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## Surface Transportation Committee (STC) Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Google Meet Information:

Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/fkv-urop-dst>

Dial in: (336) 701-1847

PIN: 276386056

### Annotated Agenda

- 1.0 **Call to Order by Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2.0 **Minutes of August 4, 2020** (pp. 2-4)  
*Action Requested: Approval*
- 3.0 **Reviewing Notice of Funding Availability NOFA Applications (Scott Weber)** (pp. 5-6)  
*Staff will review the Surface Transportation Committee-assigned project applications of the Fiscal Years (FY) 2025-2026 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in a random order. Applicants will have an opportunity to briefly present their project(s) to the committee. The focus will be to ensure that the applications are in proper order so that they can proceed to a final scoring recommendation to the NIRPC Technical Planning Committee (TPC) no later than January 2021.*
- 4.0 **Adjournment.** The next STC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Room at the NIRPC office.

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## **SURFACE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **Virtual Meeting**

**August 4, 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.

Tom Schmitt called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. In attendance were Richard Hardaway (Merrillville), Gerald Swets (Saint John), Michael Jabo (Valparaiso), David Wright (Gary Public Transit), Jeff Huet (Schererville), George Topoll (Union Township), and Kevin Breitzke (Porter County Surveyor).

NIRPC staff present were Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Candice Eklund, Peter Kimball, Charles Bradsky, James Winters, and Flor Baum.

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting were approved on motion by George Topoll and second Richard Hardaway.

Charles Bradsky presented on the plans for the upcoming Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA); the next open opportunity for eligible applicants to apply for federal funds for surface infrastructure projects. The NOFA will be open to receive applications from September 11 to October 21. Similar to last year, a workshop will be conducted on September 29 to discuss any questions regarding the application. NIRPC staff will also be available for one-on-one assistance. Between November through February, the topical committees will review the applications. The Technical Planning Committee will meet February 9th to award the projects. In April of 2021, the TIP is expected to be adopted with all the new projects at the Commission Meeting. There will be two STC-related program applications: 1) New Roadways, and 2) Roadway Improvements. Generally, the applications are similar to the Past NOFA. Please see below for the changes.

- In the previous NOFA application, funds were set aside for risk. Now, funds will be set aside for future PE and ROW.
- Question 13A of the programming rules covers group 1, in which \$250 thousand per year will be set aside for PE and ROW. Question 13B of the programming rules covers group 2, in which \$70 thousand per year will be set aside for PE and ROW.
- Any project exceeding \$6 million and cannot be broken into phases shall be deemed a Transformative Project. It will be reviewed separately from the other NOFA projects by the TPC.
- All LPA's are to provide uninflated funding requests. NIRPC staff will put together a matrix and inflate all funding according to historical spending.
- Currently, there is no Federal Transportation Highway bill, therefore the funding overview amounts have not changed.
- Planning and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) have their own category.

- The New Roadways section will continue to be reviewed by STC. However, the Land Use Committee will also give input.
- The General Project Information section will be populated with all the risk. This includes, but is not limited to railroad involvement, ROW needs and type, Regional significance, and NEPA documentation.
- Lastly, the LPAs will submit all project applications and supporting materials through a Google Form. This has a couple benefits:
  - A notification will be sent to Charles and the LPA to include what was submitted.
  - The project's general information will be accessible to the public on a Google spreadsheet after October 21.

Charles is currently working on the categorical funding targets and other pending business. He is expected to complete and post all applications on NIRPC's website on the tentative date of September 1.

Scott Weber presented on NIRPC's progress for the upcoming MOVE NWI Congestion Management Process (CMP), a federally required process. Preparation to adopt MOVE NWI is needed due to the 2011 CMP being outdated. E-commerce has changed the way people purchase goods. The COVID-19 pandemic has also reshaped mode choice. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have recommended the CMP be updated. 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 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process will include MOVE NWI as an easy-to-understand checklist to determine whether a project is categorically exempt or needs to be screened for CMP compliance. MOVE NWI will follow the federally required 8-step process. This includes identifying and describing data sources used to measure the performance measures. It also includes analyzing existing conditions, and noting problems of congestion in Northwestern Indiana, and Identifying and assessing strategies. Projects will be periodically evaluated. MOVE NWI objectives correspond to a performance measure and is organized by the NWI 2050 Critical Path. Thirty four (34) strategies (grouped in four (4) categories and broken down into tiers) derive from NWI 2050, additional stakeholder feedback, and literature review. Programmed projects into the NIRPC TIP are already adherent to the CMP and need not demonstrate NWI MOVE adherence. The Surface Transportation Committee (STC) will primarily oversee MOVE NWI with other committees sharing partial oversight. The draft policy is scheduled to be presented to The Commission for adoption on September 17. Contact Scott Weber with any questions regarding the MOVE NWI CMP.

The committee discussed the definition or a set of standards for "transit orientated development," (TOD). Scott informed the committee that pg. 50 from the MOVE NWI document refers to TOD. However, the definition can be improved. Scott will reach out to NIRPC's Eman Ibrahim for a more detailed definition of TOD.

Scott Weber updated the committee on Fiscal Years 2021-2022 of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The Fiscal Years 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program aligns the Commission's projects and resources to tasks fitting the NWI 2050 Plan and other Commission priorities. The Surface Transportation related tasks are planning data collection, in which NIRPC staff gathers and reviews data from various modes. Traffic count data will be ramped up, and geographic Information Systems (GIS) support will consist of mapping the collected data, putting into a spatial context. NIRPC will continue to move forward from the ADA bus stop inventory recently completed and continue to provide support for the NOFA process maps. NIRPC will continue to use and provide support for community data from the 2020 Census. Performance-based planning activity task will be led by Scott. There will be an interactive

dashboard on the NIRPC website by the end of this year. NIRPC is also planning to take a more centralized approach towards asset management planning.

There was no other business to discuss.

The next Surface Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices. Scott mentioned that the November meeting falls on election day. On motion by Richard Hardaway and second by George Topoll, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Confirm sent	Timestamp Received	Email Address	Q1: LPA	Group 1 or 2	Q2: Your name	Q3: Are you the ERC?	Q4: If not, please list the ERC.	Q5: ERC's email address	Q6: ERC's phone number (including area code)	Committee assigned to	Q7: What is the Program Name that this application is for?	Q8: What funding type is this project seeking?	Q10: Amount of funding requested	Q11: Give a brief description of the project
Y	10/21/2020 15:25:12	bcsanyi@reld.com	Chesterton	1	Bob Csanyi	No	Mark O'Dell, PE	modell@chestertonin.org	219-926-2610	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$1,867,935	Implementation of preemption through multi-agencies
Y	10/19/2020 13:58:57	ewolverton@structurepoint.com	Crown Point	1	Eric Wolverton	No	Terry Ciciora	tciciora@crownpoint.in.gov	219-662-3242	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$1,350,000	Intersection improvement (roundabout) at US 231 and Delaware Parkway. This intersection has an extremely high crash rate. The roundabout intersection will increase safety and allow for a better north-south corridor along Delaware Parkway. The roundabout project as well as the improved corridor are a goal of the City's as identified in their comprehensive plan.
Y	10/21/2020 14:36:50	dcobb@firstgroupengineering.com	East Chicago	1	Dennis Cobb	No	William Allen	wallen@eastchicago.com	219-931-8355	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$5,416,125	roadway reconstruction
Y	10/19/2020 15:10:46	ewolverton@structurepoint.com	Gary	1	Eric Wolverton	No	Rachelle Morgan Ceasar	rceasar@ci.gary.in.us	219-881-1310	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$2,880,000	The project will reconstruct the existing roadway including the installation of new pavement, curb and gutter, underdrains, and an enclosed storm sewer system. The proposed storm sewer system will be sized to accommodate all drainage associated with improvements within the road right-of-way.
Y	10/21/2020 15:43:26	salabbas@lochmuellergroup.com	Gary	1	Susan Al-Abbas	No	Rachelle Morgan Ceasar	rceasar@ci.gary.in.us	219-881-1235	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	CMAQ	\$928,000	The Gary Signal Improvement Project consists of a traffic study of existing signalized intersections within the
Y	10/21/2020 13:59:00	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Griffith	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Rick Konopasek	Rick.Konopasek@griffith.in.gov	219-924-3838	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$3,766,000	Main Street Reconstruction and Colfax Street Intersection Improvements
Y	10/21/2020 14:02:57	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Griffith	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Rick Konopasek	rick.konopasek@griffith.in.gov	219-924-3838	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$1,333,620	Broad St. and Avenue H Intersection Improvement Project
Y	10/21/2020 12:41:40	ewolverton@structurepoint.com	Hammond	1	Eric Wolverton	No	Dean Button & Mark Gordish	ggordishm@gohammond.com	219-853-6336	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$3,285,000	The project will reconstruct Summer Street from Willis Street to Indianapolis Boulevard, adding capacity by adding a two-way left-turn lane in the middle of the roadway, while maintaining one lane of travel in each direction.
Y	10/21/2020 14:45:02	dcobb@firstgroupengineering.com	Hammond	1	Dennis Cobb	No	Mark Gordish	ggordish@gohammond.com	219-853-6336	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$4,160,625	Columbia Ave road rehabilitation
Y	10/21/2020 14:14:45	pgralik@cityofhobart.org	Hobart	1	Phillip E Gralik	Yes		pgralik@cityofhobart.org	219-942-8271	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$2,373,855	Reconstruction of Colorado Street at US30
Y	10/21/2020 14:23:08	pgralik@cityofhobart.org	Hobart	1	Phillip E Gralik	Yes		pgralik@cityofhobart.org	219-942-8271	STC/LUC	New Roadways	STBG	\$4,435,200	Extension of 83rd Ave to connect to Colorado Street as a relief road for US30.
Y	10/21/2020 15:57:43	pgralik@cityofhobart.org	Hobart	1	Phillip E Gralik	Yes		pgralik@cityofhobart.org	219-942-8271	STC/LUC	New Roadways	STBG	\$4,767,840	Extension of 83rd Ave from Harms Rd to Colorado Street as relief road for US30
Y	10/21/2020 14:54:18	snimetz@cityoflaportein.gov	La Porte	2	Sarah Nimetz	No	Nicholas Minich	nminich@cityoflaportein.gov	219-362-2327	STC/LUC	New Roadways	STBG	\$935,322	Preliminary Engineering on North-South Corridor-Phase 1: US 35-SR 4 in partnership with LaPorte County. 7900 LF of roadway design, engineering, survey work and green infrastructure installation planning.
Y	10/21/2020 16:52:38	snimetz@cityoflaportein.gov	La Porte	2	Sarah Nimetz	No	Nicholas Minich	nminich@cityoflaportein.gov	219-362-2327	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$38,238	Emergency Vehicle Preemption
Y	10/21/2020 8:13:23	Alverson.Duane@gmail.com	Lake County	1	Duane Alverson	Yes		Alverda@lakecountyin.org	219-663-0525	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$1,045,625	Replacement of Lake County Bridge #45-00097 Colorado St over Deep River
Y	10/21/2020 14:17:04	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$2,010,760	57th Avenue and Harrison Intersection Improvement Project
Y	10/21/2020 14:44:40	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$1,588,000	Mississippi and 69th Avenue Intersection Improvements
Y	10/21/2020 14:38:23	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	HSIP	\$3,897,600	Mississippi St. and 79th Avenue Intersection Improvements
Y	10/21/2020 14:47:59	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$1,494,840	Colorado and Harms Road Intersection Improvements
Y	10/21/2020 14:50:20	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$3,389,560	Colorado Street Reconstruction - Harms Rd. to 93rd Ave.
Y	10/21/2020 14:53:21	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$1,300,320	Randolph and 93rd Avenue Intersection Improvements
Y	10/21/2020 14:55:30	jdammarell@bfsengr.com	Merrillville	1	Jake Dammarell	No	Steve King	sking@merrillville.in.gov	219-769-3631	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$3,660,160	Randolph St. Reconstruction - US 30 to 93rd Ave.
Y	10/21/2020 11:12:42	danderson@munster.org	Munster	1	Dustin Anderson	Yes		danderson@munster.org	219-836-6905	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$3,700,000	Reconstruction of Main Street from Columbia Avenue to Hart Ditch
Y	10/21/2020 14:18:48	skolb@portage-in.com	Portage	1	Sandra Kolb	Yes	Sandra Kolb	skolb@portage-in.com	219-764-5745	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	TA	\$2,475,000	Central Avenue, Phase 2, between Willowcreek Road and Peach Street. Reconstruction of roadway with added pedestrian facilities.
Y	10/21/2020 14:33:27	skolb@portage-in.com	Portage	1	Sandra Kolb	Yes		skolb@portage-in.com	219-764-5745	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	TA	\$2,475,000	Central Avenue Phase 2 between Willowcreek Road and Peach Street will reconstruct the existing roadway adding stormwater infrastructure, curb and gutters, pedestrian facilities and ADA ramps.
Y	10/21/2020 9:38:40	ewolverton@structurepoint.com	Porter County	1	Eric Wolverton	No	Bob Thompson	rthompson@porterco.org	219-465-3674	STC/LUC	New Roadways	STBG	\$4,293,000	The Porter County Board of Commissioners is developing a federal-aid road project to improve regional connectivity and operational traffic flow by providing a direct north-south route in Porter County, generally between the Valparaiso-Merrillville corridor and downtown Portage. Porter County in coordination with Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is seeking funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).  The proposed project is located in Union and Portage Townships, Porter County, Indiana. The project corridor is located on the Portage and Palmer USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Maps in Sections 35 and 36, Township 36 North, Range 7 West in Portage Township and Sections 1-2, 10-15, and 22-24, Township 35 North, Range 7 West in Union Township. The area is within the planning boundaries of Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), which consists of three counties in northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter and LaPorte).  Preliminary corridor studies have identified an approximate 2.5-mile wide corridor generally extending south to north, between US 30 and the existing intersection of Willowcreek Road and CR 700 and CR 750 W to the west and CR 475 W to the east, to establish roadway alignment alternatives for the project. Regional traffic patterns were analyzed as part of the NIRPC Regional Corridor Study (2016) which will be referred to as "NIRPC 2016 Regional Study" in this document. The study can be found on the NIRPC website at ( <a href="https://www.nirpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/RegionalCorridorStudyReport_Final2017.pdf">https://www.nirpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/RegionalCorridorStudyReport_Final2017.pdf</a> ). The study identified regional roadways with missing links which, if constructed, would improve connectivity to areas of employment, major interstate highways, metro centers, and dense residential areas. The extension of Willowcreek Road, from its current terminus at CR 700 N to US 30, was identified as a top roadway for expansion in NIRPC 2016 Regional Study which emphasized that an extension of the roadway would reduce congestion on corridors within 5 miles of the proposed extension. Consistent with the 2050 Northwestern Indiana Regional Plan (NWI 2050 Plan), the Willowcreek Road extension would accomplish the vision for a "Connected" NWI region by 2050 where NWI people have accessible, safe and equal opportunities for working, playing, living and learning.  The 2016 NIRPC Regional Study also determined that existing infrastructure has many missing segments for regional connectivity. Willowcreek Road was identified as one of 22 missing segments in the Regional Study with a "High" regional significance for employment and housing density. The Willowcreek Road extension was identified as the number one missing segment in Porter County in the 2016 NIRPC Regional Study and the third highest in the region. Additionally, during the 2016 NIRPC Regional Study, residents identified the expansion of Willowcreek Road and similar corridors as a top recommendation to enhance regional connectivity.
Y	10/21/2020 13:08:03	tnugent@dlz.com	Schererville	1	Trisha Nugent	No	Jeff Huet	jhuet@schererville.org	219-712-1155	STC/LUC	New Roadways	STBG	\$5,026,960	A new 4-lane, 4 span bridge for Kennedy Avenue over CN/NS Railroads

Y	10/21/2020 16:19:39	dcobb@firstgroupengineering.com	St John	1	Dennis Cobb	No	Craig Phillips	cphillips@stjohnin.com	(219) 365-6043	STC/TPC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$7,026,000	Road rehabilitation, sidewalk on 93rd Avenue from east of Keilman to the Town of Schererville
Y	10/21/2020 16:49:04	cphillips@stjohnin.com	St. John	1	Craig Phillips	Yes		cphillips@stjohnin.com	219-365-6043, option	STC/LUC/TPC	New Roadways	STBG	\$6,750,000	Extension of Cline Avenue from W. 93rd Avenue to 101st Avenue
Y	10/21/2020 15:16:30	mjabo@valpo.us	Valparaiso	1	Michael Jabo	Yes			219.462.1161	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	CMAQ	\$1,786,131	Intersection improvement at SR 130 @ CR 400N (Vale Park Rd) - Roundabout
Y	10/21/2020 15:21:06	mjabo@valpo.us	Valparaiso	1	Michael Jabo	Yes			219.462.1161	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	CMAQ	\$2,009,936	Intersection Improvement at Lincolnway @ Campbell St - Roundabout
Y	10/21/2020 21:16:14	mduffy@dlz.com	Winfield	1	Michael Duffy	No	Richard Anderson Jr.	randerson@winfield.in.gov	219-662-2665	STC	Roadway / Bridge Improvement	STBG	\$1,186,800	Roundabout for 117th Avenue at Randolph Street in the Town of Winfield