

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(LaPorte County)**

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-04 and 20-09, extended by Executive Order 20-39. All persons were meeting remotely on a Google Meet 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.

Call to Order by Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance

Charles called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting were approved on motion by Mitch Bishop and a second by Jay Sullivan. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Changes to the Spending Plan

Charles noted that there is a surplus of nearly \$400,000.00 for FY-21. There is also a balance of \$409,000.00 in FY-22. However, there will be a deficit of \$115,000.00 in FY-23 and FY-24. Charles also noted that the sign replacements have been accelerated. In addition, per Jeff Wright, the Woodland Ave project funding for PE and CN was given back, freeing up \$900,000.00 next year.

Charles and the LPA's went through the spending plan and agreed to make the following adjustments:

- La Porte County will receive \$280,000.00 for FY-21. There will be \$21,000.00 for Change Orders (CO).
- The balance of \$120,000.00 for FY-2021 will be discussed at the next TROC meeting.

On motion by Beth West and second by Jay Sullivan, the committee approved the 2020-2024 TIP changes to the spending plan.

Laporte District requested funding for fire station preemptive signals. Despite this being an existing INDOT project, a new DES number will be required, per Charles.

Mitch Bishop gave an update on the Lincoln Trail extension. An archaeological survey was conducted and the NEPA was sent to INDOT. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, construction (CN) has been pushed out to FY-25 and the estimated CN is \$2.1M. This will need to be phased out. CN funding will be discussed at a later time.

Mitch also gave an update on Michigan City's Marquette project on Trail 12. The Michigan side is removing a lane on the northside and adding an easement lane for a trail. INDOT is supporting the trail to extend to the Indiana side. NEPA has been completed. However, per Charles, there may be difficulty with the railroad.

New Business

The effects of COVID-19 on funding has impacted La Porte County. They are currently going through budget hearings to reduce road funding by 18%. This affects Community Crossings. However, it will be revisited in September. It is uncertain if the decision will be favorable. There is currently not a new highway bill. INDOT is keeping the 2021-2022 rates. Per Charles, Next Level Trails has also been suspended.

Local Quarterly meetings are set for Monday Aug 3, Monday Aug 10, Tuesday Aug 11, and Thursday Aug 13.

Charles announced the NOFA will be released from September 11th to October 21st. He explained that the application has been adjusted, and will include additional questions in regards to risk, railroad involvement, and project phasing.

Beth West updated the committee on the bus replacement status. Transit busses have stopped manufacturing, of which two bus replacements were for 2021. Everything has been shut down since March. Charles indicated that money is good for three years. The CARES Act Funding may help pay for some of the cost, but he encouraged Beth to contact James Winters for more information on the CARES Act funding for transit.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m. The next regularly scheduled TROC La Porte Meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the LaPorte Parks and Recreation Department.