

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(Lake and Porter County)
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Hashem Alhashem (East Chicago), Dean Button (Hammond), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Martin Bobcek (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), Bob Thompson (Valparaiso Transit), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), Jenna Aguilar (Lake County), Ryan Lisek, Jill DiTommaso, Jake Dammarell, , Tim Hollandsworth, Trisha Nugent, and Christopher Murphy. Self-introductions were made.

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

Approval of Minutes

The November 18, 2025, TROC Lake & Porter minutes were approved on motion by Jeff Huet and seconded by Dean Button.

The minutes from the January 21, 2026, combined TROC meeting of Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties were approved on motion by Dean Button and seconded by Mark O'Dell.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Program of Projects

Charles Bradsky noted there have been minimal changes to the Program of Projects (PoP). He reported a \$1.1 million surplus in 2026, followed by a deficit in 2027, which he is actively working to address.

New Business

New Programming Timelines: Charles Bradsky presented the new funding and programming timelines. He reported that INDOT closed its fiscal year on May 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., and that all FY 2026 funds had to be obligated by then. As a result, NIRPC was unable to obligate approximately \$1.1 million in funding this fiscal year. After May 1st, remaining funds may only be used to flex to transit, but only if transit has an active project to flex to.

NIRPC met with INDOT to discuss the new funding and programming timelines as part of a 'lessons learned' discussion. Key points from the presentation included:

- INDOT/LPA Contracts must be approved by both the LPA and INDOT, which is not new. Approval by INDOT typically takes 3 to 15 days, and up to 30 days in March.
- LPA/Consultant contracts need to be submitted to INDOT by March 15, followed by submission of an FMIS request.

- Requests for additional funding for PE require an amended LPA/Consultant contract to be submitted to INDOT (this is not new); Charles strongly encouraged that this process begin as early as possible and he be notified in December.
- Some timelines to keep in mind:
 - For amendments, The public comment and ICG review process takes approximately 40 days, while INDOT and FHWA approvals take 90-105 days (after the NIRPC Commission approves the amendment). NEPA approvals can take up to 18 months.
 - Formal TIP amendments can now take a total of approximately five (5) months for approval.
 - For funding in any fiscal year, formal TIP amendments will close in the third week of November, and emergency TIP amendments close January 15.

Project Management Discussion:

- Project phases must be in the current TIP to receive additional funding for that phase
- Projects should be scheduled for letting in Q1 and Q2; Q3 and Q4 lettings can hinder timely obligation of funds.
- Additional funding requests by the LPAs and consultants are generally not feasible at the last minute.
- NIRPC, LPAs, and consultants, collectively, cannot get behind; the LPAs and consultants must remain on top of their projects because delays can impact funding eligibility.
- While the success of projects is a shared responsibility, projects ultimately belong to the local community.

Additional Announcements

- The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be held in the Fall of 2026. Funding is more limited in 2031, but improves in 2032. A new NOFA scoring component will include participation in NIRPC committee meetings, with up to eight (8) points being available. This will be discussed further at the TROC meeting in August and at the August NOFA workshop meeting.
- The Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) will host several one-day seminars called '[Operation Road Wise](#)'. Seminars will focus on improving road safety.
- INDOT will transition to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) software this fall, replacing the Road Hazard Analysis Tool (RoadHAT).
- The Rail Programs Office established a Railroad Grade Crossing Fund; Applications are due by July 10, 2026.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2026.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [TROC Lake & Porter 5.26.26 \(youtube.com\)](#)