

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

February 10, 2026 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:30 a.m.

Members present

Bob Carnahan, Austin Bonta, George Topoll (*temporary appointment*)

Staff and others present

David Hollenbeck, Ty Warner, Talaya Jones, Meredith Stilwell, Lisa Todd, Darin Sherman

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

With a lack of quorum, Ty Warner called for the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:42 a.m.

Review of Financial Status – September, October and November 2025

The September, October and November 2025 financials, bank reconciliations for the NIRPC general fund, CARES funds, and Marquette Greenway accounts, and expense and revenue reports for the NIRPC general and CARES funds were provided electronically for review before the meeting. The reports were also provided in the Committee meeting packet. Talaya Jones presented bank reconciliations and financial statements for all three months to those present.

Year-to-date, September 30, 2025, total expenditures were \$6,747,355 of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. It was noted that the underspent Marquette Greenway contractual budget was due to the amendment still not being signed. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$2,606,074 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted.

Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures year-to-date, September 30, 2025, were \$376,931 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$379,196 of the \$235,800 budgeted.

Year-to-date, October 31, 2025, total expenditures were \$8,082,415 of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$2,716,457 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted.

Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures year-to-date, October 31, 2025, were \$376,931 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$379,197 of the \$235,800 budgeted.

Year-to-date, November 30, 2025, total expenditures were \$8,925,186 of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$2,718,885 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted.

Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures year-to-date, November 30, 2025, were \$409,235 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$411,739 of the \$235,800 budgeted.

Other Business

Ty Warner reported that he has consulted with Attorney Hollenbeck and NIRPC Economic Development Coordinator Denarie Kane regarding the requirements for closing the CARES Revolving Loan Fund. He stated that the program is no longer effective and that staff time would be better allocated to more beneficial economic development initiatives. Attorney Hollenbeck affirmed that discontinuing the program is the appropriate course of action.

Personnel updates

Ty reported that NIRPC is facing its first H-1B visa situation. He noted that everything should be manageable and that the next step is to determine the appropriate course of action.

Other Business

Ty reported that he and Justin Kiel conducted Capitol Hill visits last week and met with Representatives Yocum and Mrvan. He provided a brief update on the newly introduced bipartisan Bridges and Safety

Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act, which supports transportation reauthorization, increases funding and flexibility for MPOs, and includes provisions for rural areas. The Act, introduced on February 9 with a NARC press release, is supported by the Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition.

Commissioner Austin Bonta joined the meeting as Chair during Ty's report and appointed George Topoll as a temporary Committee member for the meeting, allowing for a quorum to be reached.

Ty requested the Committee's approval to draft a resolution supporting the BASICS legislation for recommendation at the February 19 Full Commission meeting. On a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, and with no opposition, the Committee voted to recommend that a resolution be drafted and presented to the Commission for approval.

#### Approval of Minutes

The October 7, 2025 Leadership Committee meeting minutes were presented for approval. The minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, and with no opposition.

The December 18, 2025 Leadership Committee meeting minutes were presented for approval. The minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, and with no opposition.

#### Approval of Claims Registers – September, October, and November 2025

The September 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$613,457.87 were presented to the committee for approval. The claims of \$613,457.87 were approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, with no opposition. The September 2025 CARES claims totaling \$3,810.00 were then presented for approval. The CARES fund claims of \$3,810.00 were approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, and with no opposition.

The October 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$1,322,065.20 were presented to the committee for approval. The claims of \$1,322,065.20 were approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, with no opposition.

The November 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$846,964.56 were presented to the committee for approval. The claims of \$846,964.56 were approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, with no opposition. The November 2025 CARES claims totaling \$32,303.98 were then presented for approval. The CARES fund claims of \$32,303.98 were approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by George Topoll, and with no opposition.

#### Other Business

- Ty will be away and will not be at the February Commission meeting. Director of Transportation, Tom Vander Woude will be filling in for Ty at the meeting.
- A new Tesla charger has been installed in front of the NIRPC building.
- NIRPC is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The committee discussed scheduling future Leadership Committee meetings. Bob Carnahan moved to hold future meetings immediately before Commission meetings at 8:00 a.m. With a second from George Topoll and no opposition, the motion carried.

The next Leadership meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, at 8:00 a.m.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.