

Technical Planning Committee
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-04 and 20-09, extended by Executive Order 20-39. All persons were meeting remotely on a Google Meet platform that allowed for real time interaction and supported the public's ability to observe and record the proceedings. When the agenda item was provided for public comment, this was supported as well. A roll call was taken to motion and approve the agenda items.

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee members present were Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), David Wright (GPTC), George Topoll (Union Township), Kay Nelson (FORUM), and Kelly Wenger (NICTD).

Others present were Lauri Keagle (SSCC), Beth West (La Porte Transport), and Joyce Newland (Federal Highway).

Staff present were Mitch Barloga, Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Candice Eklund, Charles Bradsky, Peter Kimball, and Flor Baum.

The July 7, 2020 meeting minutes were approved on motion by Kay Nelson and second by George Topoll.

Public Comments

No public comments to announce.

Planning

Scott Weber presented on *MOVE NWI* Resolution 20-22. The public comment report was released and made available on August 10 through August 31, and there were no comments received in the 21 days that it was posted. *MOVE NWI* Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federally required process. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have recommended the CMP be updated, which was last updated in 2011. *MOVE NWI* will have passively collected data coming from several sources, especially big data as opposed to static data that is currently being used. This will be a shared responsibility between NIRPC and project sponsors. NIRPC will allocate the resources to acquire and maintain the analytical tools used in *MOVE NWI*. The NOFA process will include *MOVE NWI* as an easy-to-understand checklist to determine whether a project is exempt or needs to be screened for CMP compliance. This will apply to three (3) program areas of the NOFA, which is the Roadway Improvement Program, Quality of Place Program, and New Roadway Projects. The committee discussed how frequently *MOVE NWI* CMP will be updated. Scott Weber explained that NIRPC receives a Federal Certification review every four (4) years from Federal Highway and Federal Transit. Roll call was announced, and the following present members voted to recommend Resolution 20-22: Kevin Breitzke, George Topoll, Mark O'Dell, David Wright, Beth West, and Kelly Wenger. There were no members who opposed. On motion by David Wright and second by George Topoll, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) unanimously voted to recommend the *MOVE NWI* Resolution 20-22 to The Commission for adoption.

Programming

Charles Bradsky presented on Resolution 20-23; draft changes included in Amendment #10 to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The public comment report was released and made available on August 14 through September 4, and there were no comments received in the 21 days that it was posted. Charles informed the committee of clerical errors in the meeting packet report. The sponsor is La Porte County on pp. 110 - 111, and the sponsor is Lake County on p. 112. INDOT is not the sponsor. However, the public comment did contain the corrected report. NIRPC sent the list of the projects to the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) for comments, prior to being posted on their website. NIRPC received minor comments from the ICG and were approved on August 26. This amendment comprises 17 projects covering FY-20 through FY-24. Seven (7) projects have local sponsors, and 10 projects were sponsored by Federal or State agencies, IDOT or Federal Lands. Two (2) projects have been added to the TIP for Federal Lands. The City of Gary added PE funds from their construction (CN) funds from their 12-20 project. La Porte County added a project for sidewalks and union mills, and a bridge replacement. Right of Way (ROW) funds were added to the Lincoln Trail extension project from Westville to Purdue Northwest. Lake County had a bridge replacement project. Michigan City eliminated the Woodland Ave project in FY-22. Portage added demonstration funds to the CN project on Crisman Rd. INDOT had 8 projects: Three (3) bridge replacements, one (1) intersection improvement, one (1) overhead sign inspection project, one (1) statewide safety consultation project, and two (2) projects related with the Local Tracks in Gary on Clark Rd. For better maintenance tracking purposes, INDOT has created two DES numbers for every Local Tracks project: one for road work and one for the actual bridge.

Roll call was announced, and the following present members voted to recommend Resolution 20-23: Kevin Breitzke, George Topoll, Mark O'Dell, David Wright, Beth West, and Kelly Wenger. There were no members who opposed. On motion by Kay Nelson and second by George Topoll, the TPC unanimously voted to recommend Resolution 20-23 TIP amendment # 10 to The Commission for adoption.

Charles Bradsky presented on NOFA updates. The NOFA has been posted to the NIRPC website. NIRPC staff has been sending test applications to assure that the process is functioning properly. Comments from the 2018-2019 NOFA were revisited. Meetings with NIRPC staff will continue. A summary spreadsheet will be made available on October 21 to promote transparency. The NOFA workshop will also continue from past practices. A link to the maps needed will be included in every application. An expanded section for bridge rehabilitation is in Roadway Improvement. New bridges will be part of New Roadway. PE and ROW funding will remain at 7%. 5 ½ weeks will be given to submit the application. Committees have three (3) months to review, discuss, and score projects. Contact Charles Bradsky with any questions at cbradsky@nirp.org, or by phone at 219-763-6060.

Topical Committee Reports

Mitch Barloga spoke on the Ped, Pedal, and Paddle Committee (3PC). The October 1 meeting will be postponed to late October, or early November. Eman Ibrahim spoke on the Land Use Committee's (LUC) TOD programming presentation and E-commerce Impacts presentation from their previous meeting. Presentations can be found on the NIRPC website under the Land Use Committee. Charles Bradsky spoke on the TROC newsletter and asked to contact him to be added to the email notification list.

Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

Announcements and upcoming dates were shared with the committee.

Upcoming meetings were announced. There was a correction on the meeting date from September 16 to September 17.

Next Meeting

The next Technical Planning Committee (TPC) meeting is slated for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the NIRPC offices.

The meeting concluded at 10:54 a.m.