



6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368
(219)763-6060
www.nirpc.org

Technical Planning Committee

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 10:00 A.M.

Zoom Info

<https://zoom.us/j/93298638514?pwd=WkxFSdVidVhkZkRqN3pWeTg2REhQZz09>

Meeting ID: 932 9863 8514

Passcode: 637563

Call in: (312) 626-6799

Agenda

1. Call to Order by Chairman

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.2. Minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting (pp. 1 - 3)
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be limited to 3 minutes. Commenters must indicate their wish to comment on the sign in sheet.

3. Programming

- 3.1. FY 2025-2026 NOFA Project Programming (p. 4)
Charles Bradsky will present on recommendation for new projects in our 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
ACTION REQUESTED: Vote to Recommend

4. Topical Committee Reports

5. Reports from Planning Partners

6. Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

- 6.1. NIRPC Meetings/Events
 - 6.1.1. NIRPC Executive Board Meeting - March 18 @ 9:00 am.

7. Next Meeting

The next Technical Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices.

Technical Planning Committee

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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 20-50. 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 10:04 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee members present were Bryan Blazak (St. John), Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Blossom Mabon (Lake Co. Comm. Services), Beth West (La Porte TransPorte), Kay Nelson (FORUM), Jake Dammarel, Robin Tillman (Michigan City Transit), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Don Oliphant, Timothy Werner (CIORBA), Nick Bellar (Winfield), Adrian Vera (Lake Station), Jessica Miller, Gerald Swets (St. John), Eric Wolverton, Chris Murphy, AJ Bytnar (Gary), Katie Vallis (IDNR), and Kelly Wenger (NICTD).

Staff present were Mitch Barloga, Gabrielle Biciunas, Meredith Stilwell, Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Candice Eklund, Charles Bradsky, Peter Kimball, Denarie Kane, and Flor Baum.

The November 10, 2020 meeting minutes were approved on motion by Kay Nelson and second by Blossom Mabon.

Public Comments

No public comments to announce.

Planning

Scott Weber presented on adopting Safety Performance Measure Targets (SPMT) for 2021. The FAST Act of 2015 requires The Commission to adopt SPMT annually as part of the Federal Highway Administration requirements. NIRPC staff is recommending adapting States targets. The *NWI 2050 Plan* and *FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* must be amended to reflect the updated SPMT. Amended text to the *NWI 2050 Plan* were presented in 2021 in order to support the state target of no more than 817.3."

- Performance measure for rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled amended text, "0.776 in 2021 in order to support the state target of no more than 1.006."
- Performance measure for number of serious injuries amended text, "421 in 2021 in order to support the state target of no more than 3,311.4."
- Performance measure for rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled amended text, "3.677 in 2021 in order to support the state target of no more than 4.088."
- Performance measure for Non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities amended text, "58 in 2021 in order to support the state target of no more than 393.6."

Amended text to the *FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* were presented.

- Performance Measure Number of fatalities Amended Target to reflect "no more than 817.3 in 2021."
- Performance Measure Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled amended target to reflect "no more than 1.006 in 2021."

- Performance Measure Number of serious injuries amended target to reflect “no more than 3,311.4 in 2021.”
- Performance Measure Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled amended target to reflect “no more than 4.088 in 2021.”
- Performance Measure Non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities amended target to reflect “no more than 393.6 in 2021.”

On motion by George Topoll and second by Kelly Wenger, the Technical Planning Committee approved to recommend Resolution 21-02 to The Commission.

Programming

Charles Bradsky presented on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #12. A public comment period began on December 18, 2020 and ended on January 8, 2021. The changes to the FY 20-24 TIP were also reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force’s Interagency Consultation Group (ICG). No comments were received. Amendment #12 consists of 47 projects from FY 20-24. 13 projects have local sponsors. 34 projects were sponsored by INDOT.

- Burns Harbor reduced funding in the scope of their trail project and added ROW.
- Chesterton accelerated the CN of their trail project and added funds to their ROW phase. CN is now in 2023.
- Gary added funds to PE to their 15th St project.
- Hammond deleted funds to their trail project. Hammond also changed the scope of another trail project and moved funds to a Complete Street project.
- Highland gave NIRPC a DES number for a project awarded in the 2019 NOFA.
- La Porte combined sidewalk and paving projects. Funding from two eliminated projects were moved to other projects.
- Lake County added funds for the ROW phase to their 45th Ave project.
- Michigan City added ROW crossing safety project.
- Portaged added funds for the ROW phase of Central Ave project and additional funds for CN.
- INDOT’s 34 projects include 15 bridge rehabs, one bridge replacement project, five pavement rehab projects, four traffic safety projects, three intersection improvement projects, one intelligent traffic system project, and five pipe rehab or replacement projects.

On motion by Kay Nelson and second by George Topoll the Technical Planning Committee approved to recommend Resolution 21-01 to The Commission.

Topical Committee Reports

Mitch Barloga reported that the Ped, Pedal, and Paddle Committee (3PC) met last week and finalized the recommendations of all the Trail and Complete Streets scoring for the NOFA applications. The scores will be submitted to Charles Bradsky for the TROC meeting and February’s TPC meeting.

Kathy Luther reported that the Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC) met last week and planned a quarterly schedule for 2021. Topics of interest were shared, and members were appointed to said topics. The schedule will be available on the NIRPC website. The next EMPC meeting is slated for April 1.

Scott Weber reported that the Surface Transportation Committee (STC) met last week to discuss prioritization of Tier Three expansion projects in the NOFA that were moved to Tier Two. The recommendation will be presented in the February TPC meeting. The next STC meeting is slated for May 4.

Reports and Planning Partners

Gabrielle Biciunas, NIRPC’s District Coordinator, reported on the Economic Development activities. NIRPC was recently designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) in late 2019 by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Funding was received in July 2020 to perform activities under that designation. The main functions of an EDD are to maintain and implement the

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). CEDS is a five-year strategy driven plan for regional economic development and guides economic growth of our three counties. We also have access to federal funds ED projects.

NIRPC has been awarded two CARES Act grant, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. \$1million has been awarded for our districts three counties to help with economic recovery. There are two initiative groups:

- \$400K responding to the pandemic by developing an economic resilience plan for The Region. Additional staff has been hired to help with capacity. Laptops have also been purchased for staff.
- A regional revolving loan fund program has been established to help in the recovery of any businesses within The Region that have been impacted by the pandemic.

Please contact Gabrielle Biciunas via email: gbiciunas@nirpc.org for more information.

Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

Announcements and upcoming dates were shared with the committee.

Upcoming meetings were announced.

Next Meeting

The next Technical Planning Committee (TPC) meeting is slated for Tuesday, February 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the NIRPC offices.

The meeting concluded at 10:39 a.m.

