

LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING
NIRPC Dune Room
April 4, 2019
Minutes

Members & Visitors: Greg Stinson, Tom Fath, George Topoll, La’Kisha Girder, Michael Barry, Nick Bellar, Bushra Rehman, Kristina Kuzma, George Malis, Sergio Mendoza, Ross Pietrzak.

NIRPC Staff: Eman Ibrahim, Mary Thorne, Gabrielle Biciunas.

Greg Stinson called the meeting to order at 10:38 am.

On motion by George Topoll and a second by Kristina Kuzma, the minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting were approved.

Regional Planning –

Eman Ibrahim gave an update of *Creating Livable Communities*. Assessment analyses were presented for metro centers (populations greater than 70,000), large centers (populations of 20,000 to 70,000), medium centers (populations of 6,000 to 20,000) and small centers (populations under 6,000). Housing density, jobs, walkability score were measured and assessed. Future funding will help with more planning for livable centers.

Eman presented the draft *NWI 2050 Plan* which is out for public comment through April 30. The Plan examines trends and influences of the future including economy and place, environment, mobility, and people and leaders. It identifies strategies to pursue, investments to make, and progress to measure to achieve the vision for the region. This plan provides sixteen critical paths of action to be prepared for Northwestern Indiana’s future. The Plan is online at <https://www.nirpc.org/2040-plan/transportation/2050-plan/>. Information includes the Plan Storybook, the Plan in PDF format, a link for comments and information on the open houses and public hearings which will be held during the last full week of April.

Also out for public comment through April 30 is the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. It includes projects from the 2018-2021 TIP as well as projects from the last NOFA and INDOT projects. It is on the NIRPC website at under the Transportation/2020-2024 TIP dropdown. All input from the public and the topical committees will be presented in a public comment report.

The Transportation Conformity Determination for the *NWI 2050 Plan* and 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program can be found on the NIRPC website under the Environmental - Air Quality drop down. It is also open for public comment through April 30.

George Malis expressed concerns for shrinking green space islands which could adversely affect non-human biological life.

Communities Update –

Updates were provided by Sergio Mendoza and George Topoll.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be on June 6 at 10:30 a.m.

On a motion by George Topoll and a second by Sergio Mendoza, Greg Stinson adjourned the meeting at noon.