

Surface Transportation Committee Informal Meeting
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
April 3, 2018

Having no chair nor vice chair present, the proposed April 3, 2018 meeting became a Informal Meeting instead of a meeting.

Present were George Topoll, Union Township; Dean Button, Hammond; Jeff Huet, Schererville; Tim Burkman, Valparaiso; David Wright, Gary Public Transportation Corporation; Stephan Summers, Indiana Department of Transportation; Mike Yacullo, Indiana Department of Transportation; and Ismail Attallah, AES Services, Inc.

NIRPC Staff present were Trey Wadsworth, Dominique Edwards, and Scott Weber.

Being an informal meeting, there was no action on Agenda items 2 (public comment) or 3 (approval of February 6, 2018 minutes)

Scott Weber presented on the 2040 Plan Retrospective and Direction for 2050 Plan. The format of the presentation was the same as at other NIRPC topical committee meetings throughout late March into April. The presentation was about highlights of the 2040 Plan and milestones for the 2050 Plan. The presentation was also about the overall planned approach for developing the 2050 Plan.

David Wright asked how far out NIRPC plans on putting out the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for projects. Trey Wadsworth replied that NIRPC plans on releasing the NOFA in Fall 2018. David Wright also asked if there will still be both highway and transit projects solicited for in the NOFA and if there would be a land use component for evaluating projects in the NOFA. Trey Wadsworth replied yes to both questions.

Stephan Summers discussed INDOT's project lettings. David Wright asked about the I-65 bridge project and if it included the Central Avenue bridge deck replacement. Stephan replied that it does.

Scott Weber gave the NIRPC staff updates. NIRPC has been working on the 2018 Household Travel Survey along with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). So far the survey has gone through 3 pilot tests, and there is an effort to improve response rates. There will hopefully be data collection beginning in the Spring 2018, but if not, then in Fall 2018. The development of the performance based planning and programming framework will be critical in the development of the 2050 Plan. Scott Weber mentioned that he attended a training on transportation performance management target setting with the National Transit Institute. Scott Weber mentioned that NIRPC has been partnering with Valparaiso University on a reliability and congestion project to better analyze the massive amount of data that NIRPC has access to. Scott mentioned that INDOT has been working on an update to the Air Quality Post Processor through a contract with Cambridge Systematics and DLZ that will allow NIRPC to directly calculate air quality conformity results. The tool will be available by May 16.

Scott Weber mentioned the Local Trax funding program just launched by INDOT to provide an 80/20 match for various projects that improve conditions at railway at-grade crossings. Dean Button brought up a discussion about upgrading bus shelters for ADA accessibility. Trey Wadsworth mentioned that this discussion is about whether all bus stops (not just shelters) are in ADA Transition Plans. David Wright mentioned that he would provide Dean Button with locations of GPTC's system and stops in Hammond.