

INDOT Long-Range Plan Development Coordination Meeting Notes
Meeting with the LaPorte District and Northwest Indiana Regional
Planning Commission MPO Conducted at the LaPorte District Office, April 9, 2010
9:00 Am to 12:00 PM

In Attendance:

Steve Smith, Manager, INDOT Long-Range Transportation Planning
Roy Nunnally, Manager, INDOT, Manager Office of Modeling
Jerry Halperin, INDOT Long-Range Transportation Planning
Frank Baukert, INDOT, Long-Range Transportation Planning
Jeanette Wilson INDOT
Gary Evers, NIRPC
Bill Brown, NIRPC
Joyce Newland, FHWA
Steve Hauersperger, INDOT, LaPorte District
Lisa Shrader, INDOT, LaPorte District

Steve Smith began the meeting with a short review of the meetings' agenda. The three areas of emphasis of the meeting were noted for developing the 2010 update to the INDOT Long Range plan. Projects being shown in the plan for after 2020 will not be listed as specifics, rather as long range needs. A mention was made that the Major Moves listing was revised in November 2009 for timing, scope, and budget.

1. Discuss the Long Range Plan needs from the Transportation Demand Model and the MPO model.
2. Review updated Major Move Project Listing.
3. Open discussion of Long Range Plan needs.

Discussion was conducted on how the traffic flow maps were developed, on the base (2006) year traffic volumes and the growth rates that were used. The traffic forecast maps provided for this meeting had been updated from previous versions to correct several employment categories and commodity groups which had created significant extra truck trips. A medium growth factor was used for all population and employment increases. Also the maps do not show improvements completed after 2006.

Bill Brown described the status of development of the NIRPC 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the 3 County area and the scenarios being used:

1. Trend based upon 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 conditions; extrapolating data to 2040 at township levels.
2. Compiling all local comprehensive plans and combining for results, supplement with trend data for LPAs that do not have plans.
3. Concept being used in the planning process of centers and open space. This concept will help identify both areas of growth and potential consolidation.

4. Scenario of moving people back into central city core, redevelopment of abandoned city area through re-gentrification, which is similar to previous plans.

Other areas of discussion:

SR 912/Cline Ave Bridge: Project to replace original structurally deficient Cline Ave Bridge that has been closed for safety reasons. Locals desire the bridge replaced as quickly as possible, scope of bridge replacement is an issue due to decrease in work force in area. British Petroleum feels it will need bridge height for receiving construction material, although a lift bridge may be considered.

Illiana Expressway: Indiana has passed legislation for Public-Private Partnership as a potential funding resource. Illinois is continuing studies of the corridor. The concept of high priority corridors along with the types of projects that would be included, and possibility of the use of innovative financing was discussed. The MPO stated when Air Quality and Environmental Justice analysis are completed more information will be available concerning the desirability of the project.

Borman Expressway I80/94: Flood prevention measures due to the Little Calumet River; the study area includes the Borman Expressway from the state line to exit 13. The project will protect the Borman Expressway from flooding up to and including the 100 year event. This protection will meet current design standards for interstates in Indiana. The MPO feels flood control project not being designed as presented in description above.

Hi-Speed Rail: NW Indiana will have an issue with train speed as links will use freight lines from Chicago. The potential of a stop in conjunction with the Gary Airport in area North of Airport was discussed.

SR2: Added travel lanes from 0.8 Mi W to 0.9 Mi E of I-65, with ramp modifications. Project will improve safety and traffic flow and is currently listed as Interchange Modification currently scheduled for letting in November 2010.

I-65 at 109th Ave.: Adds new access to I-65 in Crown Point. The interchange will be a diamond with reconstruction of approximately 2000 feet of 109th Ave. This project will improve access as well as supporting local use, economic development, and growth outlined in the City of Crown Point Comprehensive Plan. Project was let in May 2009 and is under construction.

SR 53 Crown Point: Project is described in Major Moves as a pavement rehabilitation and intersection capacity improvement from just north of US 231 to just south of 93rd Ave. The route is an existing alignment in the cities of Crown Point, and Merrillville, The SR 53/Broadway intersections being improved are Summit Street, 113th Ave., 109th Ave, and 101st Ave. The 93rd Ave. intersection was recently improved by the LaPorte District. The project will add capacity with preparation for future growth along the corridor. Currently the segment from 113th to 93rd Ave.'s is scheduled for letting in May based upon an intersection improvement concept. INDOT noted the review of the current roadway lanes indicated that added travel lanes would be

provided in addition to the intersection improvements. The LaPorte District does not agree with the plans as shown as they believe it was to be a series of five intersection improvements and not Added Travel Lanes. The FHWA representative stated that based on plans discussed today, FHWA can not authorize project for a May letting.

Borman Expressway Interchange Modification: Interchange modification at The Borman and I-65, includes added travel lanes on I-80 from Georgia St to Clay St. Includes added travel lanes and ramp widening on short sections I-65 in the interchange area. Project has been let and completion is anticipated in 2011.

US 6 in Lake & Porter Counties: Added travel lanes from SR 51 (Lake Co) to SR 149 (Porter Co) has increased capacity to a five lane section with two through lanes in each direction and a center turn lane. The project will relieve congestion and reduce accident frequency due to the increase of commercial development. Construction is almost completed on project.

SR 49 at CR 400N: This project is the construction of a new partial cloverleaf interchange on SR 49 at CR 400N, on the east side of Valparaiso in Porter County. It will replace the existing at-grade intersection and will serve to greatly improve safety. The exact location of CR 400N going over SR 49 is being adjusted due to a NIPSCO power sub-station location and the cost to move it. Project is scheduled for letting 1/2011 with completion in 2012.

US 421 at SR 2: This project will add travel lanes to US 421 from south junction of SR 2 to the north junction of SR 2 in the City of Westville, LaPorte County. The project will improve safety and improve traffic mobility. Project is currently scheduled to be let 11/2010.

SR 2 LaPorte: This project involves widening SR 2 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes from K Street to 1st Street in LaPorte. The project will improve safety and improve traffic mobility. Current schedule status shows the project has moved beyond 2020 with a specific date to be determined.

US 20 Interchange Modification: Interchange modification at US 20 and US 35 in Michigan City, to increase the curve radius from 300 to 710 feet on one of the ramps. The project has been moved beyond 2020 with the specific date to be determined. The LaPorte District they would look at the possibility of doing an improvement in this area as part of future maintenance work.

SR 312 in Hammond: The LaPorte District noted they are talking with Hammond about a local project to reconstruct the roadway as a heavy truck route although the road is not listed as such. Hammond claims a Federal Earmark of \$14,500,000 while the district only shows \$8,000,000 in Federal Earmark funds.