

Technical Planning Committee

NIRPC – Virtual Meeting

July 13, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's extended Executive Order 21-16. All persons were meeting remotely on a Zoom 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 Brietzke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

In attendance were Mary Tanis, Beth West, Bryan Blazak (St. John), Eric wolverton, George Topoll (Union Township), Jessica Miller, Justin Kiel, Kay Nelson (Forum), Kauri Keagle (SSCC), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Kelly Wenger, Tonisha Sibley, Frank Rivera, Jake Dammarell (BFS), and David Wright (GPTC).

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Kathy Luther, Lucas Ecklund-Baker, Denarie Kane, Charles Bradsky, Meredith Stilwell, Candice Ecklund, Ty Warner, Kevin Polette, Scott Weber, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of April 6, 2021 were approved on motion by Mark O'Dell and second by George Topoll. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Mitch Barloga presented on the Greenway Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application overview. The Marquette Greenway is NIRPC's regional priority corridor trail that runs East and West, from New Buffalo, MI to Chicago, IL. The total length of the trail will be 60 miles. Currently, 34 miles have been either constructed or funded, and 26 miles are remaining. The 26 incomplete miles are in all three states (17 projects), and the total project cost is \$40,804,916. Burns Harbor has opened a new phase and Michigan City is concluding their phase of the corridor trail. RAISE started in 2009 through stimulus funding. \$3.9 billion has been awarded to 299 projects in all 50 states. It is 80% federal money to 20% local match. RAISE projects improve infrastructure, address public and safety, promote regional connectivity, or facilitate economic growth or competitiveness with improvements to racial equity and climate change. FY-21 began in April and ended July 12, 2022. There is \$1 billion available nationwide. However, on average, only 5% of the projects get selected. The total RAISE request for funding is \$23,119,945, and local funding (+ awards) is at \$17,684,945. The Marquette trail, entering County Line Rd, entering Porter County, is proposed to go through West Beach, Ogden Dunes, and into Portage. Please visit www.nirpc.org/raise-grant/ for updates. For more information, contact Mitch at mbarloga@nirpc.org.

Programming

Charles Bradsky presented on Resolution 21-14: FY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment #1. No comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. Amendment #1 adding new projects and making other changes as shown on the attachment. There was one deleted sidewalk project in The

City of La Porte. There was also one substantial edition of funds for an intersection improvement in La Porte. The City of Portage had a road reconstruction project. On motion by Mark O'Dell and second by George Topoll, the Technical Planning Committee approved to recommend Resolution 21-14 to The Commission.

Charles gave an informational presentation on Amendment #15 to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) via emergency amendment for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Funds for the transportation projects were in the FY 18-21 TIP. However, funding needs to be moved into the FY 20-24 TIP so that GPTC gets their grants before the funds expire. The transit projects have already been approved by The Commission.

Charles presented on Invest in America, a transportation bill that has been passed through Congress, and is being sent to the Senate with favorable status. For The Region, this means \$19M in potential funds for four different projects requested by Representative Mrvan. These will have to be obligated by Federal FY-24. The four projects are as follows: Kennedy Ave. bridge (\$8.1M), Willow Creek Rd. extension (\$7.1M), Central Ave reconstruction in Portage (\$2M), and 45th Ave reconstruction in Calumet Township (\$1.5M).

Topical Committee Reports

Mitch Barloga spoke on Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee (3PC). The committee met on July 8 and the next 3PC meeting is slated for October 7. Scott Weber informed the committee that the next Surface Transportation Committee (STC) meeting is slated for August 3. Charles Bradsky spoke on Transportation Resources & Oversight Committee (TROC). Lake, Porter, and La Porte counties are scheduled to meet on July 27.

Reports from Planning Partners

Lauri Keagle (SSCC) reported on funding opportunities and educational events. Please click [here](#) for complete details of the SSCC report. Visit www.southshorecleancities.org or contact Lauri at lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org. Denarie Kane reported that the NWI Regional Revolving Load fund has been launched. Please click [here](#) for complete details or contact Denarie at dkane@nirpc.org.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.