

Surface Transportation Committee Meeting
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
December 4, 2018

Tom Schmitt called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions. Present were Tom Schmitt, Town of Schererville; Mark O'Dell, Town of Chesterton; Jeff Huet, Town of Schererville; Mark Gordish, City of Hammond; David Wright, GPTC; Dennis Cobb, First Group Engineering; Jake Dammarell, Butler, Fairman & Seufert; and Ron Wiedeman, Robinson Engineering.

NIRPC staff present were Eman Ibrahim, Scott Weber, Peter Kimball and Mary Thorne.

There was no public comment.

Jeff Huet referenced the paragraph in the November 8, 2018 minutes regarding 2020-2024 Transportation improvement Programmatic Approach and Scoring. He commented that the description does not adequately describe the comments that were made in objection to the multiplier scoring sheet and that the goals and targets of the Surface Transportation Committee are not reflected adequately in the 2050 Plan. He said the 2050 Plan was developed by urban planners and environmentalists and it does not reflect the targets of the transportation of the general membership of NIRPC.

(Mark O'Dell seconded Jeff's comments, however, there was no motion to approve the minutes of November 8.

2050 Plan Draft Strategies Identification – Eman Ibrahim presented on the 39 mobility strategies for the connected, renewed, united and vibrant vision statements. Jeff Huet reiterated that transportation experts have been passed up in the development of the 2050 Plan because those efforts need to be identified in the strategies so that the scoring is more fairly distributed. The critical paths need to be modified so that it is reflected of these ideals. Tom Schmitt added that a lot of members of the NIRPC board expressed their thoughts that the transportation aspect wasn't a higher priority. Ms. Ibrahim said she will take these comments to the senior staff for consideration and the 2050 Plan is a plan for the future when new technology will change things.

Changes were made live as follows:

Connected:

It was agreed by the committee to add:

- Strategy Type: Add "roadway" after "sidewalk".
- Technical Assistance - Program/Plan: Add "inter/intra" after "road/block"
- Sustained Effort: Remove "analyze"
- Data: This paragraph would be better under "Renewed"
- Education & Awareness – Program/Plan: "add "Maintain and update the Regional Corridor Study"
- Partnership – Policy: Move policy 1 from "Connected" to "Renewed"
- Partnership – Policy 2: Move to Program/Plan
- Partnership - Program/Plan: Move to Technical Assistance.

Renewed:

- Under Technical Assistance, add a New Policy on a Transition Plan.
- Delete the first Program: ~~improve freight reliability by identifying non-truck routes within local and state~~

roads.”

- Under Sustained Effort: add “utilize LTAP work”
- Under Data, add “increasing mode share” before “flex”
- Under Education and Awareness – Policy: “Maximize the life of pavements and bridges.” Delete the remaining text.
- Under Sustained Effort, add “Improve drainage/maintain proper drainage.”
- Under Funding and Finance: Delete the Program/Plan. Applies more to INDOT.
- Under Legislative Initiative: Delete Policy, add “encourage Legislators to look at prior Community Crossings funding and community needs state wide.”

Due to time constraints, Jeff Huet motioned to continue at the next meeting which was decided to be held on January 3 at 9 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mark O’Dell.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.