



6100 Southport Road  
Portage, Indiana 46368  
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www.nirpc.org

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION MEETING  
July 15, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.

**Zoom Information:**

<https://zoom.us/j/97117579813?pwd=eStqb0RKdUIEY0dsLy8rck9jRlJFUT09>

Meeting ID: 971 1757 9813

Meeting Passcode: 090024

Call in: (312) 626-6799

- 1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - George Topoll
- 2.0 New Appointments to the Commission - Attorney Dave Hollenbeck
- 3.0 Roll Call and approval of the Minutes of the May 20, 2021, Executive Board (pp. 1-4) - Candice Eklund  
***ACTION REQUESTED: Approval***
- 4.0 Public Comment on Current Agenda Items  
*Members of the audience who have signed up to comment on agenda items will be recognized by the Chair. Time is limited to 3 minutes per commenter. Commenters must indicate on the sign-in sheet prior to the start of the meeting.*
- 5.0 Report of the Chair - George Topoll
- 6.0 Report of the Executive Director - Ty Warner
  - 6.1 Staff Service Award
- 7.0 Environmental Management Policy Committee – Bill Emerson (pp. 5-6)
- 8.0 Consent Agenda
  - 8.1 Finance and Personnel Committee – Greg Stinson (pp. 7-9)
    - 8.1.1 NIRPC 2021 Budget Amendment # 1 (p. 9)  
***ACTION REQUESTED: Approval***
    - 8.1.2 [South Shore Clean Cities Contract](#) - available separately  
***ACTION REQUESTED: Approval***
  - 8.2 Technical Planning Committee - Kevin Breitzke (pp. 10-13)
    - 8.2.1 Public Comment Report on the FY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment #1 (p. 10)  
***ACTION REQUESTED: Informational***
    - 8.2.2 [Resolution #21-14 - FY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment #1](#) (pp. 11-12) - available separately  
***ACTION REQUESTED: Approval***
    - 8.2.3 [Emergency Transit Amendment #15 to 2020-2024 TIP](#) (p. 13) - available separately  
***ACTION REQUESTED: Informational***
- 9.0 NIRPC Economic Development District Report - Denarie Kane

10.0 INDOT, Matt Deitchley, La Porte District Deputy Commissioner

11.0 Other Business

12.0 Announcements

13.0 Adjournment

# NIRPC Executive Board Meeting

Electronic Meeting via Zoom

May 15, 2021 Minutes

## Call to Order

Chairman, George Topoll, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was convened as an *electronic meeting*, in accordance with House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1437 as incorporated into Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-13. 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 provided for public comment, this was supported as well.

## New Appointments to the Commission

Dave Hollenbeck announced there were no new appointments to the Commission.

**Roll call** - Taken by Candice Eklund.

## Present

The 9 Executive Board members present at the meeting included Bill Emerson (Lake County Surveyor), Richard Hardaway (Merrillville), Justin Kiel (La Crosse), Sue Lynch (Portage), Sheila Matias (LaPorte County Commissioner), Wendy Mis (Munster), Greg Stinson (Porter), James Ton (Chesterton), and George Topoll (Union Township).

The 6 Commissioners present at the start of the meeting included Geof Benson (Beverly Shores), Jim Biggs (Porter County Commissioner), Kevin Breitzke (Porter County Surveyor), Robert Carnahan (Cedar Lake), Jon Derwinski (Winfield), and Tom Schmitt (Schererville).

## Absent

The 3 Executive Board members absent at the meeting included Tom Dermody (La Porte), Michael Griffin (Highland), and Jim Pressel (Governor Appointee).

The 32 Commissioners absent included Kyle Allen (Lake County Commissioner), Duane Arndt (Kingsford Heights), Jeanette Bapst (Dune Acres), Janet Beck (Pottawattomie Park), Charlie Brown (Lake County Council), Bill Carroll (Lake Station), Anthony Copeland (East Chicago), Joshleen Denham (Trail Creek), Daina Dumbrys (Michiana Shores), Denise Ebert (Wanatah), Robert Forster (Kouts), Tony Hendricks (LaPorte County), Eric Hull (Burns Harbor), Jack Jeralds (Schneider), Andrew Kyres (Crown Point), Robert Lemay (Long Beach), Tom McDermott (Hammond), Lori Mercer (Westville), Edward Morales (Porter Township), Matt Murphy (Valparaiso), Duane Parry (Michigan City), David Peeler (Hebron), Bob Poparad (Porter County Council), Jerome Prince (Gary), Michael Rosenbaum (LaPorte County Council), Rick Ryfa (Griffith), Brian Snedecor (Hobart), Steve Spebar (Whiting), Gerald Swets (St. John), Sharon Szwedo (New Chicago), Mary Tanis (Dyer), and John Yelkich (Lowell).

Kingsbury, Ogden Dunes, and The Pines have appointed no representatives to NIRPC.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Kathy Luther, Talaya Jones, Mitch Barloga, Flor Baum, Meredith Stilwell, Denarie Kane, Peter Kimball, Kevin Polette, Candice Eklund, and attorney Dave Hollenbeck.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 15, 2021 Executive Board meeting were approved on motion by James Ton and second by Richard Hardaway. With Bill Emerson, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Sue Lynch, Sheila Matias, Greg Stinson, James Ton, and George Topoll voting in the affirmative, and no one voting in the negative, the motion passed.

**Public Comment** - There were no public comments.

### **Possibility of Remote (hybrid) Meetings – Attorney, Dave Hollenbeck**

Dave Hollenbeck reported Governor Holcomb rescinded the order allowing remote meetings in deference to HEA 1437 adopted by the Indiana General Assembly and its allowance to meet remotely during a public health declaration. Once the declaration has ended, meetings will not be able to operate entirely remotely, but a hybrid system could be created if a core of individuals would meet in-person and after a policy is formally adopted by the Commission. Mr. Hollenbeck will continue to monitor this provision and inform Ty Warner and George Topoll of any changes. Sheila Matias asked if a resolution should be created to support the continuation of virtual meetings for our commission. Dave noted the General Assembly is currently not in session, but this could be a possibility if there was a consensus of the Commission to continue meeting entirely remotely. George Topoll suggested forming a subgroup of Commissioners before the Full Commission meeting scheduled on July 15, to consider Sheila's suggestion.

### **Report of the Chair – George Topoll**

George Topoll reported that four notifications were sent to the Commissioners who did not respond to the Commissioner Interest Survey. Of the 53 Commissioners on NIRPC's board, 35 survey responses were received. George complimented Ty Warner on his efforts in creating the committee assignments.

### **Report of the Executive Director - Ty Warner**

Ty Warner discussed the press release that was sent out regarding NIRPC's project that surveyed and documented each bus stop in Northwest Indiana. Peter Kimball and Kevin Polette, NIRPC staff, presented their findings from physically surveying each of the 561 bus stops. NIRPC's Allen Hammond also assisted in this project. Photographs of each bus stop were taken, and data was collected for ADA compliance. A map was created showing the location of each of these transit stops with key information and photographs of the location. This electronic map was also provided to each transit operator. The map depicting this data can be found on NIRPC's website by selecting Transit under the Mobility pull down menu. The link also includes information on how to use the map and where you can connect between the various transit systems in the region. It also provides a link to each of the transit operators' websites.

Ty introduced Marie Foster-Bruns, the new president and CEO of One Region. Marie said she's looking forward to working with the NIRPC Commission and for them to feel free to contact her with any questions.

Ty informed the Commissioners that Jim Ranfranz passed away last month. Jim was with NIRPC for 35 years and was NIRPC's second Executive Director. Jim was instrumental in many things that still affect the region today, such as forming a task force to look at the expansion of the Borman Expressway to help relieve congestion and his involvement with helping to form the Northwest Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD). Dave Hollenbeck added that Jim wanted our MPO to bring people together and to speak as one voice on a regional basis and felt NIRPC should be more than an MPO but also a Council of Governments.

The EDA Bootcamp held on April 22 had received very positive feedback. The bootcamp aided communities on how to prepare their applications for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding programs and make them as competitive as possible. Ty urged the Commissioners to think about their projects now because the process will be very competitive. Since congress approved the American Rescue Plan, \$3 billion in funding was allocated to the EDA, and the notice of funding opportunities are expected to be announced shortly. For assistance in creating applications and navigating the EDA process, contact Denarie Kane at [dkane@nirpc.org](mailto:dkane@nirpc.org). Also, as part of the application process, the EDA requires a letter from NIRPC stating the project is consistent in NIRPC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). NIRPC will need a minimum of 10 days advance notice to prepare these letters for applicants.

Ty presented a slideshow depicting the results of the 2021 Commissioner Topical Interest and Demographic Survey, that included 35 of the 53 commissioners' responses received. The reason for the survey is to gain knowledge on where our committee structure equips the items the Commissioners are most interested in. The two final questions on the survey were the demographics of our board, which is needed for NIRPC's Title VI program, and the economic interests represented as part of NIRPC's EDD, because the EDA wants to see that the Commission acting as the EDD Board represents the general economic interest of the region. The current committee structure is composed of a potential 14 committees, all of which require Commissioner staffing and Commissioner involvement. The proposed committee structure going forward would be just four committees addressing Transportation, Economic Development, Environment, and General Governance. This

structure would provide better NIRPC committee focus and greater simplicity in fulfilling NIRPC's statutory mandates. Changing the committee structure, however, will require a Full Commission vote, which could be brought forward as early as the Full Commission meeting in July.

**Finance & Personnel Committee (F & P) - Greg Stinson**

Greg Stinson reported the F & P Committee met this morning to review the financial reports, bank reconciliations, and claims registers for April. The F&P Committee favorably recommends Resolution #21-13, based on the directive from the State Board of Accounts regarding the establishment of a policy for electronic funds transfers and online banking for special districts. On motion by Richard Hardaway and second by Greg Stinson, the Executive Board voted to approve Resolution #21-13, Establishing a Policy for Electronic Fund Transfers. With Bill Emerson, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Sue Lynch, Sheila Matias, Wendy Mis, Greg Stinson, James Ton, and George Topoll voting in the affirmative, and no one voting in the negative, the motion passed.

**NIRPC Economic Development District Report – Ty Warner and Denarie Kane**

Ty Warner presented Resolution #21-12, a Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of the Economic Development Administration FY 2021 Partnership Planning Grant Application to Administer the Economic Development District (EDD). This is to support ongoing financial support for administering the EDD. The EDA is requiring an annual resolution each time NIRPC re-applies for the operating assistance funding. On motion by James Ton and second by Bill Emerson, the Executive Board voted to approve Resolution #21-12. With Bill Emerson, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Sue Lynch, Sheila Matias, Wendy Mis, Greg Stinson, James Ton, and George Topoll voting in the affirmative, and no one voting in the negative, the motion passed.

Denarie Kane reported that a short list of consultants has been created for the RFQ and five consultants will receive the RFP for the resilience plan. Also, Denarie noted that James Winters, with the EDA, will field all application calls for the State of Indiana. Denarie encouraged any questions regarding applications for the EDA be addressed with her so she can schedule project calls with James.

**Presentation: Cline Avenue Bridge Update – Terry Veiligan**

Terry Veiligan, General Manager of Operations, provided an update on the Cline Avenue bridge project. The bridge opened in December 2020, is one mile in length, and has two lanes but has the ability to add additional lanes if traffic increases. A map will be developed to highlight businesses and attractions around the bridge and to re-introduce the bridge to educate people on its locality and to show incentive impacts for NWI and surrounding communities. The bridge offers the most direct route into Lake County and is the most time-saving route to Chicago. The bridge was 100% privately funded.

**INDOT - Matt Deitchley**

Matt Deitchley was not able to attend the meeting but did convey any questions could be submitted to him.

**Other Business**

There were no other business announcements.

**Announcements**

Bob Carnahan announced Cedar Lake has a farmer's market on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, and also an upcoming Business Showcase even with the Cedar Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Mitch Barloga reminded the Commissioners bike maps can be picked up at the NIRPC office from 8:00a-1:00p. For additional information, contact Mitch Barloga at [mbarloga@nirpc.org](mailto:mbarloga@nirpc.org) or to schedule a time to pick up maps, contact Meredith Stilwell at [mstilwell@nirpc.org](mailto:mstilwell@nirpc.org).

**Adjournment**

George Topoll referred to Ty Warner regarding commissioner's attendance at full commission meetings. Ty stated NIRPC's enabling statute includes provisions when a commissioner has missed more than three Full Commission meetings and the communities will be reminded of the importance of NIRPC representation. Ty reiterated that items on the agenda only provide half of the value in participating in NIRPC. Networking before and after the meetings and active participation are important because they build relationships that help build a better region.

Hearing no other business, George Topoll adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

*The livestream video recording of this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SznVZcnqpgc&t=2228s>*

## **Environmental Management Policy Committee**

NIRPC – Virtual Meeting

April 1, 2021

### **Minutes**

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's extended Executive Order 21-03. 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.

Bill Emerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

In attendance were Bill Emerson (Lake County), Brenda Scott-Henry (Gary), Geof Benson (Beverly Shores), George Topoll (Union Township), Kay Nelson (Forum), Lauri Keagle (SSCC), Susan MiHalo (Nature Conservancy), Jenny Orsburn (LMCP), Jan Bapst (Dune Acres), Celeste Kopperl, Dalia Zygas (Michigan City), Doreen Carey, Kathy Sipple, Nancy Moldenhauer, Sarah Nimetz (La Porte), and Heather Ennis (Forum).

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther, Meredith Stilwell, Candice Eklund, Joe Exl, Kevin Polette, Scott Weber, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of January 7, 2021 were approved on motion by Jan Bapst and second by Susan MiHalo. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

Kathy Luther reported on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project. There are 14 jurisdictions that committed to the project, including all three counties. All participating communities will receive an invoice from ICLEI to get the software. Kathy Sipple selected four additional interns, totaling six interns that will assist in completing the project. Kathy Luther will send out a survey to all participating communities. There will be a Cohort Kickoff webinar on May 6. Kathy Sipple added that they are looking forward to the next phase which is the Climate Action Plan. Funding will be needed to offer that to communities.

Celeste Kopperl and Brenda Scott-Henry (Gary) spoke on their previous experiences with NWI Climate Cohort. The City of Gary signed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy agreement in 2017. They completed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories in 2019. It is encouraged to identify resources like the department of energy and their better buildings as they are equipped with information to better help you collect data. A Climate Resolution was introduced, and the Climate Action Plan begins in the summer of 2020. The Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Gary regarding climate resilience and recovery directs The City to develop a Climate Action Plan that is data-driven and outlines emissions reduction strategies. They also oversee the planning and implementation process. Gary's departments and agencies coordinate to reduce emissions and prepare for climate change impacts. Community-wide emissions inventory for 2017 was presented. The inventory included but was not limited to transportation, industrial processes and products, and solid waste. The Climate Action Plan focuses on energy, air quality, environmental justice, waste, and wastewater. It will be introduced to the Gary Common Council by the end of 2021. Only local data was collected for the transportation sector. Laurie Keagle from South Shore Clean Cities can

assist in gathering transportation data. Regulated landfills report their information to IDEM. Please contact Brenda at [bhenry@gary.gov](mailto:bhenry@gary.gov) or Celeste at [eaintern@gary.gov](mailto:eaintern@gary.gov) with any additional questions.

Dalia Zygas and Nancy Moldenhauer (Michigan City) spoke on their 2017 experience with Northwest Indiana Climate Cohort. The Sustainability Commission (SC) has taken the lead on all of Michigan City's initiatives. Michigan City currently has not worked on a Climate Action Plan but are hopeful that the American Rescue Plan will have environmental leverage to do so. Thanks to the data collected, The Sustainability Commission placed recycling bins into all the city's parks. The lakefront beach is scheduled to have recycling bins as well. The SC is in the process of getting citizens signed up for Carbon Neutral Indiana where they offset their carbon use in various ways. The city has won grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Station. There are plans to hire solar installation contractors in the city as well.

Announcements were made. Lauri Keagle (SSCC) shared funding and educational events. For more information, please visit [www.southshorecleancities.org](http://www.southshorecleancities.org) or contact Lauri at [lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org](mailto:lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org)

The next EMPC meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
April 15, 2021 / Google Meet Virtual Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Greg Stinson, Richard Hardaway, Bob Carnahan, Justin Kiel, George Topoll

Staff and Others Present

Ty Warner, Talaya Jones, Kathy Luther, Lisa Todd, Stephanie Kuziela, Meredith Stilwell, Denarie Kane, David Hollenbeck, Wendy Mis, Bryan Blazak, Duane Arndt

Call to Order

Greg Stinson called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting were presented. Bob Carnahan made motion and Richard Hardaway seconded to approve the minutes. A roll call vote was taken with Bob Carnahan, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Greg Stinson and George Topoll voting in the affirmative motion passed 5-0.

Final 2020 Year End Financial Status Budget to Actual

Talaya presented the general fund financial reports, year to date December 2020. Total expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2020 are \$6,667,100 of the \$10,258,326 budgeted. When questioned by Commissioner Carnahan regarding what happens to the excess money, Talaya explained the money is in grants and is reprogrammed into the 2021 budget. Total general fund revenue for the period is \$2,096,002 of the \$3,275,273 budgeted. When questioned by Commissioner Carnahan if there is potential for uncollected revenue to be collected in 2021, Talaya indicated NIRPC has already started collecting some of the funds.

Talaya presented the financial reports for Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities (CARES), year to date December 2020. Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures for the period ending December 31, 2021 were \$2,534,727. Commissioner Stinson pointed out a \$500 error in the Departmental category. Total CARES revenue collected for the period is \$2,833,872 of the \$4,307,009 budgeted.

Review of Financial Status – March 2021 Budget vs Actual

Talaya Jones presented the March 2021 bank reconciliations for the NIRPC general account and the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) account.

Talaya Jones presented the March 2021 general fund financial reports. Total expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2021 are \$960,295 of the \$11,981,765 budgeted. Total general fund revenue for the period is \$22,885 of the \$3,574,659 budgeted.

Talaya presented the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities (CARES) Act financial reports, year to date March 2021. Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2021 are \$116,707 of the \$1,034,233 budgeted, with total CARES expenditures at \$1,154,048 of the \$5,267,013 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period is \$896,180 of the \$4,282,009 budgeted.

Approval of Claims Registers – March 2021

Talaya presented the March 2021 General Fund claims register totaling \$257,532.28 to the Committee for approval. Bob Carnahan made motion and Justin Kiel seconded to approve the March 2021 General Fund claims register. A roll call vote was taken with Bob Carnahan, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Greg Stinson and George Topoll voting in the affirmative, motion passed 5-0. The CARES Act expenditures register of claims totaling \$879,636.59 was then presented for approval. Bob Carnahan made motion and Richard Hardaway seconded to approve the March 2021 CARES Act claims register. A roll call vote was taken with Bob Carnahan, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Greg Stinson and George Topoll voting in the affirmative, motion passed 5-0.

Resolution 21-05 – 2021-2022 UPWP Amendment #4, FY 2022 Update

Kathy Luther presented Resolution 21-05 to the. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is NIRPC's scope of work for federal Department of Transportation funds spent for Metropolitan Planning Organization planning and transit oversight and is a two-year work program. The second year in the program is always an estimate and needs to be revised after the budget is determined and planning emphasis areas given by the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway are received. Amendment #4 is an update of the UPWP document to make the necessary changes. Bob Carnahan make motion and Justin Kiel seconded to recommend Resolution 21-05 to the NIRPC Commission for approval A roll call vote was taken with Bob Carnahan, Richard Hardaway, Justin Kiel, Greg Stinson and George Topoll voting in the affirmative, motion to passed 5-0.

Personnel updates

Meredith Stilwell reported that submissions have been received for the current job postings of Director of Transportation, Economic District Development Coordinator and Programming and Grant Assistant.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT #1**

To transfer within contractual and communication amount of \$75,000

**FROM:** Planning Department Communications  
**TO:** Planning Department Contractual

**Purpose:** Transferring funds from Planning communications line item to Planning contractual to cover the cost of a planning contract.

<b>CATEGORY</b>		<b>DETAILED BUDGET LINE</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Addition</b>	<b>Amended</b>
<b>CONTRACTUAL</b>	<b>Expense:</b>	<b>Planning Contractual</b>	320,000	75,000	395,000
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>Expense:</b>	<b>Planning Communications</b>	299,000	(75,000)	224,000



## **Public Comment Report**

### **Amendment #1 to the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

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

**July 15, 2021**

Amendment #1 of the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program was released for a 21-day public comment period which began on June 9, 2021 and will ended June 30, 2021. The amendments were made available at [www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org). No comments from the public were received during the comment period on the proposed amendments.

NIRPC has not receive technical comments from the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) as of this time.

Approval by members of IGC on this amendment has not yet been received.



## RESOLUTION 21-14

### A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AMENDING THE FY 2022-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS FOR LAKE, PORTER, AND LAPORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA AMENDMENT NO. 1 July 15, 2021

**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 Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015 (PL 114-94), 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 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs are 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 2022-2026 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 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs are 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 changes to the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs brought about by this amendment were reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force's Interagency Consultation Group (ICG); and

**WHEREAS**, the changes to the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs brought about by this amendment were 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 make these changes to the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby amends the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Programs by adding the new projects and making other changes as shown on the attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 15th day of July, 2021.

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George Topoll  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Richard Hardaway  
Secretary



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

June 28, 2021

Michael McNeil, STIP Director  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN N955  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. McNeil:

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is submitting Amendment #15 to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) via emergency amendment for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

The summary of this amendment is as follows:

- All of these projects are transit projects that have already been through the Public Comment process and have been approved by the Commission. However, the funds for these projects were in the FY 18-21 TIP. Two of these projects are for Complementary Paratransit, two are for planning, and one is for facility improvements.

It is necessary to submit this amendment in an expedited manner in order to allow proper amount of time to process NIRPC allocation of federal funds from the FTA. According to our adopted Public Participation Plan, the Executive Director can approve an emergency amendment by waiving a public comment period in two rare exceptions: life and safety, or the lapse of federal funds allocated to Northwestern Indiana. The attached project list contains the changes to be included.

Should you have any questions, please contact Charles Bradsky, Transportation Projects Manager at 219-254-2509.

Sincerely,

Tyson Warner, AICP  
Executive Director

CC: Jason Casteel, INDOT  
Larry Buckel, INDOT  
Cecelia Godfrey, FTA  
Jason Ciavarella, FTA  
David Wright, GPTC