

Land Use Committee
NIRPC
May 25, 2022
Minutes

George Topoll called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

In attendance were George Topoll (Union Township), Douglas Powers, Craig Phillips (City of La Porte), Robert Forester (Kouts), Joe Exl (LMCP), and Nick Bellar (Winfield).

Staff present were Kevin Polette, Eman Ibrahim, and Flor Baum.

On motion by Nick Bellar and second by Robert Forester, the committee voted to approve the February 23 meeting minutes.

Eman Ibrahim spoke on the TOD Funding Criteria for NOFA. Eman gave an overview of the TOD program in order to establish investment guidelines, scoring, and project eligibility. The goal is to bring vitality and livability to transit station areas and transit corridors, and to support the NIRPC TOD funding application. Eligible projects requesting TOD funding must be located within a TOD eligible area. (13) stations have been identified and include the identified TDD areas for all the Southshore and upcoming Westlake station. Five TOD busses stations have been identified with areas within a ½ mi., including parcel(s) within a block that intersects the ½ mi. boundary. Being that the urban setting for transit stations vary in size, TOD areas were divided into three TOD types:

- TOD I – Urban Core/ Downtown
- TOD II – Suburban Community
- TOD III – Commuter Community

Communities can apply for TOD planning and policy development with an emphasis on affordable housing, design guidelines, TOD-supporting zoning, and equitable development outcomes. TOD planning will be specific to bus stations. Eligible activities for implementation include the following:

- Multimodal connectivity and accessibility.
- Renewable energy systems.
- Site preparation.
- Transit Station building.
- Transit amenities and transit shelters.
- Street lighting and signage, public pedestrian features like sidewalks, bike lanes, bike racks, crosswalks, and benches.
- Public-use parking structures or the public portion of a shared public-private garage; and access projects.
- Extensions/modifications or relocation to local public sewer and water lines, and storm water management improvements.

The scoring criteria will include a commitment to equity and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Other criteria is as follows:

- Contributes to placemaking and local identity.
- Affordable housing
- Provide connections between housing and jobs by intensifying land use.

- Improves availability of urban living infrastructure retail services and amenities.
- Contributes to placemaking and local identity.
- Removes barriers to compact and mixed-use development.

Eman will look into the storm water management improvements component within the Living Streets guidelines and open spaces for parks. Approximately \$2M will be available in TOD funding. Please contact Eman at eibrahim@nirpc.org for more information.

Eman presented on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. NIRPC staff is working with the consultant in collecting data on the Land Use element. The cities of East Chicago, Hammond and Gary, and the town of Munster recently met with the consultant. The kickoff meeting is slated for June 20.

Legislative Updates were announced. Please use this link to view:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/b4f049b7201/d51e7ea2-02b9-4955-b7de-fa81716d20bc.pdf?rdr=true>

Community updates were announced.

The City of La Porte – Implementation La Porte plan that focuses on recreation improvements surrounding the local lakes, downtown gather spaces, and creating streetscapes to better connect the Newport landing area of the Norfolk Southern tracks to downtown. There are ongoing efforts to continue working on the North-South Corridor that will be located on the eastside of the city to pull traffic out of the downtown area.

Additional announcements were made.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.