

Transportation Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
April 7, 2026
Minutes

1.1 Chair Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The voting members in attendance were Kevin Breitzke, Dean Button (Hammond), Bob Thompson (Valparaiso Transit), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), David Wright (GPTC), and Kay Nelson (NWI Forum).

Also in attendance were Carl Lisek (DCI), Kelly Wenger (NICTD), Michelle Murday Pariso (NWI Forum), Jake Dammarell (BF&S), Alex Olesker (BF&S), Scott Pruitt (First Group, Beth Shrader (SEH).

1.2 Motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting as presented by Dean Button.

Second by Bob Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No comments were received from the public.

3. Planning

3.1 Resolution 26-07 – FY 2027–2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Tom Vander Woude presented Resolution 26-07 recommending adoption of the FY 2027–2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP serves as the federally required biennial work program outlining staff activities, planning tasks, and funding allocations, covering July 2026 through June 2028.

Key points included:

- The UPWP aligns with U.S. DOT, FHWA, and FTA requirements.
- FY27 focuses on development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update.
- FY28 focuses on implementation of the adopted plan.
- Approximately \$2 million in federal planning funds are anticipated for FY27.
- Funding sources include PL funds, Section 5303, CMAQ, HSIP, and STBG flex funds.
- Dedicated set-asides support Complete Streets, bike/pedestrian planning, safety audits, Marquette Greenway implementation, and Local Public Agency (LPA) planning assistance.

Motion to recommend approval of Resolution 26-07 to the Full Commission/Executive Board was made by Dean Button

Seconded by Bob Thompson.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.2 2027 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update - Informational

Tom Vander Woude, Grace Benninger, and Eman Ibrahim provided an update on Phase 1 data collection and existing conditions analysis for the required MTP update.

Highlights included:

- Update maintains the 2050 horizon and structure of NWI 2050+.
- Demographic analysis indicates an aging population and shifting growth patterns toward suburban edges.
- Urban cores show stabilization or decline, while growth continues along major corridors.
- Housing analysis identified supply shortages at both lower- and higher-income levels.
- Middle-housing and multifamily development remain limited in many communities.

Staff emphasized the use of income-based housing affordability terminology to improve clarity and consistency in public discussions.

3.3 Regional Truck Parking Study – Informational

Scott Webber presented findings from the Northwest Indiana Regional Truck Parking Study.

Key findings:

- Approximately 4,700 truck parking spaces identified (87% private, 13% public).
- Significant reliance on undesignated parking locations due to limited availability.
- Drivers prioritize parking availability and convenience over amenities.
- Study aligns with federal and state freight planning priorities.

The study will continue into goal setting and final recommendations.

4. Programming

4.1 FT 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modification, Charles Bradsky reviewed the administrative modifications from the prior month.

4.2 FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Emergency Amendment, Charles Bradsky reviewed an emergency amendment related to project phasing, funding changes, and zero-emission vehicle purchases

No formal action required; items were informational.

5. Reports from Planning Partners

GPTC David Wright shared information on their bikeshare program as well as vehicle procurement.

NICTD Kelly Wenger shared that the Monon Corridor opened last week.

5.1 Drive Clean Indiana (EV charging infrastructure, grants, trainings)

Tom Vander Woude announced the upcoming Road Safety Audit contract approval and program implementation.

6.3 Upcoming committee and commission meeting dates were announced. Next meeting is May 5, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.