



6100 Southport Road
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www.nirpc.org

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

May 21, 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, Portage Mayor
- 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 April 16, 2026, Full Commission Meeting (pp. 1-4)
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
- 6.0 **LEADERSHIP** – Austin Bonta, Portage Mayor (pp. 5-6)
 - 6.1 Year-End Financial Summary, *Talaya Jones*
- 7.0 **TRANSPORTATION** – Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor (pp. 7-29)
 - 7.1 Resolution #26-08: FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Amendment 26-06.1 *Charles Bradsky* (pp. 10-29)
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
 - 7.2 2027 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, Tom Vander Woude
 - 7.3 INDOT - Matt Deitchley, La Porte District Deputy Commissioner
- 8.0 **ECONOMY & PLACE** – George Topoll, Union Township Trustee
- 9.0 **ENVIRONMENT** – Bill Emerson, Lake County Surveyor (pp. 30-32)
- 10.0 Other Business
- 11.0 Announcements
- 12.0 Adjournment
The next meeting on June 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. will be an Executive Board meeting. The next Full Commission meeting is on July 16, 2026.

NIRPC Full Commission Meeting
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
Minutes of the April 16, 2026 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 Anthony Ferraro (Governor's Appointee) and Phillip Kuiper (Town of Lowell).

Roll Call—Taken by Candice Eklund

Present

The 35 Commissioners present at the meeting are listed below:

- Jim Biggs, Porter County Commissioner
- 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
- Larry Colley, Town of Pottawattomie Park
- Jon Costas, City of Valparaiso
- Bill Emerson, Lake County Surveyor
- Anthony Ferraro, Governor's Appointee
- Joe Haney, La Porte County Commissioner
- Keesha Hardaway, Town of Merrillville
- Christian Hendron, Porter Township Trustee
- Lori Hunt, Town of Westville
- Scott Kingan, Town of Ogden Dunes
- Peter Land, City of Crown Point
- Colleen Lane, Town of Long Beach
- Lori Latham, City of Gary
- Annette Ludwig, Town of Dyer
- John Matwyshyn, La Porte County Surveyor
- Tom McDermott, City of Hammond
- Jack McGraw, Town of Burns Harbor
- Wendy Mis, Town of Munster
- Randell Niemeyer, Lake County Council
- Courtney Parthun, City of La Porte
- David Phelps, Town of Beverly Shores
- Rick Ryfa, Town of Griffith
- 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
- Jim Ton, Town of Chesterton
- George Topoll, Union Township
- Andy Vasquez, Porter County Council

Absent

The 15 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 Derwinski, Town of Winfield
- Daina Dumbrys, Town of Michiana Shores
- Denise Ebert, Town of Wanatah
- Bonnie Hawksworth, Town of Dune Acres *
- Vanessa Hernandez Orange, City of East Chicago
- Josh Huddlestun, City of Hobart
- Justin Kiel, La Porte County Council *
- Phillip Kuiper, Town of Lowell
- Angie Nelson Deutch, City of Michigan City
- Lisa Rosenkranz, Town of LaCrosse
- Steve Spebar, City of Whiting

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

Adam Parkhouse, representing INDOT, was also present.

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

Staff present included Ty Warner, Talaya Jones, Tom Vander Woude, Kathy Luther, Charles Bradsky, Denarie Kane, Eman Ibrahim, Marisol Manley, Mitch Barloga, Meredith Stilwell, and Candice Eklund.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 19, 2026, Executive Board meeting were approved on motion by Bob Carnahan and seconded by Andy Vasquez.

Leadership – Austin Bonta, Portage Mayor

Presentation of Norman E. Tufford Award

Ty Warner explained that the Tufford Award honors NIRPC's first Executive Director, Norman Tufford, and announced that this year's recipient was Leigh Morris, recognized for his distinguished career and significant contributions to Northwest Indiana. Mr. Morris's career highlights included serving as President and CEO of La Porte Hospital, Mayor of La Porte, former NIRPC Chair, Chair of the Regional Development Authority (RDA), and Senior Vice President of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). Mr. Morris expressed his appreciation for the award, noting that it was especially meaningful coming from NIRPC. He remarked that he was not aware of another organization where a board of 53 members, representing diverse and at times competing or politically opposing governmental units, could successfully fulfill its mission with such positive impacts on our region. He stated that many of NIRPC's accomplishments were made possible through strong vision and leadership, crediting Norman Tufford, Jim Ranfranz, John Swanson, and Ty Warner for their service as Executive Directors. He also credited the supportive staff for making a significant difference in the region. Mr. Morris thanked those involved in the selection of this award and acknowledged the presence of his wife, Marcia, and concluded by saying, "Onward and upward, NIRPC."

Staff Recognition - Ty Warner and Austin Bonta recognized Marisol Manley, Accounting Assistant, for her 5-year milestone service at NIRPC.

Election of Officers & Executive Board

Wendy Mis read the proposed slate of officers for 2026 that is being voted on today. On motion by Andy Vasquez and seconded by George Topoll, the Full Commission voted to adopt the 2026 slate as presented.

Elected as Chair for 2026 was Austin Bonta, Mayor of Portage. Denise Ebert, Clerk-Treasurer (Wanatah), was elected as Vice Chair. Bill Emerson (Lake County Surveyor) was elected as Treasurer, and David Phelps, Town Council President (Beverly Shores), was elected as Secretary.

Members elected to the Executive Board included Councilman Tom Schmitt (Schererville) and Clerk-Treasurer Wendy Mis (Munster), representing Lake County; County Commissioner, Joe Haney and Clerk-Treasurer Courtney Parthun, representing La Porte County; and Kevin Breitzke (County Surveyor) and Councilman James Ton (Chesterton), representing Porter County. The Governor's appointee to the Executive Board is Anthony Ferraro.

Wendy Mis continued the tradition of passing the gavel to the new NIRPC Chair, Austin Bonta. Ty Warner presented Wendy Mis with the Chair plaque, saying she has been a delight to work with as Chair, she has been wholeheartedly committed to NIRPC, and has always wanted to do what was best for NIRPC. Wendy Mis will remain on the Executive Board this year.

A photo was taken of past NIRPC Chairpersons in attendance: Geoff Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Jon Costas, Richard Hardaway, Tom McDermott, Wendy Mis, Brian Snedecor, Jim Ton, and George Topoll. Tom Dermody and Leigh Morris were also in attendance but were not pictured, as they had departed earlier. Ty Warner thanked all of the past Chairpersons for their commitment and service.

Wendy Mis reported that the Leadership Committee met this morning to discuss the three items below, which were being recommended to the Full Commission for approval.

- **Procurement Recommendation:** This is to purchase 18 vehicles for the transit subrecipients. On motion by Bob Carnahan and seconded by Jim Ton, the Full Commission approved the procurement.
- **Resolution #26-06: US Economic Development Association (EDA) Planning Partnership.** This planning partnership authorizes the resubmission of the application, allowing for a 3-year extension. On motion by Bob Carnahan and seconded by Jack McGraw, the Full Commission approved Resolution #26-06.

- **Contract: Corradino LLC – 2026 Road Safety Audits.** Tom Vander Woude presented on this contract agreement for Road Safety Audits (RSAs) in the amount of \$77,485.41 to be used to complete a series of road safety audits throughout NWI. The audits will begin this spring, with completed reports being available this fall. On motion by Bob Carnahan and seconded by Jim Ton, the Full Commission approved this contract.

Transportation – Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor

Kevin Breitzke reported that the Transportation Committee met on April 7, 2026, where they heard presentations on the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update and the regional truck parking study. The next meeting is scheduled on May 5, 2026.

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

- **Resolution #26-07: FY 2027-2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**
Tom Vander Woude reported that the UPWP is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation for NIRPC in its role as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The UPWP outlines how NIRPC's federal transportation planning funds will be used to carry out the region's MTP and details the planning tasks to be completed during the fiscal year. It is the financial planning document linking work activities to funding sources. The two priorities implemented in the UPWP are the locally and regionally identified issues through the MPT, and federally and state-identified planning emphasis areas. The major focus in FY 2027 will be on developing the MTP update, and in FY 2028, on implementing the MTP. On motion by Jim Ton and seconded by Bill Emerson, the Full Commission approved resolution #26-07.

Kevin Breitzke concluded his report, saying Carl Lisek, Drive Clean Indiana, reported on the available grant cycle at the Transportation Committee meeting, and Kelly Wenger, NICTD, reported that the Monon Corridor is now open. Ty added that though it is often overlooked because it happened years ago, \$1.5 billion for the double-tracking and the new Monon Corridor would not have been possible without the NIRPC Commission approving those funds.

INDOT – Adam Parkhouse

Adam Parkhouse reported that next week is [National Worker Zone Awareness Week](#). The theme this year is "Safe Actions Save Lives." Adam reminded the Commission that potholes can be reported at [855-INDOT4u](#).

Tom McDermott reported that a neighboring community is planning to shut down a road that will disrupt regional traffic flow and could harm an economic development project in the City of Hammond. He asked what role INDOT or NIRPC plays in this situation regarding local road closures. Ty Warner commented that a Regional Corridors Study conducted around 2012 talked about those roads that would be improved or connected for regional benefit, and that there's a lot of modeling data associated with that. It is possible NIRPC could project what certain road closures would do to the overall road network.

Austin Bonta added that NIRPC is happy to serve as a connector to the people. Since the other municipalities would need a neutral space, NIRPC is available, but was not aware of the legal authority NIRPC would have. Tom McDermott and Adam Parkhouse indicated they would continue the discussion following the meeting.

Economy & Place – George Topoll

George Topoll reported that the committee met on April 8, 2026, where they heard a presentation on the 2026 NWI RDA Development Catalyst Grant from David Wellman, Director of Communications. The NWI RDA is investing \$250,000 in Lake and Porter Counties through this grant. Grants will range from \$15,000 to \$75,000, with a local match of 10-50%. NIRPC staff delivered presentations on the MTP update, updates on the regional demographics data over the last 10 years, updates on land-use and housing-related performance measures, updated transportation performance measures, and updates on MPT's environmental section covering brownfields, managed land, and tree equality. All presentations are available on NIRPC's website.

Ty Warner added that the Economy & Place Committee was responsible for developing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which was adopted by the Commission in May 2025. He reported that NIRPC had just received notice on Monday that it had finally been formally approved and accepted by the EDA with no changes, and he thanked the Economy & Place Committee for their work.

Environment – Bill Emerson

Bill Emerson had nothing to report since the committee had not met since the last Commission meeting.

Ty Warner and Carl Lisek, Executive Director of Drive Clean Indiana, reported that the NIRPC Green Fleet was awarded to the City of East Chicago. This award recognizes the city's commitment to Hoosier Fuels and sustainable municipal operations through several key technology deployments. In 2025, the city became a leader by deploying three all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning trucks for the public works department. Jaylan Robinson and Jaylen Johnson, from the Public Works Department in East Chicago, accepted the award.

Announcements

Randell Niemeyer announced that Central Data Centers is hosting an open house at Lowell High School tonight to discuss data center development.

Mayor Bonta announced that if you live in Porter County, you can vote early in the NIRPC lobby. He also announced that orientation for new Commissioners or Commissioners who would like a refresh on what NIRPC is, how it works, and how to utilize NIRPC resources, including its policies and how to advocate for their own communities, will be held after this meeting.

It was asked if the Chicago Bears would choose to move to NWI. Mayor McDermott said there will be hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure, and that the state of Indiana is being generous by offering \$1.5 billion to be spent in Hammond, which would then bring 2,000 permanent jobs to the region. He thanked Governor Braun, Speaker Huston, and all the legislative leaders for making this happen. He also announced that the groundbreaking ceremony of the new downtown Hammond train station is this afternoon.

Hearing no further business, Austin Bonta adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m. The next meeting will be an Executive Board meeting on May 21, 2026.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [Full Commission Meeting 4-16-26 \(youtube.com\)](#)

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Members present

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

Staff and others present

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

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Review of Financial Status – September, October and November 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Business

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

Personnel updates

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

Other Business

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

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Business

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

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

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Transportation Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
April 7, 2026
Minutes

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

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

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

Second by Bob Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No comments were received from the public.

3. Planning

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

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

Key points included:

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

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

Seconded by Bob Thompson.

The motion carried unanimously.

3.2 2027 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update - Informational

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

Highlights included:

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

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

3.3 Regional Truck Parking Study – Informational

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

Key findings:

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

The study will continue into goal setting and final recommendations.

4. Programming

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

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

No formal action required; items were informational.

5. Reports from Planning Partners

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

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

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

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

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

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



Public Comment Report

Amendment #26-06.1 to the FY 2026 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

May 15, 2026

Amendment #26-06.1 of the FY 2026 - 2030 Transportation Improvement Program was released for a 21-day public comment period which began on April 6, 2026, and ended on April 27, 2026. Amendment 26-06.1 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 amendment to the Interagency Consultation Group (ICG) on March 26, 2026. There were no questions or comments concerning the list of projects on the amendment.

Concurrence was given for these projects on this amendment by members of the ICG on April 6, 2026.

MEMORANDUM

To: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Transportation Committee

From: Charles Bradsky, Transportation Projects Manager

Date: May 5, 2026

Re: TIP Amendments #26-06.1

Action Requested: Recommendation to adopt Resolution 26-08, Amendments #26-06.1

The NIRPC Executive Board adopted *NWI 2050+* and the Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on May 15, 2025. INDOT and USDOT approved the TIP on July 2 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 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Changes in the TIP are the first step in this process. This resolution contains one TIP amendment. 26-06.1 is for infrastructure projects using FHWA (highway) funds and that are exempt from the Air Quality Conformity process (17 projects).

Amendment #26-06.1 contains:

For INDOT – 12 Projects:

- 2 Bridge Rehabilitation Projects – Increase funds
- 1 Pavement/Roadway Rehabilitation Project; Maintenance – Increase funding
- 1 Sign Project – Repair/Replacement; district wide – New project
- 1 District Lighting Project; Lake County – New project
- 1 Small Structure Repair/Lining/Replacements – Increase funds
- 1 Pedestrian Project; Sidewalks in Lake County – Increase funding
- 1 Pavement Marking; district wide – Delete Project
- 4 Intersection Improvements; Lake & La Porte Counties – Three new projects and one Increasing funds

For locally sponsored projects – 5 Projects for the municipalities of Cedar Lake (1), La Porte County (1), NIRPC (1), & Porter County (2):

- Cedar Lake – Sign Modernization (Delete project)
- La Porte County – Bridge Replacement (New project)
- NIRPC – Purchase Trail counters for various communities (New project)
- Porter County – Two Bridge Replacements (New projects)



RESOLUTION 26-08

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
AMENDMENT NO. 26-06.1

May 15, 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 are 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 Public Participation Plan, *ENGAGE NWI*, with no comments received; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2025, 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 fifteenth day of May 2026.

Austin Bonta
Chairperson

ATTEST:

David Phelps
Secretary

2401579		(Ver 3) 26-06.1	STATUS Deleted		STATE		
Title:	Signing Modernization on multiple streets in Cedar Lake				Route: N/A		
Description:	Sign Modernization on Lake Shore Dr. (Cline Ave to Hilltop St) and Hilltop St (Lake Shore Dr. to W 129th Ave). Total project length is 0.35 mi.						
Project Type:	Sign - Safety Upgrade	AQ Exempt:		Exempt	District: LaPorte		
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	Per the LPA the are rescinding the funds and eliminating the project						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Cedar Lake			
Previously Approved Version							
2401579		(Ver 2) 26-02.1					
Title:	Signing Modernization on multiple streets in Cedar Lake				Route: N/A		
Description:	Sign Modernization on Lake Shore Dr. (Cline Ave to Hilltop St) and Hilltop St (Lake Shore Dr. to W 129th Ave). Total project length is 0.35 mi.						
Project Type:	Sign - Safety Upgrade	AQ Exempt:		Exempt	District: LaPorte		
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	New project in 26-30 TIP, (Carry-over)						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2026	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$2,800	\$0	\$2,800
	2026	State Special Projects	\$0	\$0	\$25,200	\$0	\$25,200
2026-2030 TOTAL			\$0	\$0	\$28,000	\$0	\$28,000
ALL YEARS TOTAL			\$0	\$0	\$28,000	\$0	\$28,000
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Cedar Lake			

1700359		(Ver 7) 26-06.1		STATUS Programmed		FEDERAL		
Title:	Bridge Deck Overlay at SR 912					Route: SR 912		
Description:	Elevation Change-up Ramp, 1.17mi W of US 12							
Project Type:	Bridge Deck Overlay	AQ Exempt:		Exempt		District: LaPorte		
County:	Lake	Limits:	Bridge #: 33037					
Narrative:	Increase FY27 CN from \$5,396,383 to \$5,868,248							
FED FY		REVENUE SOURCE		PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027		NHPP Non Interstate		\$0	\$0	\$5,868,248	\$0	\$5,868,248
2026-2030 TOTAL				\$0	\$0	\$5,868,248	\$0	\$5,868,248
ALL YEARS TOTAL				\$0	\$0	\$5,868,248	\$0	\$5,868,248
Region: Northwestern MPO					Lead Agency: INDOT			

Previously Approved Version							
1700359		(Ver 6) 26-00					
Title:	Bridge Deck Overlay at SR 912					Route: SR 912	
Description:	Elevation Change-up Ramp, 1.17mi W of US 12						
Project Type:	Bridge Deck Overlay		AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District: LaPorte	
County:	Lake	Limits:	Bridge #: 33037				
Narrative:	move CN to FY27 and increase to \$5,396,383.00, B-44980						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$5,396,383	\$0	\$5,396,383
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$5,396,383	\$0	\$5,396,383
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$5,396,383	\$0	\$5,396,383
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

2101034		(Ver 5) 26-06.1	STATUS Programmed		FEDERAL		
Title:	Small Structure Maintenance/Repair/Replacement				Route:	N/A	
Description:	Small Structures & Drains Construction on I-94 from 0.43 mi E of SR49 to 0.40 mi E of US421 (Median)						
Project Type:	Small Structures & Drains Construction	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District: LaPorte	
County:	Porter	Limits:					
Narrative:	Increase FY27 CN from \$12,233,037 to \$40,000,000						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$40,000,000	\$0	\$40,000,000
	<2026	Prior	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$40,000,000	\$0	\$40,000,000
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$200,000	\$0	\$40,000,000	\$0	\$40,200,000
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Previously Approved Version

2101034 (Ver 4) 26-00

Title:Small Structure Maintenance/Repair/ReplacementRoute: N/A

Description:Small Structures & Drains Construction on I-94 from 0.43 mi E of SR49 to 0.40 mi E of US421 (Median)

Project Type:Small Structures & Drains ConstructionAQ Exempt:ExemptDistrict: LaPorte

County:PorterLimits:

Narrative:Move CN to FY27 to \$12,233,037.00 DES 2101034, R-45687

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$12,233,037	\$0	\$12,233,037
<2026	Prior	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$12,233,037	\$0	\$12,233,037
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$200,000	\$0	\$12,233,037	\$0	\$12,433,037

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2200004

(Ver 1) 26-06.1

STATUS New Project

STATE

Title:

Signing Project (New/Modernized)

Route:

N/A

Description:

Replace signs at various locations in the LaPorte District

Project Type:

Signing Installation / Repair

AQ Exempt:

Exempt

District:

LaPorte

County:

Various

Limits:

Narrative:

New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add CN \$2,097,252.00 in FY 2027

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$2,097,252	\$0	\$2,097,252
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$2,097,252	\$0	\$2,097,252
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$2,097,252	\$0	\$2,097,252

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

2200737		(Ver 6) 26-06.1	STATUS Programmed			FEDERAL	
Title:	District Bridge Project (Rehabilitation)					Route:	N/A
Description:	Bridge Painting, I 94 I-94 EB/WB under CR W800N, 02.05 E US 20. The project length is 0.1 miles.						
Project Type:	Bridge Painting	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Laporte	Limits:					
Narrative:	increase CN from \$877,568 to \$1,059,907.00 in FY27						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2027	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$1,059,907	\$0	\$1,059,907	
<2026	Prior	\$92,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$92,000	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,059,907	\$0	\$1,059,907	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$92,000	\$0	\$1,059,907	\$0	\$1,151,907	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Previously Approved Version							
2200737		(Ver 5) 26-03.1					
Title:	District Bridge Project (Rehabilitation)					Route:	N/A
Description:	Bridge Painting, I 94 I-94 EB/WB under CR W800N, 02.05 E US 20. The project length is 0.1 miles.						
Project Type:	Bridge Painting	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Laporte	Limits:					
Narrative:	increase CN from \$613,429 to \$877,568 in FY27						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	NHPP Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$877,568	\$0	\$877,568
	<2026	Prior	\$92,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$102,000
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$877,568	\$0	\$877,568
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$92,000	\$0	\$887,568	\$0	\$979,568
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

2300708		(Ver 1) 26-06.1	STATUS New Project		FEDERAL		
Title:	Intersection Improvement Project				Route:	N/A	
Description:	US 30 - From 0.5 miles west of SR 55 to 0.5 miles east of SR 55						
Project Type:	Other Intersection Improvement	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District: LaPorte	
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add FY27 PE \$1,095,274.00 for des 2300708						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	NHPP Non Interstate	\$1,095,274	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,095,274
	>2030	Beyond	\$0	\$0	\$6,084,853	\$0	\$6,084,853
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$1,095,274	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,095,274
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$1,095,274	\$0	\$6,084,853	\$0	\$7,180,127
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

2300709		(Ver 1) 26-06.1	STATUS New Project		FEDERAL		
Title:	Intersection Improvement Project					Route:	N/A
Description:	US 30 - From 0.5 mi west of Austin Ave to 0.5 East of Cline Ave (SR 912)						
Project Type:	Intersection Improvement		AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add FY27 PE \$1,900,000.00 for des 2300709						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	NHPP Non Interstate	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,900,000
	>2030	Beyond	\$0	\$0	\$10,432,777	\$0	\$10,432,777
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,900,000
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$1,900,000	\$0	\$10,432,777	\$0	\$12,332,777
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

2301190		(Ver 3) 26-06.1		STATUS Programmed		FEDERAL	
Title:	District Pavement Project (Non-I)					Route: N/A	
Description:	From 0.5 mi. S. of US 12 to US 12 (I-65 extension)						
Project Type:	Concrete Pavement Restoration (CPR)	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District: LaPorte	
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	Increase FY28 CN from \$857,815.00 to \$2,154,497.00						

Previously Approved Version							
2301190		(Ver 2) 26-00					
Title:	District Pavement Project (Non-I)					Route:	N/A
Description:	From 0.5 mi. S. of US 12 to US 12 (I-65 extension)						
Project Type:	Concrete Pavement Restoration (CPR)	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District:	LaPorte
County:	Lake	Limits:					
Narrative:	Carry over from 24-28 TIP; Add \$857,815.00 to FY28 CN funds. Des 2301190, R-45146.						
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2028	NHPP Non Interstate	\$0	\$0	\$857,815	\$0	\$857,815	
<2026	Prior	\$12,572	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,572	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$857,815	\$0	\$857,815	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$12,572	\$0	\$857,815	\$0	\$870,387	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

2301219		(Ver 2) 26-06.1		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		

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

2500810		(Ver 2) 26-06.1		STATUS Programmed		STATE	
Title:	District Intersection Improvement Project					Route:	N/A
Description:	SR 2 at Hendricks St, 1.25 miles west of SR55, length 1.51 miles Turn Lanes limited to less than 500 ft Total project length is 0.2 miles.						
Project Type:	Intersection Improvement		AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte
County:	Lake		Limits:				
Narrative:	Add PE in FY27 \$381,761.00						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2026	HSIP State	\$321,660	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$321,660
	2027	HSIP State	\$381,761	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$381,761
	2030	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$1,072,200	\$0	\$1,072,200
2026-2030 TOTAL			\$703,421	\$0	\$1,072,200	\$0	\$1,775,621
ALL YEARS TOTAL			\$703,421	\$0	\$1,072,200	\$0	\$1,775,621
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Previously Approved Version

2500810 (Ver 1) 26-02.1

Title: District Intersection Improvement ProjectRoute: N/A

Description: SR 2 at Hendricks St, 1.25 miles west of SR55, length 1.51 miles Turn Lanes limited to less than 500 ft Total project length is 0.2 miles.

Project Type: Intersection ImprovementAQ Exempt: ExemptDistrict: LaPorte

County: LakeLimits:

Narrative: New Project for 26-30 TIP; Scope is to be defined; Add FY26 PE \$321,660.00, Add Fy30 CN \$1,072,200.00

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	HSIP State	\$321,660	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$321,660
2030	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$1,072,200	\$0	\$1,072,200
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$321,660	\$0	\$1,072,200	\$0	\$1,393,860
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$321,660	\$0	\$1,072,200	\$0	\$1,393,860

Region: Northwestern MPO

Lead Agency: INDOT

2500821		(Ver 2) 26-06.1		STATUS Programmed			STATE
Title:		Sidewalk project					Route: N/A
Description:		SR 55, 0.65 miles north of SR 231 (Summit St.) to US 30. Project length 2.18 miles (Sidewalk Project)					
Project Type:		Bike/Pedestrian Facilities	AQ Exempt:		Exempt		District: LaPorte
County:		Lake	Limits:				
Narrative:		Adding additional PE in FY27 \$1,320,496.00					
FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
2026	HSIP State	\$521,692	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$521,692	
2027	HSIP State	\$1,320,496	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,320,496	
2028	HSIP State	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	
2030	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,974	\$0	\$1,738,974	
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$1,842,188	\$200,000	\$1,738,974	\$0	\$3,781,162	
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$1,842,188	\$200,000	\$1,738,974	\$0	\$3,781,162	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: INDOT			

Previously Approved Version**2500821**

(Ver 1) 26-02.1

Title: Sidewalk project**Route:** N/A**Description:** SR 55, 0.65 miles north of SR 231 (Summit St.) to US 30. Project length 2.18 miles (Sidewalk Project)**Project Type:** Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**AQ Exempt:** Exempt**District:** LaPorte**County:** Lake**Limits:****Narrative:** New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add FY26 PE \$521,692.00, Add FY28 RW \$200,000, Add Fy30 CN \$1,738,974.00

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2026	HSIP State	\$521,692	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$521,692
2028	HSIP State	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
2030	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,974	\$0	\$1,738,974
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$521,692	\$200,000	\$1,738,974	\$0	\$2,460,666
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$521,692	\$200,000	\$1,738,974	\$0	\$2,460,666

Region: Northwestern MPO**Lead Agency:** INDOT

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

2600004		(Ver 1) 26-06.1		STATUS New Project		STATE	
Title:	District Intersection Improvement Project					Route:	N/A
Description:	US30, 0.5 miles west of SR39 to 0.5 miles east of SR39; US 30 at SR 39						
Project Type:	Intersection Improvement		AQ Exempt:	Exempt		District:	LaPorte
County:	Laporte		Limits:				
Narrative:	New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add \$437,211 to FY27 PE; Add \$10,000 to FY28 RW						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	HSIP State	\$437,211	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$437,211
	2028	HSIP State	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
	2030	HSIP State	\$0	\$0	\$2,683,264	\$0	\$2,683,264
2026-2030 TOTAL			\$437,211	\$10,000	\$2,683,264	\$0	\$3,130,475
ALL YEARS TOTAL			\$437,211	\$10,000	\$2,683,264	\$0	\$3,130,475
Region: Northwestern MPO					Lead Agency: INDOT		

\$2600029		(Ver 1) 26-06.1		STATUS New Project		STATE							
Title:		District Lighting Project					Route: N/A						
Description:		SR 912 At SR312, US20, 15th Ave											
Project Type:		Lighting	AQ Exempt:		Exempt		District: LaPorte						
County:		Lake	Limits:										
Narrative:		New Project for 26-30 TIP; Add FY29 CN \$4,200,000.00											
FED FY		REVENUE SOURCE		PE		RW		CN		CE		TOTAL	
2029		HSIP State		\$0		\$0		\$4,200,000		\$0		\$4,200,000	
2026-2030 TOTAL				\$0		\$0		\$4,200,000		\$0		\$4,200,000	
ALL YEARS TOTAL				\$0		\$0		\$4,200,000		\$0		\$4,200,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO								Lead Agency: INDOT					

2501431

(Ver 1) 26-06.1

STATUS New Project

FEDERAL**Title:** Bridge #114 S Range Rd over Porter Ditch**Route:** N/A**Description:** Bridge #114 Replacement On S Range Rd over Porter Ditch between CR 850 South and CSX Railroad; no added travel lanes; total length is 0.1 mi**Project Type:** Bridge Replacement**AQ Exempt:** Exempt**District:** LaPorte**County:** Laporte**Limits:****Narrative:** Bridge #114 over Porter Ditch between CR 850 South and CSX Railroad

FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
2027	Local Bridge	\$360,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$360,000
2027	Local Fund	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$90,000
2028	Local Bridge	\$0	\$56,000	\$0	\$0	\$56,000
2028	Local Fund	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$14,000
2030	Local Bridge	\$0	\$0	\$987,095	\$152,000	\$1,139,095
2030	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$246,774	\$38,000	\$284,774
2026-2030 TOTAL		\$450,000	\$70,000	\$1,233,869	\$190,000	\$1,943,869
ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$450,000	\$70,000	\$1,233,869	\$190,000	\$1,943,869

Region: Northwestern MPO**Lead Agency:** LaPorte County

Transportation Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2026-2030 Amendment 26-06.1

17 Projects Listed

NIRPC2700769		(Ver 1) 26-06.1	STATUS New Project		FEDERAL		
Title:	Purchase Trail Counters				Route: N/A		
Description:	Purchase Trail Counters for various locations						
Project Type:	Other	AQ Exempt:	Exempt			District: LaPorte	
County:	Various	Limits:					
Narrative:	New Project in 2026-2030 TIP						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2027	Local Fund	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000
	2027	TAP Chicago UZA	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: NIRPC			

2501454		(Ver 1) 26-06.1	STATUS New Project		FEDERAL			
Title:	Bridge 60 on CR 50 E over Pleasant Township Ditch - 0.6 miles N of CR 1050 S					Route:	N/A	
Description:	Bridge #60 replacement. No added travel lanes; total length is 0.1 mi. Open to traffic 11/15/2029							
Project Type:	Bridge Replacement	AQ Exempt:	Exempt				District:	LaPorte
County:	Porter	Limits:						
Narrative:	Bridge #60 on CR 50 E over Pleasant Township Ditch - 0.6 miles N of CR 1050 S							
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL	
	2029	Local Bridge	\$0	\$0	\$1,160,000	\$176,000	\$1,336,000	
	2029	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$290,000	\$44,000	\$334,000	
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,450,000	\$220,000	\$1,670,000	
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,450,000	\$220,000	\$1,670,000	
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Porter County				

2501465		(Ver 1) 26-06.1	STATUS New Project		FEDERAL		
Title:	Bridge #76 on CR 600 S over Jones Ditch - 0.10 mi E of Smoke Rd					Route:	N/A
Description:	Bridge #76 replacement; no added travel lanes; open to traffic 11/15/2029						
Project Type:	Bridge Replacement	AQ Exempt:	Exempt	District: LaPorte			
County:	Porter	Limits:					
Narrative:	Bridge #76 on CR 600 S over Jones Ditch - 0.10 mi E of Smoke Rd						
	FED FY	REVENUE SOURCE	PE	RW	CN	CE	TOTAL
	2029	Local Bridge	\$0	\$0	\$1,136,000	\$176,000	\$1,312,000
	2029	Local Fund	\$0	\$0	\$284,000	\$44,000	\$328,000
	2026-2030 TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,420,000	\$220,000	\$1,640,000
	ALL YEARS TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$1,420,000	\$220,000	\$1,640,000
Region: Northwestern MPO				Lead Agency: Porter County			

Northwestern MPO TIP SUMMARY BY LEAD AGENCY

	Prior	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Beyond	Total
Cedar Lake	\$0	\$28,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,000
INDOT	\$619,144	\$1,686,704	\$72,667,137	\$4,222,312	\$4,200,000	\$8,305,612	\$16,517,630	\$16,517,630	\$108,218,539
LaPorte County	\$0	\$0	\$450,000	\$70,000	\$0	\$1,423,869	\$0	\$0	\$1,943,869
NIRPC	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Porter County	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,310,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,310,000
TOTAL	\$619,144	\$1,714,704	\$73,217,137	\$4,292,312	\$7,510,000	\$9,729,481	\$16,517,630	\$16,517,630	\$113,600,408



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Environment Committee
Lake Michigan Room
February 5, 2026

Minutes

Chair, Bill Emerson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were:

George Topoll, Union Township; David Phelps, Beverly Shores; Tom Black, Highland; Nancy Moldenhauer; Ryan Lisek, Drive Clean Indiana; Joe Exl, DNR; Katherine Balkema, DNR; Reggie Korthals, MS4; Susan MiHalo, The Nature Conservancy; Jacob Nieto, Save the Dunes; Katie Hobgood, Save the Dunes; Ellen Kapitan, City of Valparaiso; Jenny Dimitroff, Porter Sustainability Commission; Lori Hunt, NWI Forum; Julia Carillo, BF&S; Sarah Tubbs, Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County; Michelle Murday, IDEM; Jean Bernius, Lake County Cooperative Invasive Species Management; Jack Weinburg, Gary Advocates for Responsible Development (GARD); Caroline McCrady, GARD; Allen Lee, GARD; Doreen Carey, GARD; Terry Steagall, GARD; Valerie Denney, GARD

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther, Jen Birchfield, Meredith Stillwell, and Tom Vander Woude.

On motion by Reggie Korthals, seconded by George Topoll, the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comments

Jean Bernius, Lake County Cooperative Invasive Species Management

- Lake County Cooperative Invasive Species Management manages and informs about invasive species in Lake County. They can provide free homeowner surveys of invasive species.

Terry Steagall, GARD

- Terry is a Highland resident and retired steel worker. Everyone in NWI is impacted by steel industry and technology must be upgraded to reduce pollution and redevelop Gary. Need the community to come together to make a viable sustainable plan for the steel industry for the economy and cleaner communities.

Caroline McCrady, GARD

- Caroline is a Gary resident and founding member of GARD. She cited a Gary Crusader article in which Representative Mrvan noted that Indiana accounts for over a quarter of production and employs thousands. The article describes industry as lifeblood of region. Industry representatives refer to ongoing investments in new mills, modernization, and advanced manufacturing technologies. The blast furnace is inefficient and polluting. We need to modernize to stay competitive.

Doreen Carey, GARD

- Doreen is a Gary resident who is retired with an environmental background. She saw GARD to promote economic development that prioritizes environmental justice, community health, and

protection of neighborhoods and natural resources. We need to continue our industrial base with less pollution.

Allen Lee, GARD

- Allen is a retired physician in Ogden Dunes. He co-authored an adverse health impacts report that is available on the [GARD website](#). Steel mills release hundreds of tons of pollutants that increase health risks. Recent studies suggest levels previously thought safe aren't.

The Future of Steelmaking in Northwest Indiana

Jack Weinberg – Gary Advocates for Responsible Development (GARD)

Mr. Weinburg detailed the report *The Future of Steelmaking in NW Indiana* is available on [Gard's website](#). presentation is available at [2/5/2026 Environment Committee Meeting](#).

Questions and Discussion

Bill Emmerson asked the cost per ton change of using coal vs. natural gas.

Cleveland Cliffs was given a grant under the Biden administration for a plant in Ohio. Cliffs said the cost savings in replacing the blast furnaces would reduce costs by 150\$/ton. The transition would take years. If you exclude capital costs, direct reduction is less costly with natural gas. As more renewables and green hydrogen come online it will become less costly. Blast furnace steel in wealthy countries will end as the global trend away from carbon dioxide continues.

Susan MiHalo asked if regulatory burdens would be reduced.

Yes. There is a huge regulatory burden currently, and cleaner technology would lower the regulatory burden. Natural gas is a first step and easily convertible to hydrogen and renewables as they become available.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program BIL projects

Jen Birchfield presented the Natural Resources Grant Readiness Assistance program funded by DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

Comment: The old state line generating plant was torn down. There may be an opportunity to put green space and public access along the lakefront.

NIRPC Environmental Program 2025 Annual Report

Kathy Luther overviewed the annual report (provided in packet) and asked for feedback on performance measures. The group discussed the layout, and a storymap was suggested.

Question: Does INDOT have mapping of projects? Yes, NIRPC has GIS for TIP projects for the region.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan update.

Tom Van der Wood presented on the update to NIRPC's 2050+, currently underway.

Questions and Discussion

Reggie asked where the Environment Committee is on the timeline. The update will be brought to the Committee regularly.

Can we bring in Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission? Yes, as well as sustainability committees.

Hammond needs a new wastewater treatment plant on the Little Calumet that ties to Highland and Griffith. They need over \$300 million.

Planning Partner Updates

Drive Clean Indiana

Ryan Lisek reported and provided a handout.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program

- Reggie Korthols reported that the Coastal Board reviewed 13 applications last month. All were invited to submit a full proposal.
- Katherine Balkema said they are no longer accepting proposals and the 13 pre-proposals are moving toward full proposals.

Announcements

- Nancy Noldenhauer announced that NWI Green Drinks is tonight at 6:30 on Zoom or via Save the Dunes' Facebook. The topic is becoming an environmental champion. Michigan City's Earth Month Extravaganza is April 25 and tables are free. NIPSCO residents are very concerned about huge price increases. Activists are encouraging people to send a comment to the Indiana Regulatory Commission. There is a petition online about rate gouging.
 - Can we look at Community Development Block Grants grants to help residents?
 - George Topoll said shut off notices are a big issue, and they try to help people get over the hump.
 - Nancy said HB 1002 is at the state house. Legislators are trying to get things in there to help, but they never pass the committee.
 - Union Township is supporting SB270. George said NIRPC Economy and Place committee meets next week and many topics overlap with the environment.
 - NIPSCO is under investigation due to the way they are figuring bills. New technology is causing this huge spike.
 - George suggested we ask NIPSCO to come and present their side.
 - Katie Hobgood said Save the Dunes has SD 277 information on Facebook and a call to action. It is a bad environmental bill that redefines IDEM requirements. Save the Dunes just completed their third landscaping in the Dunes guide focused on bird populations.
- Reggie Korthols said registration is open for a NISWAG contractor workshop. The theme is "What's in Your Watershed?". NISWAG is looking at an EPA regional grant. May 11-12 is the state annual MS4 meeting in Hendricks County.
- Sarah Tubbs said the NWI Earth Day Celebration will be Saturday April 18 at the Porter County Expo Center. The theme is "Our Power, Our Planet" Non-profit booths are \$50.
- The Next EMPC Meeting is scheduled for May 9, at 10:00 am at PNW Hammond.

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

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