

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(Lake and Porter County)
Tuesday, May 23, 2023
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Steve King (Merrillville), Jill DiTommaso (Munster), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Andy Hansen (Schererville), George Topoll (Union Township), Mike Jabo (Valparaiso), David Wright (GPTC), Ryan Lisek, Jake Dammarell, Trisha Nugent, and Scott Pruitt.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Tom Vander Woude, Anne Weitgenant, Stephen Hughes, Kevin Polette, and Candice Eklund. Charles announced that Anne Weitgenant and Stephen Hughes are NIRPC's newest staff members.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2023, TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Mike Jabo and seconded by Mark O'Dell.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Spending Plan Update

Charles Bradsky stated there was a surplus of \$8 million in the spending plan for FY 2024 due to a project not letting in 2024 and being moved to 2025. With this surplus, Charles had preliminary discussions with another Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to possibly loan them \$5 million until 2025. Charles discussed moving projects forward to balance FY 2024 but will discuss with each of the affected municipalities before shifting their projects.

Charles received a call from INDOT on May 18 informing him that due to budget negotiations in Washington, Congress pulled back all COVID funds that were not obligated. Charles programmed the affected \$1.44 million into the three projects for FY 2024 that were obligated (had an open purchase order): East Chicago Trails, PE fully funded, St. John received PE funding, and Lake County Parks received ROW funding. The trail in Valparaiso will be funded under normal funding.

Other New Business

Charles Bradsky will submit an administrative modification based on necessity from the information gathered at the Local Quarterly Meetings held recently. It was also discussed that there seems to be a disconnect between the town officials and the consultants in terms of the project schedules. Charles requested a float be kept in the schedules for ROW, NEPA, etc. due to approvals now taking longer. More than 20% of all parcel acquisitions are going into condemnation.

Several MPO's, including NIRPC, are in an air conformity maintenance area, and need approval from the Interagency Consultation group (ICG) to ensure they are not adding additional burdens to the air

quality conformity process. The EPA provided new guidelines and will update the qualifying numbers late summer or early fall. NIRPC will present the 2024-2028 TIP before the Commission for approval in July, but will be conditional based on the approval of the air quality conformity information received.

INDOT's new web-based TIP will hopefully be available March 2024.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 15, 2023.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5q76SRe9T1w>