

Surface Transportation Committee

Lake Michigan Room

YouTube Recording:

[Surface Transportation Committee Meeting 11-14-23 \(youtube.com\)](#)

November 14, 2023

Minutes

George Topoll called the Surface Transportation Committee (STC) meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

In attendance were Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Jeff Huet (Schererville), George Topoll (Union Township), Andy Vasquez, and Max Rehlander (Valparaiso).

NIRPC staff present were Scott Weber, Tom Vander Woude, Jen Birchfield, Kevin Polette, and Flor Baum.

On motion by Jeff Huet, second by Mark O'Dell, the STC voted to approve the August 29, 2023 minutes as presented.

There were no public comments.

Transformational Projects and Federal Discretionary Grant Awards Updates

Communities spoke on the updates of their transformational projects and federal discretionary grant awards. The Town of Schererville's Kennedy Av project has had the NEPA reopened due to the Federal Rail. Letting is slated for the fall of 2024. Union Township's Willowcreek project is slated to start Ph I in the late fall of 2024. Ph II is slated for 2029.

2023 3rd Quarter Safety, Travel Time Reliability (TTR), Freight, and Congestion Update

Scott spoke on the 2023 Safety and Travel Time Reliability (TTR), Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) and Congestion updates for the 3rd quarter. There were 6,297 total collisions for the 3rd quarter, of which 1,662 resulted in injuries, and 25 resulted in fatalities. Cumulative collision data for Lake, Porter, and La Porte County were displayed. The TTR has lowered to 84.3% YTD, which is 8.7% below the 93% TTR 2023 target. Traffic congestion is due to I-80/94 Westbound. The Non-Interstate TTR is at 96.2% YTD, which is 3.2% above the 93% 2023 target. TTTR was at 1.38, which was .06 below the 2023 1.32 target. For more information, please contact Scott Weber.

Traffic Count Program Update

Scott spoke on the traffic count update. NIRPC is planning to sign a contract with INDOT in 2024 to perform traffic counts on a three-year rolling basis for over 1K stations throughout NWI. Only non-state-owned facilities will be counted in Porter and Lake County; state routes will not be counted. La Porte County will count both types of facilities. For more information, contact Scott at sweber@nirpc.org.

Staff Updates

Jen Birchfield spoke on the Coastal Resiliency Project. NIRPC has been contracted by the Department of Natural Resources to help develop the Watershed Hazards Resiliency Needs Assessment. The assessment focuses on preparedness for potential flooding and erosion. Watershed communities are encouraged to fill out the assessment. For more information, contact Jen at jbirchfield@nirpc.org.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m. The next STC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.