

Transportation Committee  
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room  
December 2, 2025  
Minutes

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

The voting members in attendance were Kevin Breitzke, Dean Button (Hammond), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), David Wright (GPTC), and Martin Bobcek (Porter County).

Also in attendance were Ryan Lisek (DCI), Doug Ross (Post Tribune), Alex Olesker, and Scott Pruitt.

NIRPC staff present: Tom Vander Woude, Meredith Stilwell, Kathy Luther, Charles Bradsky, Grace Benninger, Stephen Hughes, Ishan Parekh, and Scott Weber.

On a motion by Dean Button, seconded by Tom Schmitt, the committee approved the minutes from the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Presentation

David Wright shared a presentation about GPTC's current service and their fall service changes, detailing their local, regional, and Bus Rapid Transit lines. Ridership is 31% higher than the lowest pandemic numbers with some routes above the pre-pandemic levels.

The Broadway Metro Express (BMX) will be returning to 20-minute route times. Cycle219 has added locations to better serve those using transit in GPTC's service area.

Planning

4.1: Grace Benninger explained the third quarter performance measures and their relationship with the previous year, demonstrating the online dashboard which will soon be available to the public.

4.2: Scott Weber gave an overview of air quality conformity, the history of why this process impacts Northwest Indiana, and how the change from the MOVES 3 to MOVES 5 EPA Transportation Emissions model resulted in modeled 2030 VOC emissions (one of the Ozone precursors) exceeding the motor vehicle emissions budget (MVEB) in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). As a result, NIRPC will continue to process TIP Amendments with only Exempt projects. Scott explained the process that will be followed to amend the SIP with revised MVEBs. Scott also mentioned that the Illinois portion of the Chicago Urban Area calculates their budgets differently from how NIRPC calculates it for the Indiana portion. The expectation is that the revised budgets will be effective in February of 2026.

Programming

5.1 and 5.2: Charles Bradsky delivered the public comment report and staff report for Resolution 25-18, TIP Amendment 26-03. One comment was received in the public

comment period, but it was not considered significant and did not result in any changes to the amendment or trigger a new public comment period.

The amendment consisted of Air Quality Conformity exempt highway projects (21 projects for INDOT, 27 local projects) and 20 transit projects.

Dean Button moved to send a favorable recommendation to the Commission. David Wright seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Reports from Planning Partners

Ryan Lisek from Drive Clean Indiana explained an upcoming notice of funding for projects with broad focus, including infrastructure for EVs. He also mentioned the upcoming EV Fest at Tire Rack in South Bend and a survey for charging infrastructure for medium and heavy vehicles along I-80.

#### Other Business

7.1: Tom Vander Woude presented the 2026 calendar of TPC meetings.

7.3: Scott Weber gave a brief overview about the Road Safety Audits completed this year and explained that the consultant will present to the Commission in January.

Kathy Luther discussed a contract with IDNR Coastal Program and Save the Dunes for a grant to provide technical assistance to those looking for grants related to green infrastructure, hazard mitigation, placemaking, and land acquisition. NIRPC is also available to help with mapping as needed. This would make the region more competitive for IDNR funds. Notably, this is available county-wide, not just in the Lake Michigan watershed.

Dean Button discussed the MDH funding restrictions based on PASER ratings and encouraged other municipalities to check into how this impacts them as well.

Next Commission meeting is December 18.

Next Transportation Committee meeting January 6, 2026.

Dean Button moved to adjourn, Tom Schmitt seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 11:11 am.