

Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee
Lake & Porter Counties
6100 Southport Road, Portage
November 26, 2019
Meeting Minutes

In attendance were, Dean Button (Hammond), Steve King (Merrillville), Sandy Kolb (Portage), John Harrison (Portage), Phil Gralik (Hobart), Bob Thompson (Porter County), Jeff Huet (Schererville), George Topoll (Union Township), Adam McAlpine (Valparaiso), and David Wright (Gary/GPTC).

Dennis Cobb, Ron Wiedeman, Tim Hollandsworth (INDOT), Eric Wolverton, Michael Jabo, Jake Dammarell, and Christopher Murphy,

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Kevin Polette, and Candice Eklund.

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

There were changes noted for the August 27, 2019 minutes. The corrections were a request to correct the spelling of a few members in attendance. The minutes of the August 27, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected on a motion by Dean Button and seconded by Jeff Huet.

Public Comments

There were no public comments requested.

2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

- Christopher Murphy requested phasing the Samuelson Road project, DES #1382010, due to the CSX railroad charging 4 million dollars to build a run-a-round. The first construction phase for improvements on Central Avenue from Willowcreek Road to the Willowdale Road intersection is approximately 5 million dollars. There is currently 2 million dollars assigned to construction and are now requesting to reassign the funding for the Samuelson Road reconstruction to the overall Central Avenue project. This would allow the full 5 million dollars for the two construction phases in 2022 and 2023. Mr. Murphy stated the project had a previous score of 72 but when rescored in the 2018/19 NOFA, was scored at 76. On motion by George Topoll and second by Bob Thompson, the committee voted in favor of repurposing three million dollars in 2023 from DES #1382010 to a new DES number to be assigned for phase II construction.
- The movements of DES #1173460, with the Town of Schererville, and DES #1601145, with the City of East Chicago. Schererville is requesting to move 1173430 to beyond 2024, while East Chicago would like to move their project out to 2022 or 2023. Schererville commented that with Local Trax project, moving this project out works better for the phasing flow. East Chicago is waiting for a response from INDOT about putting their trail on INDOT's bridge. These moves have created a funding surplus of over 5 million dollars in 2021. Charles Bradsky has scheduled a special TROC meeting on December 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss how the additional funds will be assigned. Charles stated it is preferred a project (or two) be moved forward rather than expanding the scope. Charles asked the communities wanting to request their project be considered in 2021, to email him at cbradsky@nirpc.org
- Charles congratulated the City of Portage on their letting being awarded \$30,000 under budget for their intersection improvement project at Willowcreek Road and Central Avenue. The additional savings will be added to the Change Orders spending category.
- Charles noted that there are still five LPAs who have not completed and turned in their DES number request forms.

Other New Business

Dean Button informed the committee that John McFadden had passed away. Mr. McFadden recently retired from a career with the Indiana Department of Transportation.

Tim Hollandsworth announced that Matt Deichtley, who had been the Acting Deputy Commissioner for the LaPorte District, is now the Deputy Commissioner.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next regularly scheduled TROC Lake/Porter meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. A special TROC meeting to discuss the additional available funding in 2021 will be held on December 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.