

**Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee**  
**Lake & Porter Counties**  
6100 Southport Road, Portage  
January 22, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Dean Button (Hammond), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Denarie Kane (Hobart), Bob Thompson (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Adam McAlpine (Valparaiso), Eric Wolverton, Chris Murphy and Don Oliphant.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Peter Kimball and Candice Eklund.

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

There was a change noted for the November 27, 2018 meeting minutes. The correction was a request to change Chris Anderson to Chris Murphy under the Project Requests section (4f) of the minutes. The minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting were approved as corrected on motion by Dean Button and second by Mark O'Dell

**FY 19-22 Spending Plan Update**

Charles Bradsky presented the spending plan and stated the letting in January for DES #1592274, signage on multiple trails for Highland, was not reflected on the spending plan sent out in the TROC meeting packet.

Charles informed the Committee there is \$825,311 in available funding for FY 2019 but the spending plan is \$8,400,230 over budget in FY 2022. Charles noted there are several very important and sizable projects for FY 2022 and he will be investigating options to balance the fiscal year budget for 2022.

**Project Requests**

- a) Scope change for DES #1173429 intersection improvement, roundabout in Lake Station.  
A representative from Lake Station was not present at the meeting. The project request will be moved to the February agenda.
- b) Request for FY 19 PE funding for DES #1700500, Porter County.  
Chris Murphy presented a timeline with costs for the Willowcreek Road extension project. The timeline is broken down into four phases and will span from FY 2018 to FY 2028, with a total projected value of \$25,807,500 for CN and CI costs. Porter County will need to commit over 7.50% or \$1,938,000, of total construction for PE and land acquisition, of which the county has committed 20% towards construction. A NOFA application has been submitted for this project and a NEPA document is currently being developed for phase I PE. Future phases will require a separate NEPA document. The reason for separate NEPA documents is because Phase I has logical termini. The entire project will span from the intersection of Willowcreek and County Road (CR) 700 N to U.S. 30. The construction costs are broken down into four phases to provide a value that would fit into any funding availability in any given year. The four phases are:
  - Phase I: FY expected CN 2022 - Construct from CR 700 N to S.R. 130
  - Phase II: FY expected CN 2024 - Build a bridge to cross S.R. 130, CSX and NS railroads (in the unincorporated Town of Wheeler area).
  - Phase III: FY expected CN 2026 – Construct the south end of the bridge to approximately CR 350 N
  - Phase IV: FY expected CN 2028 – Construct from CR 350 N to U.S. 30

On motion by Mark O'Dell and second by George Topoll, the committee granted the approval of \$625,000 to Porter County for additional PE funding (federal) in FY19, to complete designs and Right of Way (ROW) services.

Mark O'Dell commented on the value the spreadsheet added to the presentation and requested to keep the handout updated and sent to Charles throughout the four phases of the project.

- c) Request for FY 22 CN funding for DES #1600158, Crown Point.

A representative from Crown Point was present at the meeting. The project request will be moved to the February agenda.

### **Letting Results Update**

Charles Bradsky shared with the committee that Crown Point was awarded a letting in December and Highland was awarded a letting the week of January 13, 2019. The letting for Highland was an additional \$11,000 and Charles was able to provide the additional funding from the spending plan.

\*NOTE\* Letting results for 1/16/19

1592274 – Highland Transportation Alternatives; Signage on multiple trails; Awarded bid \$923,631.75 NIRPC contributed \$812,572.10 (\$800,000 was programmed).

### **Other New Business**

Charles Bradsky will schedule the local quarterly meetings for the third quarter by January 25, 2019. Charles asked the committee members to complete the "Doodle Poll" survey sent out requesting available meeting dates and times, if they have not already done so. The meetings options currently are two days a week for three weeks starting on January 31, 2019.

Charles Bradsky distributed the 2019 January Notice of Funding Availability statistics spreadsheet for Group I (Chicago UZA) and Group II (Michigan City UZA). Charles will also send the spreadsheet to the committee in an email after the meeting. Charles noted the biggest takeaway when reviewing the applications were most communities were asked to provide additional information and supporting documentation to verify their answers. When including maps as a supporting document, Charles asked that the project location be circled for ease of use.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were discussed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.