

## Technical Planning Committee

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room  
YouTube Recording:

[Technical Planning Committee Meeting 5-9-23 - YouTube](#)

May 9, 2023

### Minutes

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Beth West (TransPorte), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Lisa Shrader (INDOT), Julie Ritzler (INDOT), Ryan Lisek (DCI), Dean Button (Hammond), and David Wright (GPTC).

Also in attendance were Steve King (Merrillville), Chris Murphy (StructurePoint), Deb Backhus, and Amy Blaker (Winfield).

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Tom Vander Woude, Charles Bradsky, Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Stephen Hughes, Candice Eklund, and Flor Baum.

On motion by Mark O'Dell, second by Dean Button, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) approved the minutes of April 11, 2023, and the amended minutes of February 28, 2023 that include Porter County's Willowcreek Rd project and Schererville's Kennedy Ave. project to be allowed funding priority in 2029.

There were no public comments.

### Planning

Charles Bradsky gave an update on the FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) approval. It has been determined that NIRPC must revise the emissions budgets that are in the state implementation on Air Quality for NIRPC to demonstrate Air Quality Conformity for the NWI 2050+ and the FY 2024-2028 TIP. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has agreed, and the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) has allowed NIRPC to revise the 2008 Ozone State Implementation Plans (SIP) by amending the budgets, using the new travel demand model, which will be completed 60 days after IDEM submits the draft amendment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Conformity for FY 24-28 TIP and NWI 2050+ is slated to be adopted by the Commission in July.

Mitch Barloga presented on Res 23-07: FY 24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) approval. The UPWP is a core planning document required by the US Dept of Transportation (USDOT) that identifies planning tasks over the next fiscal year. The UPWP is also a financial planning document that links staff and resources to address regional issues with an emphasis on major surface transportation issues facing NWI today and into the future. NIRPC is responsible for transportation funding in the urbanized areas of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties. The UPWP sections were presented. The required elements are based on authorizing legislation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and are as follows: Climate crisis/clean energy transition, equity and justice in transportation planning, complete streets, public involvement, strategic highway network/US Dept of Defense coordination, federal land management agency coordination, planning and environmental linkages, and data in transportation planning. Additional initiatives include planning for an e-commerce landscape, regional transit, quality of place, active transportation, transit-oriented development (TOD), asset vulnerability, green infrastructure, and continually improved investment prioritization. The IIJA requires MPOs, like NIRPC, to expend not less than 2.5% of planning funds on Complete Streets activities. A series of planning initiatives are identified to

meet the quota, which equates to approximately \$53K, to be used in FY-24 towards the City of Gary's Elevated Trail Study and plans for Complete Streets Corridors. Additional budgets were presented. For more information, contact Mitch at [mbarloga@nirpc.org](mailto:mbarloga@nirpc.org). On motion by Dean Button, second by Mark O'Dell, the TPC approved to recommend Res 23-07 to the Executive Board.

### **Programming**

Charles Bradsky presented on Res 23-06: FY 22-26 TIP, Amendment 22-09. Resolution 23-06 was released for public comment on April 19 and will close on May 10. No comments have been received. Amendment 22-09 contains 28 new projects and modifications to projects for FY 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027. INDOT added 12 new projects: three bridge overlays, three bridge rehabilitations, one drainage correction, four Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and one National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI). There are five new projects for low/zero emission vehicles for East Chicago, LaPorte, LaPorte County, Lake Station, and Portage. Lake And Porter Counties added one bridge replacement each. Lowell added funding for construction (CN) on one project and eliminated another. Michigan City added more funds to CN for the streetscape project. Munster added RAISE grant to the TIP. NIRPC added three Marquette Greenway projects (one per county). NIRPC also added education funds to the Drive Clean Indiana agreement. Lastly, Portage added the Marquette Greenway truss bridge rehab project. INDOT pointed out clerical errors of 22-09 being labeled incorrectly. Charles will adjust accordingly. On motion by Dean Button, second by George Topoll, with technical corrections being addressed, the TPC recommended Res 23-06 to the Executive Board.

### **Topical Committee Reports**

The Ped, Pedal, and Paddle committee announced their will be no reprint of bike maps in 2023. Mitch rolled out the Bike Map App for Apple and Android devices.

### **Reports from Planning Partners**

Ryan Lisek (DCI) reported on projects, upcoming events, and funding programs within NWI. Drive Clean Indiana (DCI) is Indiana's only U.S. Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities Coalition. If your community is looking to implement any clean transportation activity, please reach out to Drive Clean Indiana at 219-644-3690, or visit [www.drivecleanindiana.org](http://www.drivecleanindiana.org) for more information.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

The next TPC meeting is slated for July 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.