



6100 Southport Road  
Portage, Indiana 46368  
(219) 763-6060  
[www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org)

## Technical Planning Committee

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Lake Michigan Room

YouTube Live Stream (viewing only)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NIRPCPlanning>

### Agenda

#### 1. Call to Order by Chairman

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.2. Minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting (pp. 1-2)  
*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. Planning

- 3.1. NWI 2050+ Draft Report & Public Comment (*Mitch Barloga*)  
*INFORMATIONAL*

#### 4. Programming

- 4.1. Public Comment Report for Adoption of FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (*Charles Bradsky*) (p. 3)
- 4.2. Resolution 23-05: FY 2024-2028 TIP (*Charles Bradsky*) (pp. 4-5)  
- [Invest NWI 2024 - 2028 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#)  
*ACTION REQUEST: RECOMMEND TO COMMISSION*

#### 5. Topical Committee Reports

Various committees are invited to report on their meetings.

#### 6. Reports from Planning Partners

- 6.1. Drive Clean Indiana
- 6.2. Other Planning Partners

#### 7. Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meeting

- 7.1. Finance and Personnel Committee – April 20, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.
- 7.2. NIRPC Full Commission Meeting – April 20, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
- 7.3. Surface Transportation Committee Meeting – April 25, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.
- 7.4. Land Use Committee Meeting – April 26, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.
- 7.5. Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee Meeting – April 27, 2023 @ 1:30 p.m.
- 7.6. Environmental Management Policy Committee Meeting – May 4, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next Technical Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices.

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**Technical Planning Committee**

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room

YouTube Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Hqq35XknBtU?feature=share>

February 28, 2023

**Minutes**

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Beth Shrader (Valpo Transit), David Wright (GPTC), Michael Jabo (Valparaiso), Dean Button (Hammond), Beth West (La Porte Transit), Ryan Lisek (DCI), and Mark O'Dell (Chesterton).

Also in attendance were Wendy Mis (Munster), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Duane Alverson (Lake County), Dennis Cobb (FGE), Robert Csanyi (Robinson Engineering) Julio Archavala (East Chicago), Terry Martin (C&G), Courtney Anderson (Ciorba), Amy Blaker (Lochmueller), Jessica Clark (Lochmueller), Chris Salatas (Cedar Lake), Scott Pruitt (FGE), Chris Murphy (Structure Point), Eric Wolverson (Structure Point), Don Oliphant (CBBEL), Jake Dammarell (BF&S), Leslie Beck, Deb Backhus (Gary), Jane Whedbee,

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Charles Bradsky, Scott Weber, Ty Warner, Kevin Polette, and Candice Eklund.

On motion by Mike Jabo, second by Dean Button, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) approved the minutes of January 10, 2023.

There were no public comments.

**Planning**

Scott Weber presented on Resolution 23-04: Updated transportation Air Quality Conformity Interagency Consultation Procedures. The five agencies prepared a protocol for determining transportation air quality conformity in compliance with Federal regulation. The protocol includes conformity procedures in relation to transportation plans, programs, and projects.

Scott reviewed both attachments that were also provided on the NIRPC web:

- [Transportation Air Quality Protocol](#)
- [Air Quality Conformity Interagency Consultation Group Guidance](#)

On motion by Dean Button, second by Mark O'Dell, the TPC voted to recommend Res 23-04 to the Executive Board.

Kevin Polette presented on the Metropolitan Planning Agreement (MPA) with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The Memorandum of Agreement is between NIRPC, INDOT, The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), and The Gary Public Transportation Corporation. Federal law requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), State Dept. of Transportation and Operators of Public Transportation Systems to engage in a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing transportation planning process. The agreement was sent to NICTD and GPTC in February for review. GPTC submitted changes and were added to the agreement. The new language is, "GPTC plans, operates, and maintains local and regional transit service in the City of Gary and several adjacent communities." No additional comments were received. On motion by David Wright, second by George Topoll, the TPC voted to recommend the MPA with INDOT to the Executive Board.

### **Programming**

Charles Bradsky spoke on the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Draft project selection. Charles presented the program of projects. NOFA applications were discussed categorized, discussed, and points were adjusted on the subcommittee level to be presented to the TPC. Changes were made live.

On motion by Dean Button, second by Mark O'Dell, the TPC approved, as amended/corrected to the Group I projects discussed, but will have to come to TPC again before going to the Commission for approval.

Group II was not discussed. However, Charles will take the top scores and fund projects accordingly. If funding amounts need adjusting, Charles will make those changes as needed.

On Motion by George Topoll, second by Mike Jabo, The TPC approved Group II projects with top scores to be funded accordingly.

### **Topical Committee Reports**

Nothing to report.

### **Reports from Planning Partners**

Ryan Lisek (DCI) reported on reported on upcoming events and programs within NWI. Please visit [www.drivecleanindiana.org](http://www.drivecleanindiana.org) for more information.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

The next TPC meeting is slated for April 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.



## **Public Comment Report**

### **Adoption of the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

#### **Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**

**April 11, 2023**

Adoption of the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program was released for a 30-day public comment period which began on March 6, 2022 and will end April 7, 2021. The draft TIP, including the projects submitted were made available at [www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org). As of March 31, 2023 no comments from the public were received during the comment period on the proposed amendments. A Public Comment/Open House will be held on Wednesday April 5 in Merrillville. Any comments received will be responded to and an updated Public Comment Report will be submitted after April 7, 2023.



## RESOLUTION 23-05

### A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING THE FY 2024-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS FOR LAKE, PORTER, AND LAPORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA April 20, 2023

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Indiana’s citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as “the Commission”, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County area, has established a regional, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation improvement program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties, and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission performs the above activities to satisfy requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (PL 117-58), applicable portions of all prior federal transportation program authorizing legislation, as well as other federal, state, and local laws mandating or authorizing transportation planning activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is a product of a multi-modal, 3-C transportation planning process, compatible with regional goals and objectives and socio-economic and demographic factors used to form the *NWI 2050 Plan*; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is an implementation of the *NWI 2050 Plan*, is fiscally constrained, and is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is developed by the Commission in coordination and cooperation with local elected and appointed highway and transit officials, special interest and service organizations, including users of public transit, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft of FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program was reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force’s Interagency Consultation Group (ICG); and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is subjected to public comment in the manner prescribed by the 2019 Public Participation Plan with no comments received; and

**WHEREAS**, the Technical Policy Committee (TPC) has recommended that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission to adopt the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby adopts the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program by adding the new program as an attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this twentieth day of April, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary