

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(Lake and Porter County)
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
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 Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Hashem Ahleshem (East Chicago), Dean Button (Hammond), Duane Alverson (Lake County), Andy Hansen (Schererville), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Sandy McDaniel (Portage), Martin Bobcek (Porter County), Bob Thompson (Valparaiso), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), Elise Bereolos, Scott Pruitt, Jill DiTommaso, Eric Wolverton, Tim Hollandsworth, Trisha Nugent, and Christopher Murphy.

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

Approval of Minutes

The August 26, 2025, TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Jeff Huet and seconded by Dean Button.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Program of Projects

Charles Bradsky reported he is finalizing modifications to the Program of Projects and will distribute the updated document to the committee members today. Fiscal years 2026 and 2027 are balanced; work is ongoing to balance Fiscal Years 2028-2030.

New Business

5.1 Local Quarterly Meetings Update: The Local Quarterly Meetings (LQMs) for this quarter will be completed today.

5.2 Issues with Project Letting in Q1 and Q2: Charles noted that although project letting dates are scheduled in the first two quarters of the fiscal year, some projects are still slipping to March or April. If a project cannot proceed to letting, the only option is to transfer those funds to transit to avoid losing them, as they are FHWA funds.

Charles asked committee members for feedback on the factors causing delays. Key points included:

- **Environmental Approval Process:** It was asked if INDOT could speed up the environmental approval process because they do not allow lettings to move forward with any exceptions. INDOT is now sending some NEPA documents to consultants and FHWA for review. Since FHWA - Indiana Division no longer has environmental reviewers, reviews are being handled by staff from other states.

- Review Scheduling: Charles asked if it would be possible to add more time for reviews and if the process could be started earlier. INDOT conducts Stage 1 reviews but does not schedule reviews for projects in out-year periods.
- Timing and Pricing: It was asked if there was a way to accelerate a project to be able to complete it between July and December. There is no significant pricing advantage for certain months. Historically, March was the busiest letting month, but delays have pushed lettings later in the year.
- Condemnation Issues: Approximately 20% of projects are entering condemnation.

Overall, no proven methods were identified to accelerate project schedules.

- 5.3 Electric Vehicle Orders and FMIS Requests: Two meetings have been held with the municipalities ordering electric vehicles. A total of 36 vehicles will be purchased, primarily for Board of Works departments. ERCs will need to submit orders soon to minimize the time between ordering and FMIS request, ensuring that funds are not pulled back.
- 5.4 New Question on the NOFA Application: Charles announced that the new NOFA application will include a new question regarding Commissioner participation in NIRPC Commission meetings. Additional points will be awarded for attendance. This policy will be discussed at the upcoming NOFA workshops and will take effect in January. The phrasing of this question or the point value has not been defined.
- 5.5 NOFA Improvement Working Group: Charles will schedule a January meeting for the NOFA Improvement Working Group to discuss and create a policy for the attendance-based point policy and discuss other improvements for the next NOFA cycle (Fiscal Years 2031-2032). No other new business was discussed.

A representative from Drive Clean Indiana shared updates and announcements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2026.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [TROC Lake & Porter 11.18.25 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11.18.25)