adjournment –

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Tom McDermott and a second by Greg Stinson, Geof Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 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.

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