



6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368
(219) 763-6060
www.nirpc.org

MEETING OF THE FULL COMMISSION NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

February 19, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

NIRPC Lake Michigan Room, 6100 Southport Road, Portage

- 1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Austin Bonta, Mayor of Portage
- 2.0 New Appointments to the Commission - Dave Hollenbeck, Attorney
- 3.0 Roll Call – Candice Eklund, Executive Assistant
- 4.0 Public Comment on Current Agenda Items
*The Chair will recognize audience members who have signed up to comment on agenda items below.
Time is limited to 3 minutes per commenter.*
- 5.0 Approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2025, Full Commission Meeting (pp. 1-3)
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
- 6.0 **LEADERSHIP** – Austin Bonta, Mayor of Portage (p. 4-14)
 - 6.1 Report of Nominating Committee
 - 6.2 Election of Officers & Executive Board (p. 9)
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
 - 6.3 Perfect Attendance Recognition
 - 6.4 Resolution #26-03: Support for the [Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success \(BASICS\) Act](#) (pp. 10-14).
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
- 7.0 **TRANSPORTATION** – Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor (pp. 15-46)
 - 7.1 Resolution #26-01: 2026 Safety Performance Measure Targets, *Grace Benninger* (pp. 17-22)
ACTION REQUESTED: Adoption
 - 7.2 Resolution #26-02: FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 26-04.1
Charles Bradsky (pp. 23-46)
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
 - 7.3 INDOT - Matt Deitchley, La Porte District Deputy Commissioner
- 8.0 **ECONOMY & PLACE** – George Topoll, Union Township Trustee (pp. 47-48)
- 9.0 **ENVIRONMENT** – Bill Emerson, Lake County Surveyor (pp. 49-52)
- 10.0 Other Business
- 11.0 Announcements
- 12.0 Adjournment
The next meeting on March 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. will be an Executive Board meeting.

NIRPC Full Commission Meeting

6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN

Minutes of the December 18, 2025 Full Commission Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Wendy Mis called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube.

New Appointments to the Commission

Dave Hollenbeck announced the appointments of Sharon Szwedo (Town of New Chicago and Jon Derwinski (Town of Winfield) to the Commission. He reminded Commissioners that an annual appointment letter is not required and that once an individual is appointed by their appointing authority, they remain on the Commission until a change is made.

Roll Call—Taken by Candice Eklund

Present

The 29 Commissioners present at the meeting are listed below:

- Thomas Black, Town of Highland
- Austin Bonta, City of Portage
- Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor
- James Burge, Town of Porter
- Robert Carnahan, Town of Cedar Lake
- Denise Ebert, Town of Wanatah
- Bill Emerson, Lake County Surveyor
- Christian Hendron, Porter Township Trustee
- Lori Hunt, Town of Westville
- Peter Land, City of Crown Point
- John Matwyshyn, La Porte County Surveyor
- Jack McGraw, Town of Burns Harbor
- Wendy Mis, Town of Munster
- Angie Nelson Deutch, City of Michigan City
- Randall Niemeyer, Lake County Council
- Robert Ordway, Indiana Federal Affairs
- Courtney Parthun, City of La Porte
- David Phelps, Town of Beverly Shores
- Linda Pompeii, Town of Pottawattomie Park
- Lisa Rosenkranz, Town of LaCrosse
- Warren Schacht, Town of Trail Creek
- Tom Schmitt, Town of Schererville
- John Schoon, Town of Kouts
- Gerald Swets, Town of St. John
- Sharon Szwedo, Town of New Chicago
- Mary Tanis, Town of Dyer
- James Ton, Town of Chesterton
- George Topoll, Union Township
- Andy Vasquez, Porter County Council

Absent

The 20 Commissioners absent from the meeting are listed below:

- Kyle Allen, Lake County Commissioner
- Duane Arndt, Town of Kingsford Heights *
- Jenny Beier, Town of Schneider
- Bill Carroll, City of Lake Station *
- Jon Costas, City of Valparaiso
- Jon Derwinski, Town of Winfield
- Daina Dumbrys, Town of Michiana Shores
- Connie Gramarossa, La Porte County Commissioner
- Keesha Hardaway, Town of Merrillville
- Bonnie Hawksworth, Town of Dune Acres *
- Vanessa Hernandez-Orange, City of East Chicago
- Josh Huddlestun, City of Hobart
- Justin Kiel, La Porte County Council
- Scott Kingan, Town of Ogden Dunes *
- Colleen Lane, Town of Long Beach
- Tom McDermott, City of Hammond *
- Eddie Melton, City of Gary
- Edward Morales, Porter County Commissioner
- Rick Ryfa, Town of Griffith *
- Steve Spebar, City of Whiting

* Absent for 3 or more consecutive Commission meetings: see Indiana Code 36-7-7.6-5 (h).

There was no INDOT representative present at today's meeting.

Hebron, Kingsbury, Lowell, and The Pines have appointed no representatives to NIRPC.

Staff present included Ty Warner, Talaya Jones, Tom Vander Woude, Kathy Luther, Charles Bradsky, Meredith Stilwell, and Candice Eklund.

Public Comment - Reggie Korthals, Regional Water Specialist, announced that a Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) Contractors and Developers Stormwater Management training is scheduled for February 17 at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center in Merrillville from 8:00 am - 1:30 pm. Registration is available online at no cost. The new stormwater permit will be issued in December and go into effect in January.

Dean Button, City Engineer for Hammond, raised concerns regarding projects funded through NIRPC, which use FHWA funds, and are taking longer to be approved due to extended environmental document reviews by INDOT. He requested assistance to expedite the process and suggested hiring consultants to help support INDOT reviews and the Cultural Resources Office in meeting project letting schedules.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 18, 2025, Full Commission meeting were approved on motion by Jim Ton and seconded by James Ton.

Leadership – Wendy Mis, Munster Clerk-Treasurer

Wendy Mis reported that the committee met earlier today to discuss and recommend Resolution #25-17, the 2026 calendar year budget. On motion by Jim Ton and seconded by Angie Nelson Deutch, the Full Commission approved resolution #25-17. Randall Niemeyer opposed the resolution. Mr. Niemeyer questioned the \$550,000 increase in the Planning-Marquette Project line item. Talaya Jones, NIRPC Director of Finance, explained that the increase is due to unapproved amendments by the new administration, which caused anticipated 2025 expenses to be rolled into 2026. Additional funds will cover increased engineering and project management fees. When Mr. Niemeyer asked whether fees had been reviewed for possible reductions, Talaya confirmed that they had been evaluated.

The proposed 2026 meeting schedule was reviewed; no meeting dates are scheduled for October and December. The Full Commission will meet on November 19, 2026, to present the 2027 budget.

Ty Warner and Wendy Mis recognized Meredith Stilwell, Director of Administration, for her 15-year milestone service at NIRPC.

Transportation – Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Transportation Committee met on December 2, 2025, where they heard a presentation from GPTC, given by David Wright, which included information that ridership is growing and is 31% higher than during the pandemic. Grace Benninger from NIRPC presented on the performance of the transportation network during the 3rd quarter, and Scott Weber provided an update on NIRPC's transition from MOVES3 air quality modeling software to the MOVES5 model. The next meeting is scheduled on February 3, 2026.

The Transportation Committee recommended the resolution below to the Full Commission.

- **Resolution #25-18: FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments 26-03.1 and 26-03.5.** Charles Bradsky reported the public comment period ran from October 27 to November 17, 2025. One public comment was received from Dean Button regarding their Local Trax project, an INDOT project that was previously overlooked but has now been added back into the TIP. There were no significant comments from the Intergovernmental Consultation Group. On motion by Tom Schmitt and seconded by Bill Emerson, the Full Commission approved resolution #25-18.

Randall Niemeyer asked about GPTC's reported 31% ridership increase since the pandemic, requesting a year-over-year comparison. David Wright confirmed metrics are available and will be provided to NIRPC.

Economy & Place – George Topoll

George Topoll reported that the committee met on October 8, where it issued a favorable recommendation for the adoption of Resolution 25-13, which authorizes a cooperative agreement with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority to participate in the Hoosier Homes Homebuyer Assistance Program. This program provides

homebuyers in NIRPC's three counties an opportunity to receive up to 5% in down payment assistance for buyers earning up to 140% of the area median income. There is no cost to participating communities or NIRPC. This program supports objectives in the *NWI 2050+ Comprehensive Plan*. On motion by Jim Ton and seconded by Kevin Breitzke, the Full Commission approved Resolution 25-13.

Randall Niemeyer inquired about the current administration of the program and its funding mechanism. Heather Presley-Cowen, Co-Administrator for the Hoosier Homes Program, explained that the program is co-administered statewide in authorized communities and funded through excess premiums from Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. She noted that the assistance levels fluctuate based on mortgage interest rates and confirmed that eligibility is capped at 140% of the area median income.

The next Economy & Place meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026.

The Full Commission welcomed the Portage School Administration, who, as part of their festivities, travel around the community to spread holiday cheer.

Environment – Bill Emerson

Bill Emerson reported that the committee met on November 6, 2025. Kathy Luther, Director of Environmental Programs, presented on the status of Brown Fields in NWI, and Celena Green, Economic Recovery Corps Fellow, presented on the redevelopment barriers of this initiative. Bill added that the Contractors Workshop, scheduled for February 17, 2026 (previously noted under Public Comment), will include a free breakfast sponsored by the Indiana Toll Road. The next meeting of NIRPC's Environment Committee is scheduled for February 5, 2026.

Other Business

No other new business was discussed.

Announcements

Robert Ordway announced a change in his role with Governor Braun. He is now serving as an independent contractor lobbyist, representing the State of Indiana Federal Affairs in Washington, D.C. While he does not work directly with local governments, he remains available to assist NIRPC and other regional partners with federal grants, procurement processes, and navigating challenges with federal agencies. He will work closely with the Governor's eight Secretaries and maintain relationships with both the White House and the Governor's Office to help move regional priorities forward. He emphasized that if there are challenges or delays in getting something done, he's happy to move the ball forward for Northwest Indiana.

Hearing no further business, Wendy Mis adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be a Full Commission meeting on January 15, 2026. Wendy encouraged all Commissioners to attend, as the proposed slate of officers for 2026 will be voted on. She added that if any of them are interested in serving on the Executive Board, they should notify Ty Warner or her, as the Nominating Committee will meet next week.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [Full Commission Meeting 12-18-25 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12-18-25)

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

October 7, 2025 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:30 a.m.

Members present

Denise Ebert, Wendy Mis, Bob Carnahan, David Phelps

Staff and others present

George Topoll, Talaya Jones, Meredith Stilwell, Lisa Todd, Darin Sherman

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Phelps called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The September 8, 2025 Leadership Committee meeting minutes were presented. The minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Carnahan, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition.

Review of Financial Status – August 2025 Budget vs Actual

The August 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.

Year-to-date, August 31, 2025, total expenditures were \$6,185,105, of the \$20,218,721 budgeted. Total General Fund revenue for the period was \$2,086,993 of the \$5,632,731 budgeted.

Total NIRPC CARES fund expenditures year-to-date, August 31, 2025, were \$373,121 of the \$272,569 budgeted. Total CARES revenue collected for the period was \$375,386 of the \$235,800 budgeted.

Approval of Claims Registers – August 2025

The August 2025 General Fund claims totaling \$989,031.40 were presented to the Committee. The claims of \$989,031.40 were approved by a motion from Bob Carnahan, seconded by Denise Ebert, with no opposition.

The August 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 David Phelps, and with no opposition.

NIRPC Resolution 25-17: FY 2026 Budget

Talaya Jones presented the FY 2026 Budget to the Committee. The total budget is \$17,429,070, which is lower than the 2025 budget. Talaya explained that one reason is that the Federal Transit Administration is short-staffed and has only been reviewing lapsing-fund grants, and one of the larger grants written for 5307 funds did not include any lapsing funds. She explained that although the money has been appropriated for 2026, it has not yet been formally allocated as a grant.

Talaya presented the proposed changes to NIRPC's general fund budget categories. Revenue is projected to increase by 9%, anticipating resolution of issues related to the Marquette Greenway, which could generate additional income. The salary line rose by 4% to accommodate employee raises, including an adjustment for Ty's compensation. Occupancy costs saw a modest 1% increase.

The Equipment Service/Maintenance budget was raised by 13% in preparation for potentially purchasing or leasing a new black-and-white copier. Additionally, NIRPC's current telephone contract will expire in 2026, prompting the need to secure a new provider, while internet service costs have also gone up.

The Departmental budget increased by 9%, primarily due to travel expenses. Talaya noted that these areas will be closely monitored for potential reductions in 2027.

The Contractual line item was increased by 14%, again tied to the Marquette Greenway. Meanwhile, the Furniture and Fixtures budget was reduced by 50%, with no anticipated increases in the near future.

Talaya Jones presented the FTA Capital Projects, which are funded through grants that have already been executed. She highlighted the CY 2025 CARES Act 2020 Transit Capital Projects Fund grant for East Chicago Transit. Although East Chicago placed an order using these funds, the order has been delayed, raising the possibility of cancellation and reallocation of the funds. The CARES grant is set to expire in March 2026.

Talaya also explained that **Attachment C**, the CY 2025 Transit Operating Projects Fund, reflects funding that is already secured through annual grants allocated to NIRPC.

Lastly, she noted that while there may not be enough CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) money available to issue new loans, administrative funds are still necessary in case an external assessment of the program is required.

Personnel updates

Meredith reported that one of the administrative assistants submitted their resignation. Their last day will be October 14.

Other Business

Bob Carnahan announced several upcoming events in Cedar Lake.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

October 7, 2025 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:30 a.m.

Members present

Denise Ebert, Wendy Mis, Bob Carnahan, David Phelps

Staff and others present

George Topoll, Talaya Jones, Meredith Stilwell, Lisa Todd, Darin Sherman

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Talaya also explained that **Attachment C**, the CY 2025 Transit Operating Projects Fund, reflects funding that is already secured through annual grants allocated to NIRPC.

Lastly, she noted that while there may not be enough CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) money available to issue new loans, administrative funds are still necessary in case an external assessment of the program is required.

Personnel updates

Meredith reported that one of the administrative assistants submitted their resignation. Their last day will be October 14.

Other Business

Bob Carnahan announced several upcoming events in Cedar Lake.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

December 18, 2025 / NIRPC Dune Room – 8:15 a.m.

Members present

Bob Carnahan, Denise Ebert, Wendy Mis, Courtney Parthun, David Phelps, Gerald Swets

Staff and others present

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

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Wendy Mis called the meeting to order at 8:24 a.m.

NIRPC Resolution 25-17: FY 2026 Budget

Chairwoman Mis noted that the Committee reviewed the budget at its October meeting and requested an explanation of any subsequent changes. NIRPC Accountant Darin Sherman outlined the updates:

- **Attachment B** was revised due to an early bus delivery and payment.
- **Attachment D** now includes an additional \$80,000 for the La Porte RLF 2026 Administration Budget.

Sherman explained that NIRPC Resolution 24-04 authorizes payment of remaining non-award funds in the RLF to La Porte and Michigan City every two years, following the RLF's defederalization. NIRPC recently learned that the business holding the final RLF loan is being put up for sale. If the sale occurs, there will be no remaining loans, and the remaining funds can be distributed to La Porte and Michigan City.

With no questions on the budget, Chairwoman Mis called for a motion. On motion by Gerald Swets, seconded by Denise Ebert, and with no opposition, the Committee recommended the budget for approval by the NIRPC Full Commission.

Other Business

Ty Warner reported that the 2026 Commission calendar is included in the meeting packet. He noted that there will be no meetings in October or December. Director of Finance Talaya Jones indicated that the budget can be recommended and approved during the November meetings.

Ty stated that the most recent hire occurred in August and reported the departure of an administrative staff member. The vacant administrative position will not be filled. Ty expressed interest in creating a communications and design role but noted that the current budget allocation for the administrative position would not cover this. He will explore the possibility of a retainer arrangement after January 1.

Commissioner Gerald Swets inquired about the timing of new committee assignments. Ty explained that assignments are made after the new NIRPC Chair is appointed at the January meeting. Based on the usual rotation, Mayor Bonta is expected to serve as the next Chair. Chairwoman Mis advised that Commissioners wishing to change committee assignments should speak directly with the Mayor.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 am.



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
(WENDY MIS, AUSTIN BONTA, DENISE EBERT, DAVID PHELPS)
FOR THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF NIRPC

CHAIRPERSON

Austin Bonta (Porter County)

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Denise Ebert (La Porte County)

SECRETARY

David Phelps (Porter County)

TREASURER

Bill Emerson (Lake County)

EXECUTIVE BOARD (LAKE COUNTY)

Tom Schmitt (Schererville)

Wendy Mis (Munster)*

EXECUTIVE BOARD (LA PORTE COUNTY)

Lisa Rosenkranz (La Crosse)

Courtney Parthun (La Porte)

EXECUTIVE BOARD (PORTER COUNTY)

Jim Ton (Chesterton)

Kevin Breitzke (County Surveyor)

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEE

Robert Ordway

**Immediate Past Chair*



RESOLUTION 26-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE BRIDGES AND SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNITY SUCCESS (BASICS) Act

February 19, 2026

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (herein called the "Commission") serves as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties, with responsibility for coordinating regional transportation planning, investment, and policy; and

WHEREAS, local and regional governments plan, own, operate, and maintain the majority of the nation's transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and transit assets essential to public safety, economic competitiveness, freight movement, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, existing federal transportation funding structures often limit the ability of metropolitan planning organizations, counties, cities, towns, and rural communities to directly access and program federal resources for locally prioritized transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act proposes reforms to federal surface transportation programs to improve local and regional access to funding, strengthen formula-based programs, support metropolitan and rural transportation planning, and better align federal investment with locally identified needs; and

WHEREAS, the BASICS Act emphasizes transportation safety, bridge condition, accountability, and community-selected project delivery through established regional planning processes consistent with the Commission's long-range transportation planning goals; and

WHEREAS, enhanced local flexibility and predictable funding are essential to addressing aging infrastructure, improving safety outcomes, supporting economic development, and advancing equitable transportation investments throughout Northwestern Indiana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission that it hereby expresses its support for the Bridges and Safety Infrastructure for Community Success (BASICS) Act and its intent to improve federal transportation funding programs for the benefit of local and regional governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission encourages Congress to consider transportation policies that strengthen metropolitan planning organizations, recognize regional priorities, and ensure that federal transportation investments reach the communities most responsible for planning, maintaining, and operating the transportation system; and

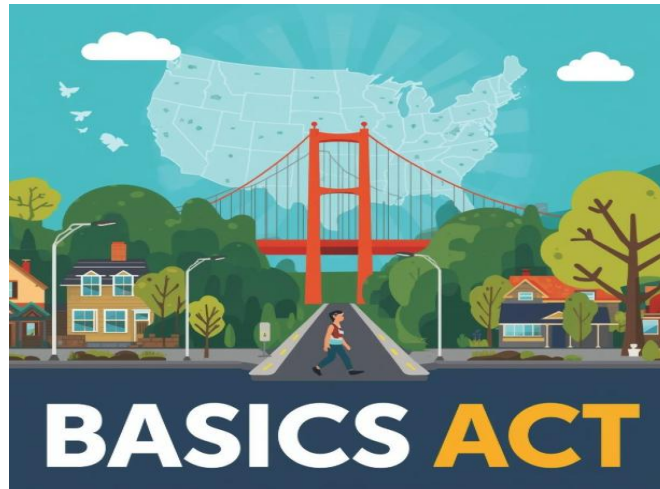
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission directs its Executive Director to transmit this resolution to Indiana’s Congressional delegation and to advocate for transportation funding reforms that support locally driven, safety-focused, and regionally coordinated investment.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 19th day of February 2026.

Austin Bonta
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Denise Ebert
Secretary



BASICS – Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success Act

America’s transportation system depends on a safe and reliable network of roads and bridges in every region of the country. The BASICS Act focuses federal transportation investment on core infrastructure needs by ensuring funding reaches communities efficiently and is used where it delivers the greatest public benefit.

What this bill does:

- **INVESTS IN REPAIRING BRIDGES:** Builds on the Bridge Formula Program to continue fixing the nation’s most deficient bridges, with a focus on both state- and locally owned infrastructure. Unlike prior approaches, the BASICS Act ensures that funding for locally owned bridges is proportional to the number of locally owned bridges in each state, directing resources to the worst-condition bridges regardless of ownership.
- **DELIVERS REGIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS FASTER:** Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are responsible for developing Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) that identify local priority projects that meet federal performance goals. The BASICS Act accelerates delivery of these regionally supported projects by increasing funding for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. As the most flexible federal transportation formula program, STBG allows states and regions to move projects forward efficiently and deliver tangible benefits for local businesses, workers, and communities in every congressional district.
- **FOCUSES ON ROAD SAFETY:** Nearly 100 people lose their lives on America’s roads every day. The BASICS Act strengthens the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to confront this crisis head-on by increasing overall safety funding and preventing states from transferring HSIP dollars away from safety priorities. The bill also ensures that 25 percent of HSIP funding is delivered regionally in both urban and rural areas, giving local governments direct access to capital for proven safety projects and building on the success of the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.
- **ENSURES TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION:** Federal transportation dollars must be accountable to taxpayers. The BASICS Act improves transparency around how funding flows, what resources are available to regions, and how projects advance from planning to delivery. By reinforcing collaboration across federal, state, regional, and local partners, the bill helps ensure projects move efficiently and deliver real results on the ground.
- **BUILDS STRONG PLANS FOR RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS:** The BASICS Act invests in planning capacity by strengthening Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) and increasing Metropolitan Planning (PL) funding. Strong planning leads to better project selection, faster delivery, and smarter investments, ensuring both rural and metropolitan regions can advance projects that reflect local priorities and long-term needs.

The BASICS Act — Section-by-Section Summary

(Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success)

Section 1. Short Title. Designates the bill as the “BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act.”

Section 2. Definitions. Provides definitions for terms used in the Act.

Section 3. Apportionment. Revises statutory percentages in §104(b)(1)–(3), (7), and (8), which govern the distribution of funding among core highway programs. These adjustments move funding from the rigid National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) and into the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program—the most flexible program that benefits states and local governments alike—and the safety-focused Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). **This increases flexibility and reflects the fact that data show that States routinely transfer funding from NHPP into STBG.**

Additionally, this section increases funding for metropolitan planning (PL) and creates a new funding stream for regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) to ensure that all areas, regardless of population, have access to high-quality, federally funded planning assistance.

Finally, this section continues the successful Bridge Formula Program from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) under a new name, the Strengthening Bridges Formula Program, which is added to the core formula programs.

Section 4. Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. Improves transparency and strengthens local involvement by requiring States to consult with local governments before obligating STBG suballocated funds in areas under 50,000 that are not represented by a regional transportation planning organization. This ensures that State programming in small and rural areas reflects local priorities and needs.

Section 5. Strengthening Bridges Formula Program. Continues the Bridge Formula Program from the IIJA as a new core formula program—section 180 of title 23—called the “Strengthening Bridges Formula Program.” Funding would be divided among States based on need, keeping the \$45 million minimum apportionment from the IIJA. Unlike the IIJA however, this new program would require States to suballocate 25 percent of funding to areas based on population. This ensures that local governments, which own an outright majority of poor condition bridges, are guaranteed access to funding to repair or replace these assets. The program would also include a robust requirement that suballocated funds be used for projects selected by regional planning organizations and local governments.

This program would continue key set-asides from the IIJA and maintain the 100 percent federal cost share for off-system bridges owned by Tribal or local governments.

Section 6. Highway Safety Improvement Program. Strengthens local and regional access to safety funding by requiring States to suballocate 25 percent of HSIP funds using the same population-based structure as STBG and the new bridge program. Apportionment changes in section 3 of this bill ensures that the new suballocation requirements **do not take away from safety funding available to States.**

Project selection follows the same framework used in Section 5, ensuring that MPOs, RTPOs, and local governments remain central to identifying safety priorities consistent with federal requirements and national goals. The section also ensures that locally led safety projects are eligible for HSIP funding.

Section 7. Transferability. Currently, only suballocated funding under STBG and PL funds are exempt from transferability. This section ensures that all suballocated dollars, under both existing programs (the

Carbon Reduction Program) and new programs/programs with new suballocation requirements (HSIP, Strengthening Bridges Formula Program), are protected from transfer.

Second, this section adds in a requirement that States can only transfer HSIP dollars after first making them available competitively to local governments. Given our ongoing road safety crisis, we should not be transferring safety funds without ensuring all safety needs have been met.

Section 8. Project Selection. Expresses the sense of Congress that suballocated funds under STBG, HSIP, the Carbon Reduction Program, and the new bridge formula program should be obligated only to projects selected locally and regionally. **This reaffirms Congress’s long-standing intent that suballocated funding be programmed through regional and local decision-making structures, consistent with the consultation and coordination requirements of title 23.**

Section 9. Metropolitan Planning. Strengthens the metropolitan planning program to better support federally required planning activities and advance timely project delivery. The section provides a 100 percent federal share for PL funds so that metropolitan planning organizations can meet statutory planning responsibilities and minimize administrative delays. It also updates and modernizes eligible uses of planning funds to reflect the full lifecycle of project development, including activities such as early scoping, data and modeling improvements, and multimodal systems planning.

Finally, the section directs the Secretary to establish a voluntary pathway for MPOs to become direct recipients of planning funds, promoting administrative efficiency, reducing pass-through delays, and supporting more streamlined project development. It also requires the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide MPOs access to federal financial management systems, improving transparency and accountability.

Section 10. Rural Transportation Planning. Establishes a dedicated rural and nonmetropolitan planning program under section 135(n) to support statewide rural engagement and strengthen the capacity of RTPOs and other regional entities. States must distribute funds through a formula for federally designated RTPOs and a competitive grant process for non-federally designated regional planning entities, subject to Secretarial approval. The section guarantees a minimum allocation of \$300,000 per year for each designated RTPO and provides a 100 percent federal share for all activities carried out under the program, ensuring consistent planning capacity across rural areas.

Transportation Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
December 2, 2025
Minutes

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The voting members in attendance were Kevin Breitzke, Dean Button (Hammond), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), David Wright (GPTC), and Martin Bobcek (Porter County).

Also in attendance were Ryan Lisek (DCI), Doug Ross (Post Tribune), Alex Olesker, and Scott Pruitt.

NIRPC staff present: Tom Vander Woude, Meredith Stilwell, Kathy Luther, Charles Bradsky, Grace Benninger, Stephen Hughes, Ishan Parekh, and Scott Weber.

On a motion by Dean Button, seconded by Tom Schmitt, the committee approved the minutes from the September 9th meeting.

Presentation

David Wright shared a presentation about GPTC's current service and their fall service changes, detailing their local, regional, and Bus Rapid Transit lines. Ridership is 31% higher than the lowest pandemic numbers with some routes above the pre-pandemic levels.

The Broadway Metro Express (BMX) will be returning to 20-minute route times. Cycle219 has added locations to better serve those using transit in GPTC's service area.

Planning

4.1: Grace Benninger explained the third quarter performance measures and their relationship with the previous year, demonstrating the online dashboard which will soon be available to the public.

4.2: Scott Weber gave an overview of air quality conformity, the history of why this process impacts Northwest Indiana, and how the change from the MOVES 3 to MOVES 5 EPA Transportation Emissions model resulted in modeled 2030 VOC emissions (one of the Ozone precursors) exceeding the motor vehicle emissions budget (MVEB) in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). As a result, NIRPC will continue to process TIP Amendments with only Exempt projects. Scott explained the process that will be followed to amend the SIP with revised MVEBs. Scott also mentioned that the Illinois portion of the Chicago Urban Area calculates their budgets differently from how NIRPC calculates it for the Indiana portion. The expectation is that the revised budgets will be effective in February of 2026.

Programming

5.1 and 5.2: Charles Bradsky delivered the public comment report and staff report for Resolution 25-18, TIP Amendment 26-03. One comment was received in the public

comment period, but it was not considered significant and did not result in any changes to the amendment or trigger a new public comment period.

The amendment consisted of Air Quality Conformity exempt highway projects (21 projects for INDOT, 27 local projects) and 20 transit projects.

Dean Button moved to send a favorable recommendation to the Commission. David Wright seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports from Planning Partners

Ryan Lisek from Drive Clean Indiana explained an upcoming notice of funding for projects with broad focus, including infrastructure for EVs. He also mentioned the upcoming EV Fest at Tire Rack in South Bend and a survey for charging infrastructure for medium and heavy vehicles along I-80.

Other Business

7.1: Tom Vander Woude presented the 2026 calendar of TPC meetings.

7.3: Scott Weber gave a brief overview about the Road Safety Audits completed this year and explained that the consultant will present to the Commission in January.

Kathy Luther discussed a contract with IDNR Coastal Program and Save the Dunes for a grant to provide technical assistance to those looking for grants related to green infrastructure, hazard mitigation, placemaking, and land acquisition. NIRPC is also available to help with mapping as needed. This would make the region more competitive for IDNR funds. Notably, this is available county-wide, not just in the Lake Michigan watershed.

Dean Button discussed the MDH funding restrictions based on PASER ratings and encouraged other municipalities to check into how this impacts them as well.

Next Commission meeting is December 18.

Next Transportation Committee meeting January 6, 2026.

Dean Button moved to adjourn, Tom Schmitt seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 11:11 am.



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: Grace Benninger, Spatial Analyst

Date: January 21, 2026

Re: 2026 Safety Performance Measure Targets

Action Requested: Recommendation to the Commission to adopt Resolution 26-01 adopting Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2026 and amending NWI 2050+ and the FY 2026-2030 TIP

Federal Safety Performance Management regulations require that State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) establish annual targets for five safety performance measures:

1. Number of fatalities
2. Rate of fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
3. Number of serious injuries
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT
5. Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

Every year, states develop safety targets that are submitted to the Federal Highway Administration within their annual Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) reports. Each MPO in the state must then develop and adopt its own targets or may commit to supporting the state’s targets. In either case, the MPO must adopt targets within 180 days of the state submitting its HSIP Report. NIRPC has historically approved a resolution supporting INDOT’s targets and incorporating them into the agency’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

INDOT has provided its final 2026 Safety Targets, which were submitted to FHWA by August 29, 2025:

2026 Statewide Targets

Performance Measure	2025 Target*	2026 Target
Fatalities	812.4	794.7
Fatality Rate	1.009	0.992
Serious Injuries	3031.9	2,965.5
Serious Injury Rate	3.402	3.702
Vulnerable Road User (Non-Motorized) Fatalities and Serious Injuries	363.4	462.96

*Source: https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2025-03/HSIP_Report_INDIANA_2024_508.pdf

INDOT's 2026 targets for each measure follow an annual 2% straight-line reduction from 2022 and are 10% lower than that base year. The 2021 targets were equal to the 5-year average (2017-2021) of the actual recorded numbers for each measure. Since 2024, though, INDOT has been required to adopt declining targets.

NIRPC has until mid to late February 2026 to act on its safety targets. Staff recommends that NIRPC continue the practice of supporting the State's targets. Staff has prepared Resolution 26-01 adopting the targets and incorporating them into the NIRPC MTP [NW/ 2050+](#) and the [FY 2026-2030 TIP](#) as technical amendments.

Staff requests that the Transportation Committee vote to forward a recommendation to the Commission to adopt Resolution 26-01.



RESOLUTION 26-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
ADOPTING SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS FOR 2026, AMENDING THE TARGETS
INTO NWI 2050+ AND THE FY 2026-2030 TIP**

February 19, 2026

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana’s citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as “the Commission”, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lake, Porter and La Porte County area, has established a regional, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation improvement program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties, and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above activities to satisfy requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (PL 117-58), applicable portions of all prior federal transportation program authorizing legislation, as well as other federal, state, and local laws mandating or authorizing transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, *NWI 2050+* and the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program are products of a multi-modal, 3-C transportation planning process, compatible with regional goals and objectives and socio-economic and demographic factors; and

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 requires the Commission to set annual performance measure targets for safety within 180 days of the Indiana Department of Transportation setting performance measure targets for the same measures; and

WHEREAS, staff of the Indiana Department of Transportation set safety performance measure targets for 2026 and formally submitted these to FHWA; and

WHEREAS, *NWI 2050+* and the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program must be amended to reflect the establishment of annual safety performance measure targets; and

WHEREAS, the changes to *NWI 2050+* and the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program brought about by this amendment fit the criteria of a technical amendment according to the *Engage NWI* public participation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Committee (TC) has recommended that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission make these changes to *NWI 2050+* and the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby adopts updated safety performance measure targets for 2026 by making the following changes to *NWI 2050+* and the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program in a manner consistent with the definitions of a technical amendment as defined in *Engage NWI* and as shown on the attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 19th day of February 2026.

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Secretary

Changes to NWI 2050+:

Amend the following table as shown below in *Technical Appendix 1: Adopted Performance Measure Targets* on page 536.

Performance Measure	Target
Number of fatalities	No more than 812 in 2025 <u>794.7</u> in <u>2026</u> statewide.
Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled	No more than 1.009 in 2025 <u>0.992</u> in <u>2026</u> statewide.
Number of serious injuries	No more than 3,032 in 2025 <u>2,965.5</u> in <u>2025</u> statewide.
Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled	No more than 3.402 in 2025 <u>3.702</u> in <u>2026</u> statewide.
Non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities	No more than 363 in 2025 <u>462.96</u> in <u>2026</u> statewide.
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) reduction from Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)-funded projects (kg/day)	No more than 590.00 by 2028 and 600.00 by 2030 statewide.
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) reduction from Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)-funded projects (kg/day)	No more than 690.00 by 2028 and 725.00 by 2030 statewide.
Carbon Monoxide (CO) reduction from Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)-funded projects (kg/day)	No more than 330.00 by 2028 and 520.00 by 2030 statewide.
Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) reduction from Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)-funded projects (kg/day)	No more than 0.02 by 2028 and 0.03 by 2030 statewide.
Percent of Interstate pavements in good condition	At least 60.00% by 2028 and at least 62.00% by 2030 statewide.
Percent of Interstate pavements in poor condition	No more than 1.00% by 2028 and no more than 1.00% by 2030 statewide.
Percent of non-Interstate National Highway System (NHS) pavements in good condition	At least 50.00% by 2028 and at least 48.00% by 2030 statewide.
Percent of non-Interstate National Highway System (NHS) pavements in poor condition	No more than 1.50% by 2028 and no more than 1.50% by 2030 statewide.
Percent of National Highway System (NHS) bridge area in good condition	At least 49.00% by 2028 and at least 47.50% by 2030 statewide.
Percent of National Highway System (NHS) bridge area in poor condition	No more than 3.00% by 2028 and no more than 3.00% by 2030 statewide.
Percent of person miles traveled on the Interstate that are reliable	At least 93.0% by 2028 and at least 93.5% by 2030 statewide.

Performance Measure	Target
Percent of person miles traveled on the non-Interstate National Highway System (NHS) that are reliable	At least 93.0% by 2028 and at least 93.5% by 2030 statewide.
Truck Travel Time Reliability Index (TTTRI)	No higher than 1.32 by 2026 and no higher than 1.30 by 2030 statewide.
Number of revenue vehicles in operation that have met or exceeded the end of their useful life	No more than 50% every year.
Number of revenue vehicles exceeding their useful life not pending replacement in a grant	No more than 20% every year.
Number of non-revenue vehicles in operation that have met or exceeded the end of their useful life	No more than 10% every year.
Annual cost of total vehicle replacements	No more than 10% of total 5307 NWI apportionment every year.
Number of vehicles submitted for replacement that have a designated "inoperable" system	No more than 0 every year.
Number of vehicles that have been funded that have not yet met the end of their useful life	No more than 0 every year.
Number of vehicles that have been funded while not on the Indiana QPA or other state cooperative agreement	No more than 0 every year.

Changes to the 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program:

Page Number(s)	Performance Measure	Original Text	Amended Text
16	Number of fatalities	"no more than 812 in 2025"	"no more than 794.7 in 2026"
16	Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled	"no more than 1.009 in 2025"	"no more than 0.992 in 2026"
16	Number of serious injuries	"no more than 3,032 in 2025"	"no more than 2,965.5 in 2026"
16	Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled	"no more than 3.402 in 2025"	"no more than 3.702 in 2026"
16	Number of non-motorized serious injuries and fatalities	"no more than 363 in 2025"	"no more than 462.96 in 2026"



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: Charles Bradsky, Transportation Projects Manager

Date: January 23, 2026

Re: TIP Administrative Modification #26-19

Action Requested: Receive for information

The NIRPC Executive Board adopted the Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on May 15, 2025. INDOT and USDOT approved the TIP on July 2, 2025, and August 28, 2025, respectively.

Since the adoption of the FY 2026-2030 TIP, project sponsors have proposed minor changes to existing projects, which must be reflected in the NIRPC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Minor changes to projects in the TIP are considered Administrative Modifications and are processed and submitted without public comment or Commission approval. The definition of an Administrative Modification can be found on page 15 of NIRPC's Public Participation Plan *Engage NWI*. NIRPC processes and submits a list of Administrative Modifications monthly.

Administrative Modification 26-19 contains:

For INDOT – 3 Projects:

- 1 Pavement/Roadway Rehabilitation project; Maintenance – Increase CE funding by \$99,999 in FY 2026
- 1 Bridge Removal project – Decrease CN funding by \$21,000,000 in FY 27
- 1 Intersection Improvement project – Increase CN funding by \$99,999 in FY 2028

For locally sponsored projects – 1 Project

- City of La Porte: Pedestrian Safety project – CN & CE moving from FY 2026 to FY 2027

The full project change details are attached.

1703011 (Ver 9) 26-19 STATUS **Programmed** **FEDERAL**

Title: Bridge Removal **Route:** SR 912
Description: SR 912 Michigan Ave @ SR 912, 1.34 mi west of US 12
Project Type: Bridge Removal **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:** Bridge #: (12)912-45-04112 C
Narrative: Reduce CN for FY27 to \$30,000,000 was \$51,368,818.

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$31,500,000
<2026	Prior	\$2,522,485	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,522,485
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$31,500,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$2,522,485	\$0	\$30,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$34,022,485

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

Previously Approved Version

1703011 (Ver 8) 26-00

Title: Bridge Removal **Route:** SR 912
Description: SR 912 Michigan Ave @ SR 912, 1.34 mi west of US 12
Project Type: Bridge Removal **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:** Bridge #: (12)912-45-04112 C
Narrative: Move CN and CE funds to FY27, B-44980

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$51,368,818	\$1,500,000	\$52,868,818
<2026	Prior	\$2,522,485	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,522,485
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$51,368,818	\$1,500,000	\$52,868,818
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$2,522,485	\$0	\$51,368,818	\$1,500,000	\$55,391,303

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2000609 (Ver 8) 26-19 STATUS **Programmed** **FEDERAL**

Title: District Pavement Project (Non-I) **Route:** N/A
Description: HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance, US 35 SR 39 to US 20 length-5.62 miles
Project Type: HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: Increase FY26 CE from \$50,000 to \$149,999

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$3,709,122	\$149,999	\$3,859,121
<2026	Prior	\$250,000	\$0	\$305,000	\$0	\$555,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$3,709,122	\$149,999	\$3,859,121
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$250,000	\$0	\$4,014,122	\$149,999	\$4,414,121

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

Previously Approved Version

2000609 (Ver 7) 26-02.1

Title: District Pavement Project (Non-I) **Route:** N/A
Description: HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance, US 35 SR 39 to US 20 length-5.62 miles
Project Type: HMA Overlay, Preventive Maintenance **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add FY26 CN \$3,709,122.00 and FY26 CE \$50,000 to des 2000609. Was in 24-28 TIP but was mo

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$3,709,122	\$50,000	\$3,759,122
<2026	Prior	\$250,000	\$0	\$305,000	\$0	\$555,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$3,709,122	\$50,000	\$3,759,122
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$250,000	\$0	\$4,014,122	\$50,000	\$4,314,122

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2200043 (Ver 6) 26-19 STATUS **Programmed** **FEDERAL**

Title: Intersection Improvement, Roundabout **Route:** N/A
Description: Intersection Improvement, Roundabout at SR 2 & CR 500W, 3.27mi West of SR 39. The diameter of the project is 0.10 mi.
Project Type: Intersection Improvement **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: Increase FY28 CN from \$2,800,000 to \$2,899,999.00

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	NHPP Non Interstate	\$300,000	\$550,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$860,000
2028	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$2,899,999	\$600,000	\$3,499,999
<2026	Prior	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$300,000	\$550,000	\$2,909,999	\$600,000	\$4,359,999
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$600,000	\$550,000	\$2,909,999	\$600,000	\$4,659,999

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

Previously Approved Version

2200043 (Ver 5) 26-02.1

Title: Intersection Improvement, Roundabout **Route:** N/A
Description: Intersection Improvement, Roundabout at SR 2 & CR 500W, 3.27mi West of SR 39. The diameter of the project is 0.10 mi.
Project Type: Intersection Improvement **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: Add RW FY26 \$550,000.00; Move CN to FY28 \$2,800,000.00; move CE to FY28 \$600,000.00

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	NHPP Non Interstate	\$300,000	\$550,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$860,000
2028	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$2,800,000	\$600,000	\$3,400,000
<2026	Prior	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$300,000	\$550,000	\$2,810,000	\$600,000	\$4,260,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$600,000	\$550,000	\$2,810,000	\$600,000	\$4,560,000

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2401595 (Ver 3) 26-19 STATUS **Programmed** STATE

Title: Pedestrian Flashing Beacons in two locations in City of LaPorte **Route:** N/A
Description: Pedestrian Flashing Beacons at two locations on Pine Lake Ave
Project Type: New Signalization **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: The funds are being moved to FY27 because there is no finalized CE document

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$49,000	\$7,000	\$56,000
2027	State Special Projects	\$0	\$0	\$441,000	\$63,000	\$504,000
<2026	Prior	\$230,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$230,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$490,000	\$70,000	\$560,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$230,000	\$0	\$490,000	\$70,000	\$790,000

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: La Porte

Previously Approved Version

2401595 (Ver 2) 26-02.1

Title: Pedestrian Flashing Beacons in two locations in City of LaPorte **Route:** N/A
Description: Pedestrian Flashing Beacons at two locations on Pine Lake Ave
Project Type: New Signalization **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: New project in 26-30 TIP (Carry Over)

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$49,000	\$7,000	\$56,000
2026	State Special Projects	\$0	\$0	\$441,000	\$63,000	\$504,000
<2026	Prior	\$230,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$230,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$490,000	\$70,000	\$560,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$230,000	\$0	\$490,000	\$70,000	\$790,000

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: La Porte

Northwestern MPO TIP SUMMARY BY LEAD AGENCY

	Prior	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Beyond	Total
INDOT	\$6,754,970	\$9,338,243	\$84,368,818	\$6,899,999	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$107,362,030
La Porte	\$460,000	\$560,000	\$560,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,580,000
TOTAL	\$7,214,970	\$9,898,243	\$84,928,818	\$6,899,999	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$108,942,030



Public Comment Report

Amendment #26-04.1 to the FY 2026 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

February 19, 2026

Amendment #26-04.1 of the FY 2026 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program was released for a 21-day public comment period which began on January 2, 2025, and ended on January 23, 2026. Amendment 26-04.1 is composed of infrastructure projects using FHWA (highway) funds. All projects listed are exempt from the Air Quality Conformity process.

The amendment was made available for viewing at www.nirpc.org and press releases with links were posted on several social media sites.

No comments were received.

NIRPC staff also sent the amendments to the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) on December 22, 2025. There were no questions or comments concerning the list of projects on any of the amendments.

Concurrence was given for these projects on this amendment by members of the ICG on January 2, 2026.



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: Charles Bradsky, Transportation Projects Manager

Date: January 21, 2026

Re: TIP Amendment #26-04.1

Action Requested: Recommendation to the Full Commission/Executive Board to adopt Resolution 26-02 approving TIP Amendment #26-04.1

The NIRPC Executive Board adopted the Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on May 15, 2025. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) approved the TIP on July 2, 2025, and August 28, 2025, respectively.

Since the adoption of the FY 2026-2030 TIP, project sponsors have proposed new projects and changes to existing projects, which must be reflected in the NIRPC's TIP and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Changes in the TIP are the first step in this process. The attached resolution 26-04.1 contains one amendment that contains ten project changes to highway projects using FHWA funds. All projects are exempt from the Air Quality Conformity process.

For INDOT – 4 Projects:

- 1 Pavement/Roadway Rehabilitation Project; Maintenance – Increase funding, revise between fiscal years
- 1 Sign Project – Repair/Replacement – district wide; new project
- 1 Small Structure Repair/Lining/Replacements – new project
- 1 Other Type Project – Welcome Center Reconstruction (add new funding source, revise funding between phases)

For locally sponsored projects – 6 Projects for the municipalities of Gary (1), Griffith (1), Hobart (1), La Porte County (1), Long Beach (1), and Porter (1):

- 1 Road Relocation Study
- 3 Other Type projects (Zero/Low Emission Vehicle Purchase [two new projects, one project elimination])
- 1 ADA sidewalk/pedestrian projects (increased funding)
- 1 Roadway Safety Project (eliminating)



RESOLUTION 26-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
AMENDING THE FY 2026-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FOR LAKE, PORTER, AND LA PORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA
AMENDMENTS NO. 26-04.1**

February 19, 2026

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana’s citizens require a safe, efficient, and resource-conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as “the Commission”, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lake, Porter and La Porte County Metropolitan Planning Area, has established a regional, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation improvement program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties, and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above activities to satisfy requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (PL 117-58)), applicable portions of all prior federal transportation program authorizing legislation, as well as other federal, state, and local laws mandating or authorizing transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program is a product of a multi-modal, 3-C transportation planning process, compatible with regional goals and objectives and socio-economic and demographic factors used to form the *NWI 2050+ MTP*; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program implements *NWI 2050+*, is fiscally constrained, and is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program is developed by the Commission in coordination and cooperation with local elected and appointed highway and transit officials, special interest and service organizations, including users of public transit, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the changes to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program brought about by this amendment were reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force's Interagency Consultation Group (ICG); and

WHEREAS, the changes to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program brought about by this amendment were made available for public comment in the manner prescribed by the 2019 Public Participation Plan, *ENGAGE NWI*; with no comments; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2026, the Transportation Committee recommended that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission make these changes to the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby amends the FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program by adding the new projects and making other changes as shown on the attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, this nineteenth day of February, 2026.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Secretary

2300662 (Ver 5) 26-04.1 STATUS Programmed **FEDERAL**

Title: Airport Road Relocation Study **Route:** N/A
Description: Planning for Airport Road relocation. Planning for new road that would go around N/S runway allowing runway to be lengthened. There is no CN on this project. This is planning project only.
Project Type: Planning/Study **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:**
Narrative: accelerate \$129,800 to FY 26

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	Local Fund	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
2026	STBG Chicago UZA	\$329,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$329,800
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$529,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$529,800
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$529,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$529,800

Region: Northwestern MPO **Lead Agency:** Gary

Previously Approved Version

2300662 (Ver 4) 26-02.1

Title: Airport Road Relocation Study **Route:** N/A
Description: Planning for Airport Road relocation. Planning for new road that would go around N/S runway allowing runway to be lengthened. There is no CN on this project. This is planning project only.
Project Type: Planning/Study **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:**
Narrative: New Project in 26-30 TIP Changed years for the funding.

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	Local Fund	\$167,550	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$167,550
2026	STBG Chicago UZA	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
2027	Local Fund	\$32,450	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,450
2027	STBG Chicago UZA	\$129,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$129,800
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$529,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$529,800
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$529,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$529,800

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: Gary

2501128		(Ver 1) 26-04.1	STATUS New Project				FEDERAL
Title:	Purchase ZEV					Route:	N/A
Description:	Purchase Electric (Zero Emission) Vehicles						
Project Type:	Other	AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte	
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	This is a new project for the 2026-2030 TIP. This project is split from 2301103.						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2026	CRP Chicago UZA	\$133,120	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$133,120	
2026	Local Fund	\$74,880	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$74,880	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Griffith			

2301203 (Ver 5) 26-04.1 STATUS Programmed **FEDERAL**

Title: City of Hobart and Lake Station HD CNG Trucks & Infrastructure (2026) **Route:** N/A
Description: 1- CNG Recycling Truck (2026), 2 CNG trucks (2027), 1 CNG Sewer cleaner (2028), CNG infrastructure upgrades (2028)
Project Type: Other **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:**
Narrative: Moved FY 25 funding to FY 26

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	CMAQ Chicago UZA	\$995,680	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$995,680
2026	Local Fund	\$255,620	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$255,620
2029	CMAQ Chicago UZA	\$640,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$640,000
2029	Local Fund	\$160,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160,000
<2026	Prior	\$1,857,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,857,900
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$2,051,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,051,300
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$3,909,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,909,200

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: Hobart

Previously Approved Version

2301203 (Ver 4) 26-02.1

Title: City of Hobart and Lake Station HD CNG Trucks & Infrastructure (2026) **Route:** N/A
Description: 1- CNG Recycling Truck (2026), 2 CNG trucks (2027), 1 CNG Sewer cleaner (2028), CNG infrastructure upgrades (2028)
Project Type: Other **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:**
Narrative: New project in 26-30 TIP, revised funding in 2026, added funding in 2029

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	CMAQ Chicago UZA	\$481,280	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$481,280
2026	Local Fund	\$120,020	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,020
2029	CMAQ Chicago UZA	\$640,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$640,000
2029	Local Fund	\$160,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160,000
<2026	Prior	\$2,507,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,507,900
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$1,401,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,401,300
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$3,909,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,909,200

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: Hobart

1902735 (Ver 6) 26-04.1 STATUS Programmed **FEDERAL**

Title: Welcome Center Renovation **Route:** I- 94
Description: Michigan City Welcome Center Renovation
Project Type: Rest Area Modernization **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:** From RP 42+81 to RF 43+34 of Distance (mile) 0.53 Milepost begins at 42.81 ends at 43.34
Narrative: revise FY25 PE funding sources and amounts - federal special is interstate maintenance - SAFETEA-LU, add FY26 PE funds \$

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	DEMO	\$0	\$0	\$517,496	\$0	\$517,496
2026	NHPP Interstate	\$975,000	\$0	\$45,482,063	\$0	\$46,457,063
<2026	Prior	\$4,739,291	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,739,291
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$975,000	\$0	\$45,999,559	\$0	\$46,974,559
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$5,714,291	\$0	\$45,999,559	\$0	\$51,713,850

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

Previously Approved Version

1902735 (Ver 5) 26-00

Title: Welcome Center Renovation **Route:** I- 94
Description: Michigan City Welcome Center Renovation
Project Type: Rest Area Modernization **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:** Milepost begins at 42.81 ends at 43.34
Narrative: update prior FY PE \$, add FY25 PE, move CN from FY25 to FY26 and increase including UT, add FY26 RW & map location

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$169,000	\$47,293,701	\$0	\$47,462,701
<2026	Prior	\$4,739,291	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,739,291
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$169,000	\$47,293,701	\$0	\$47,462,701
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$4,739,291	\$169,000	\$47,293,701	\$0	\$52,201,992

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2101157 (Ver 6) 26-04.1 STATUS Programmed **FEDERAL**

Title: District Pavement Project (Interstate) **Route:** N/A
Description: Concrete Pavement Restoration (CPR) on I-80, 1.3 mi. W. of I65 (Georgia St.) to 1.8 mi. W. of SR 51 (Clay St.). The length of the project is 2.6 miles.
Project Type: Concrete Pavement Restoration (CPR) **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:**
Narrative: Move CN from FY26 to FY27 and increase from \$13,060,221.00 to \$14,165,212.00

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$14,165,212	\$900,000	\$15,065,212
<2026	Prior	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$14,165,212	\$900,000	\$15,065,212
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$200,000	\$0	\$14,165,212	\$900,000	\$15,265,212

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

Previously Approved Version

2101157 (Ver 5) 26-02.1

Title: District Pavement Project (Interstate) **Route:** N/A
Description: Concrete Pavement Restoration (CPR) on I-80, 1.3 mi. W. of I65 (Georgia St.) to 1.8 mi. W. of SR 51 (Clay St.). The length of the project is 2.6 miles.
Project Type: Concrete Pavement Restoration (CPR) **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Lake **Limits:**
Narrative: Increase CE to \$900,000.00 FY26 for des 2101157

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$13,060,221	\$900,000	\$13,960,221
<2026	Prior	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$13,060,221	\$900,000	\$13,960,221
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$200,000	\$0	\$13,060,221	\$900,000	\$14,160,221

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2301219		(Ver 2) 26-04.1	STATUS Deleted				STATE
Title:	Pavement Marking Project					Route:	N/A
Description:	Various RPM Locations Within the LaPorte District various locations & lengths						
Project Type:	Raised Pavement Markings, Refurbishe	AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte	
County:	Various	Limits:					
Narrative:	Remove \$800,000 from FY28 CN for des 2301219.						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Previously Approved Version							
2301219		(Ver 1) 26-03.1					
Title:	Pavement Marking Project					Route:	N/A
Description:	Various RPM Locations Within the LaPorte District various locations & lengths						
Project Type:	Raised Pavement Markings, Refurbishe	AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte	
County:	Various	Limits:					
Narrative:	New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add CN \$800,000 in FY28						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2028	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

2401847		(Ver 1) 26-04.1	STATUS New Project				STATE
Title:	Signing Installation / Repair					Route:	N/A
Description:	Various locations in the LaPorte District						
Project Type:	Signing Installation / Repair	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Laporte	Limits:					
Narrative:	New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add CN \$1,120,000.00 in FY28; various locations						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2028	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$1,120,000	\$0	\$1,120,000	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,120,000	\$0	\$1,120,000	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,120,000	\$0	\$1,120,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

2500478		(Ver 1) 26-04.1	STATUS New Project				FEDERAL
Title:	Small Structures & Drains Reconstruction, I-65					Route:	N/A
Description:	From 0.45 mi. S. of US 30 (including interchange) to 0.62 mi. N. of I-80/94 (Central Ave.). The length is 7.95 miles and will be completed in CY 2029.						
Project Type:	Small Structures & Drains Construction	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	New Project for 26-30, Add CN in FY 2029 \$563,331.00						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2029	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$563,331	\$0	\$563,331	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$563,331	\$0	\$563,331	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$563,331	\$0	\$563,331	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

1902818 (Ver 8) 26-04.1 STATUS Programmed **FEDERAL**

Title: Unincorporated Union Mills- Sidewalks and ramps **Route:** N/A
Description: Sidewalks and ramps along Hamilton and Water Street. Total length is 0.75 mi.
Project Type: Bike/Pedestrian Facilities **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: Increase funding for ROW LID

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	Local Fund	\$0	\$32,600	\$0	\$0	\$32,600
2026	TAP Mich City UZA	\$0	\$130,400	\$0	\$0	\$130,400
2027	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$11,600	\$91,600
2027	STBG Group IV	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$46,400	\$366,400
<2026	Prior	\$119,500	\$119,250	\$0	\$0	\$238,750
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$163,000	\$400,000	\$58,000	\$621,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$119,500	\$282,250	\$400,000	\$58,000	\$859,750

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: LaPorte County

Previously Approved Version

1902818 (Ver 7) 26-00

Title: Unincorporated Union Mills- Sidewalks and ramps **Route:** N/A
Description: Sidewalks and ramps along Hamilton and Water Street. Total length is 0.75 mi.
Project Type: Bike/Pedestrian Facilities **AQ Exempt:** Exempt **District:** LaPorte
County: Laporte **Limits:**
Narrative: Kathy approved for the RW Funds to be moved to FY25 and the CN funds to be moved to FY27

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$11,600	\$91,600
2027	STBG Group IV	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$46,400	\$366,400
<2026	Prior	\$119,500	\$119,250	\$0	\$0	\$238,750
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$58,000	\$458,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$119,500	\$119,250	\$400,000	\$58,000	\$696,750

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: LaPorte County

2401544		(Ver 4) 26-04.1	STATUS Deleted				STATE
Title:	Pavement Markings on multiple Streets in Long Beach					Route:	N/A
Description:	Pavement Markings on multiple Streets in Long Beach						
Project Type:	Other	AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte	
County:	Laporte	Limits:					
Narrative:	This project is being eliminated, per the LPA.						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Long Beach			

Previously Approved Version							
2401544		(Ver 3) 26-02.1					
Title:	Pavement Markings on multiple Streets in Long Beach					Route:	N/A
Description:	Pavement Markings on multiple Streets in Long Beach						
Project Type:	Other	AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte	
County:	Laporte	Limits:					
Narrative:	New project in 26-30 TIP (Carry Over)						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2026	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	
2026	State Special Projects	\$0	\$0	\$54,000	\$0	\$54,000	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$72,000	\$0	\$72,000	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$72,000	\$0	\$72,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Long Beach			

2501107		(Ver 2) 26-04.1	STATUS Deleted				FEDERAL
Title:	Purchase ZEV					Route:	N/A
Description:	Purchase Electric (Zero Emission) Vehicles						
Project Type:	Other	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Porter	Limits:					
Narrative:	LPA wished to not move forward and eliminate the project.						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Porter			

Previously Approved Version							
2501107		(Ver 1) 26-03.1					
Title:	Purchase ZEV					Route:	N/A
Description:	Purchase Electric (Zero Emission) Vehicles						
Project Type:	Other	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Porter	Limits:					
Narrative:	This is a new project for the 2026-2030 TIP. This project is split from 2301103.						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2026	CRP Chicago UZA	\$133,120	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$133,120	
2026	Local Fund	\$74,880	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$74,880	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Porter			

Northwestern MPO TIP SUMMARY BY LEAD AGENCY

	Prior	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Beyond	Total
Gary	\$0	\$897,350	\$162,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,059,600
Griffith	\$0	\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000
Hobart	\$4,365,800	\$1,852,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,818,400
INDOT	\$9,878,582	\$108,397,481	\$15,065,212	\$1,920,000	\$563,331	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$135,824,606
LaPorte County	\$477,500	\$163,000	\$916,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,556,500
Long Beach	\$0	\$72,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$72,000
Porter	\$0	\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000
TOTAL	\$14,721,882	\$111,798,431	\$16,143,462	\$1,920,000	\$2,163,331	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$146,747,106

Economy & Place Committee
October 8, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Chairman George Topoll began the Economy & Place Committee meeting at 10:02 a.m. with the pledge of allegiance and introductions.

The voting members were George Topoll (Union Township), John Matwyszyn (LPC Surveyor), Lois Whittaker (BCCNWI), and Andy Vasquez (Porter County).

Doug Ross, Robert Cotton, Rodney Harris, Heather Ennis, and Heather Presley-Cohen (HHP) were also present.

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther (Meeting Lead), Meredith Stillwell (technical assistance), Flor Baum (administrative support), Grace Benninger, and Tom Vander Woude.

On motion by John Matwyszyn, seconded by Lois Whittaker, July 9, 2025, minutes were approved as presented.

Heather Presley-Cowen (Club 720) spoke on Resolution 25-13: Cooperative Agreement with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority to Participate in the Hoosier Homes Homebuyer Assistance Program. Heather explained that Club 720 Solutions helps Midwest communities optimize housing production through tools such as Hoosier Homes and virtual initiatives. The platform offers up to 5% down payment assistance for buyers earning up to 140% of the area median income, at no cost to participating communities. Club 720 provides educational resources on affordable mortgage options and down payment assistance. A regional authorization for Club 720 simplifies lending processes and provides valuable data. Cook County's successful program implementation attracted over 2,000 home buyers shortly after launch.

Northeast Indiana was seeking authorization for a cooperative agreement with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority to allow buyers to access the full 5% investment, with varying regional contributions. Representative Valparaiso reported no outstanding questions after thoroughly vetting the program over the past two years. Down payment assistance programs remain underutilized in many communities, and the introduction of a new product by Hoosier Homes aims to enhance accessibility while complementing existing offerings and promoting awareness. The capital stacking method introduced through Hoosier Homes was designed to address the housing crisis in the middle market by providing incentives to developers and assisting buyers in qualifying for mortgages. The program was confirmed to be stackable with others, involving a second lien on homes, and allows buyers to build equity over seven years with potential employer contributions, while ensuring no repayment if they remain for the full term. On motion by Lois Whittaker, seconded by John Matwyszyn, the Economy & Place Committee recommended Res 25-13 to the Commission for approval.

Kathy Luther presented an update on NIRPC's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which aims to achieve an 80–85% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 compared to 2005 levels. She provided an overview of ongoing climate planning efforts conducted in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and CMAP, funded through EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The 2020 regional GHG inventory indicated total emissions of approximately 152 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent, with the industrial, transportation, and building sectors as the largest contributors. Emissions had already decreased by 20% between 2005 and 2020, leaving an additional 65% reduction needed to meet the 2050 goal.

Three modeling scenarios were presented to demonstrate potential reduction outcomes. The Current Policy Scenario projected a 36% reduction in emissions under existing state and federal policies. The State and Local Plan Implementation Scenario showed a potential 59% reduction if additional regional and state initiatives were implemented. The Full Federal Implementation Scenario demonstrated the greatest potential impact, projecting up to an 86% reduction through coordinated local, state, and federal efforts.

In addressing the building sector, Kathy explained that buildings accounted for approximately 11% of total regional GHG emissions in 2020. Residential emissions had decreased by 26% and commercial emissions by 12%, largely due to cleaner electricity generation; however, natural gas emissions had remained steady. Under the full implementation scenario, building-related emissions could be reduced by up to 94% by 2050 through electrification, weatherization, and energy efficiency improvements.

For residential structures, space heating remained the largest source of emissions, primarily from single-family homes. The plan targeted 100% of heating equipment sales to be all-electric by 2035, with heat pumps comprising at least 55% of those sales. Retrofitting and weatherization programs were expected to reach 50% of homes by 2050, complemented by appliance electrification and the gradual phaseout of natural gas systems. In the commercial sector, space and water heating, lighting, and equipment use contributed most to emissions. Proposed building performance standards would apply to structures larger than 50,000 square feet by 2035 and 25,000 square feet by 2050. The transition toward electric heat pump systems was projected to reach 87% of new equipment sales by 2050, with natural gas systems nearly phased out.

The committee emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and community education to achieve decarbonization targets. Members discussed the challenges posed by retrofit costs, long equipment life cycles, and public awareness gaps surrounding the benefits of electrification. Weatherization programs, incentive funding, and improved housing density were identified as essential strategies for supporting emission reductions and enhancing overall energy efficiency.

NIRPC outlined the next steps in the Bi-State Chicago MSA Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) development process, including incorporating feedback from the working group, completing modeling and benefit analyses with the steering committee, conducting public engagement sessions, and presenting a draft plan in fall 2025. Members were encouraged to share surveys, attend workshops, and continue providing input to support final plan development.

Hearing no further business, the meeting ended at 10:57 a.m. The next Economy & Place Committee meeting is slated for January 7, 2025, in the NIRPC offices.

Reference

- [YouTube Livestream of 10/8/25 Meeting](#)



- [Club 720](#)



Environment Committee
Lake Michigan Room
November 6, 2025

Minutes

Commissioner David Phelps called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were:

Katherine Balkema, DNR; Reggie Korthals, MS4; Susan MiHalo, The Nature Conservancy; Nancy Moldenhauer, Michigan City Council; Ryan Lisek, Drive Clean Indiana; Chris Li, Drive Clean Indiana; Jacob Nieto, Save the Dunes; Katie Hobgood, Save the Dunes; Ellen Kapitan, City of Valparaiso; Connie Wachala, Highland Neighbors for Sustainability; Cathy Perrin, Highland Neighbors for Sustainability; Jenny Dimitroff, Porter Sustainability Commission; Doug Ross, Kathy Sipple, Earth Charter Indiana; Kay Nelson, NWI Forum; Jake Cseke; Hobart; Julia Carillo, BF&S

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther, Jen Birchfield, Meredith Stillwell, Denarie Kane, Tom Van der Wood. Fellow Celena Green was also in attendance.

On motion by Reggie Korthals, seconded by Ryan Lisek, the August 7, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comments

Connie Wachala shared comments about a Sustainable Steel Cohort. She noted the Steel industry is important in NWI and needs to be modernized. Connie asked if Gary Advocates for Responsible Development (GARD) can be on the next Environment Committee Agenda to present on the initiative.

Susan MiHalo shared that The Nature Conservancy will be planting 100 trees in Gary City Parks over the next two weekends with the Student Conservation Association with funding from DNR Community and urban Forestry. She distributed a flyer.

Brownfield Action in NWI- Kathy Luther

Kathy Luther presented on Brownfield action in NWI.

David Phelps asked how NIRPC targets sites. Kathy answered that in the first grant we let local government suggest sites to us. In the second we focused on development potential. Now the focus is on the Quantum Corridor.

Kay Nelson noted that the property owner must be willing and we must work with municipal departments to prioritize. It is very time-consuming and challenging.

David said it would be helpful to get TDD communities together regarding brownfields.

Reggie Korthols said the role for NIRPC is education to help elected officials understand their role.

Brownfields as Economic Opportunity, Redevelopment Barriers and Strategies

Celena Green, Economic Recovery Corps Fellow, presented.

A Gary Townmakers workshop will be held November 14 at IUN.

Nancy Moldenhauer said Michigan City gets information from the Redevelopment Commission, Planning Department, Economic Development Corporation, and internet research.

Susan MiHalo noted that Delta Institute did a study of vacant land in Gary. That was used, but administrations can change focus areas. Was green infrastructure and offsetting stormwater considered? Luther responded that the project is trying to incorporate previous work, but that this wasn't the focus of Celena's work, but discussed in a prior grant that green infrastructure and protecting natural resources was a scoring point in selecting sites.

Hoosier Environmental Council made a guide on data centers, but there is nothing on quantum.

Jake Cseke noted that citizens do not have much time to review plans before meetings. It is a struggle to get clear information and to know the intentions.

Kathy suggested a possible Quantum workshop in off months of Environment Committee meetings.

NIRPC Projects and Programs

Jen reported that NIRPC awarded 487 trees this fall. In total, CommuniTree partners have planted nearly 14,000 trees since 2027.

Kathy reported that the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the Chicago metropolitan area has been completed and submitted to EPA. NIRPC will be updating the Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Planning Partner Updates

Drive Clean Indiana distributed their report.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program's grants are open and accepting preproposals until Friday, December 5. Categories are conservation (acquisition or restoration) and public access. Workshops will be held.

Announcements

Reggie Korthals announced a NISWAG contractor's training.

Nancy Moldenhauer announced Green Drinks tonight featuring Dr. John Lowe on Indian American history. You can join via Save the Dunes' Facebook or a Zoom link from em@savedunes.org.

Suan MiHalo moved to adjourn the meeting. Reggie Korthols seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

The next Environment Committee meeting is slated for February 5, 2025, at the NIRPC offices.