

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(Lake and Porter County)
Tuesday, October 31, 2024
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Dean Button (Hammond), Phil Gralik (Hobart), Duane Alverson (Lake County), Steve King (Merrillville), Jill DiTommaso (Munster), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), Beth Shrader (Valparaiso), Martin Bobcek (Porter County), Michael Novotney (Porter County), William Allen (East Chicago), George Topoll (Union Township), Ryan Lisek, Eric Wolverton, Trisha Nugent, Alex Olesker, and Scott Pruitt.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 15, 2023, TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Jeff Huet and seconded by Dean Button, and one abstention by Martin Bobcek.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Program of Projects Update

Charles Bradsky discussed the Program of Projects (PoP) stating all existing projects are fully funded at 80%, as was requested at the local quarterly meetings. Currently, fiscal years 2024, 2026, and 2027 have a deficit balance with fiscal years 2025 and 2028 having a surplus. Charles will be rebalancing the PoP again this year. Charles informed the committee that in the future CN will be funded at 80% (or as it is currently), but PE, CE, and RoW will only be funded at 70%-75% due to many projects having left over funding when their projects are completed; NIRPC has begun tracking these amounts and we believe it is about \$100,000 annually that we are losing because projects are not using all of the obligated funding.

Dean Button noted he had requested a funding modification for DES #1901900 to increase the federal amount, including CE, to \$3,624,800 (totaling \$4,531,000 for the project). Charles will look into this. Dean said moving the project from 2026 to 2025 would be to close to schedule. Dean also discussed DES #2300656 stating the federal match is greater than the award letter he received from NIRPC. Charles explained that it was reduced because in the NOFA application, Hammond stated they were willing to pay the \$207,000.

Phil Gralik asked if the next NOFA will only allow for 70-75% matching funds on PE, CE, and RoW, will there be an opportunity to ask for additional funding if needed. Charles stated that would have to be a case by case determination.

Charles discussed why the 2024-2028 TIP has not been approved yet. The EPA assigned air quality metrics that NIRPC (and three other MPO's in Indiana) would not be able to conform to. The EPA has assigned new air quality numbers and is now going through several layers of approval, all in Washington, D.C. The EPA stated this matter should be resolved Spring 2024, but amendments to the STIP/TIP are on hold until approval is reached. The FHWA and INDOT have advised the affected MPO's have their paperwork completed and submitted to INDOT so

when approval comes measure are advancing proactively. Charles noted that the projects in the TIP before the amendment on July 25 this year are official. Charles is in communication with the FHWA about one sizable project. If a community has funding in 2024 and 2025, contact Charles.

Other New Business

Charles will be looking to move a couple projects from 2026 to 2025 and has already been in contact with those communities. Charles will contact other potential communities if projects need to also switch years. If other projects need to move fiscal years, Charles will contact them prior to doing so.

Charles informed the committee that the potential additional funding from the FHWA to NIRPC, that was discussed at the meeting in August, did not happen because the funding went to INDOT . Charles received notification last week the funds were for 2023 and would have expired on September 30, 2023.

The Notice of Funding Allocation (NOFA) meeting to discuss necessary improvements to the application will be held on November 9, 2023. Charles will rebalance the PoP prior to the meeting.

Beth Shrader asked where the unprogrammed funds are parked if additional funding is needed and Charles stated there was \$350,000 in change orders that could be used for this.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2024.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [Transportation Resources Oversight Committee - Lake/Porter Counties 10-31-23 - YouTube](#)