

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(La Porte, Lake, and Porter Counties)
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were, Doug Brite (Crown Point), Hashem Ahleshem (East Chicago), Dean Button (Hammond), David Heinold (La Porte City), Shannon Eason (Michigan City), Tim Werner (Michigan City), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Kevin Breitzke (Porter County Surveyor), Martin Bobcek (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Bob Thompson (Valparaiso), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), David Wright (GPTC), Doug Ross, Scott Pruitt, Jill DiTommaso, Chris Murphy, and Eric Wolverton.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Tom Vander Woude, Ann Weitgenant, Stephen Hughes, and Candice Eklund.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Program of Projects

Charles Bradsky reported that the East Chicago Trail project was awarded this week. With the upcoming Local Quarterly Meetings (LQMs) scheduled for next week, an updated meeting schedule will be sent out today.

New Business

Consider a Revision to the Cost Change Thresholds for NIRPC TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications.

- Charles Bradsky reviewed the amendment and modification procedures included in the meeting materials, specifically the Public Participation Plan, *Engage NWI*, and the TIP Revisions document, *Invest NWI*. The request under consideration is to move the TIP amendment definitions and thresholds from *Engage NWI* to *Invest NWI*.
- This recommendation follows a recent meeting with the USDOT, which recommended:
 - NIRPC should align its amendment and modification thresholds with INDOT standards for clarity on INDOT projects.
 - Move those thresholds from *Engage NWI* to *Invest NWI*, allowing greater flexibility since NIRPC adopts a new TIP every two years. This will also improve clarity, as the reader will not have to search for definitions and cost change thresholds in project revisions.
- NIRPC is also proposing updates to the region's current cost threshold of \$100,000 in additional funding to projects to reflect current pricing and inflation, as the current threshold no longer aligns with inflation costs.
- There will also be clarifications proposed to better distinguish an amendment from an administrative modification.
- The proposed additional criteria for an Amendment in *Invest NWI*:
 - A significant increase or decrease in project costs in the Cost Change Threshold table.
 - Change of years of a regionally significant project with the current TIP that results in a project's anticipated Open to Traffic year moving the regional emissions year in the Air Quality Conformity Report for the current TIP.

- The proposed additional criteria for an Administrative Modification in *Invest NWI*:
 - A non-significant funding change in the Cost Change Threshold tables.

Charles asked whether the committee wanted to adopt INDOT's thresholds fully for local projects or develop separate thresholds. He also noted that we could revisit the threshold in the writing of the next TIP (2028-2032). After much discussion, Max Rehlander motioned to update the verbiage in the TIP revisions document and adopt the INDOT cost threshold tables for all projects, with George Topoll seconding the motion. The motion passed with a majority of the members voting for it; Dean Button and Bob Thompson opposed. The committee also recommended that Charles Bradsky provide a monthly administrative modification report during Transportation Committee meetings, to be included in meeting materials.

Announcements

- Charles announced that NIRPC staff is developing questions for the next NOFA application and will present them at the May TROC meetings and/or to the working group.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2026 Road Safety Audits (RSAs) has been released.
- Additional RFPs will be issued next year for 2027 and 2028 RSAs. This is being done because NIRPC needs to adjust its funding for the RSAs from annual to biannual.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next TROC Lake and Porter meeting will be held on May 26 at 9:00 a.m. The next TROC La Porte meeting will be held on May 26 at 1:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the NIRPC office.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [TROC La Porte, Lake & Porter Meeting 1.21.26 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1.21.26)