

Technical Planning Committee
NIRPC – Virtual Meeting
March 1, 2022
Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb’s extended Executive Order 22-01. All persons were meeting remotely on a Zoom platform that allowed for real time interaction and supported the public’s ability to observe and record the proceedings. When the agenda item was provided for public comment, this was supported as well. A roll call was taken to motion and approve the agenda items. The recorded meeting can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 6NVb_RBw9U.

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call.

In attendance were Kevin Breitzke, David Wright (GPTC), Eric Wolverton, George Topoll (Union Township), Jessica Miller (INDOT), Kelly Wenger (NICTD), Mark O’Dell (Chesterton), Ryan Lisek (DCI), Tom Schmitt (Schererville), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Steve King (Merrillville), Beth West (LPT), and Mary Tanis (Dyer).

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Thomas Dow, Charles Bradsky, Candice Eklund, Kevin Polette, Lucas Eklund-Baker, Peter Kimball, Eman Ibrahim, Scott Weber, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of January 11, 2022 were approved on motion by George Topoll and second by Mark O’Dell. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Mitch Barloga and Thomas Dow presented on the update for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) RDG Planning & Design, a planning firm from Omaha, Nebraska, has been hired and is under contract to help NIRPC update the MTP, with a focus on active transportation. NIRPC staff is in the process of selecting additional consultants to assist with the Land Use, Freight, and Public Transit elements. Three additional teams have been selected and will be presented at the March 17 Executive Board meeting for approval.

Scott Weber presented on Resolution 22-08: Recommending Roadway Functional Classification Changes. The *NWI 2050 Plan* contains a regional map of the Roadway Functional Classification found on page 38. NIRPC is responsible for cooperatively reviewing requests for Roadway Functional Classification changes with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). NIRPC has received requests for Roadway Functional Classification changes by Local Public Agencies (LPA) with jurisdiction over the requested road segments. The LPA has provided documentation for the reason of the Roadway Functional Classification change requests to INDOT. The change requests are consistent with NWI 2050, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for NWI and with the public engagement criteria of a technical amendment according to the *Engage NWI Plan*. The two changes on page 38 are as follow:

- The original map description states, “In the Town of St. John, Cline Ave between 93rd Ave and 101st Ave blank to indicate a non-existent and unplanned road segment,” has been amended to state, “In the Town of St. John, Cline Ave between 93rd Ave and 101st Ave colored green to indicate a future planned Minor Arterial.”

- The original map description states, “In Porter County and the City of Valparaiso, 250 W between SR 130 and US 30 colored gray to indicate a Local Road,” has been amended to state, “In Porter County and the City of Valparaiso, 250 W between SR 130 and US 30 colored green to indicate a Minor Arterial.”

On motion by George Topoll and second by Mark O’Dell, the TPC approved to recommend Res 22-08 to the Executive Board for approval.

Programming

Charles Bradsky presented on Resolution 22-09: FY 2020-2024 TIP Amendment #20-22.01 & 20-22.02. These amendments were originally presented and approved at the July and September 2021 Commission meetings. However, there were errors in the original TIP amendments. To maintain transparency within NIRPC, Res 22-09 with Amendment #20-22.01 and #20-22.02 are being presented with the corrections. Consistent with *Engage NWI*, the projects listed in the amendment were released for public comments in July and August 2021. Amendment 20.22.01 can be viewed at <https://files.ctctusercontent.com/b4f049b7201/baee6a1f-fdf0-4ab8-babf-a524fe88d8d0.pdf?rdr=true>. Amendment 20.22.02 can be viewed at <https://files.ctctusercontent.com/b4f049b7201/126118fd-1dcf-4d3a-906b-6d5eae8dd4d3.pdf?rdr=true>.

On motion by George Topoll and second by Mark O’Dell, the TPC approved to recommend Resolution 22-09 Amendment #20-22.01 to the Executive Board for approval.

On motion by George Topoll and second by Mary Tanis, the TPC approved to recommend Resolution 22-09 Amendment #20-22.02 to the Executive Board for approval.

Charles presented on Resolution 22-10: FY 2020-2024 & FY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment #4. Consistent with Engage NWI, the amendment was released for a 21-day public comment on February 8 and closes on March 1. No public comments have been received. Amendment #4 was sent to members of the Inter-Governmental Consultation Group (ICG) for commenting and received approval on February 15. A question was received from Federal Highway (FHWA) on how construction dates are shown in the TIP for Schererville’s Kennedy Ave project. NIRPC’s explanation was submitted and found acceptable. DNR had the movement of one fiscal year and the addition of a new project. The City of Gary increases funds for a road rehab project. The City of Hobart adds a project previously in an out year. INDOT has one overhead sign installation project. Lake County has a bridge inspection. The Town of Munster has a pavement reconstruction project. Porter County has four bridge replacement projects. The City of Schererville is advancing a project from outside of the current 2020-2024 TIP. The City of Valparaiso has a Downtown trail project.

On motion by George Topoll and second by Mary Tanis, the TPC approved to recommend Resolution 22-10 to the Executive Board/Commission for approval.

Charles presented on Resolution 22-11: FY 2020-2024 TIP Amendment #20-22.45. This project has nine railroad intersection modernizations throughout NIRPC planning area. INDOT requested the project be amended into the TIP so that they can obligate the federal funds and advance the project to letting. The submissions for public comment and to the ICG will be sent out today.

On motion by George Topoll and second by Mary Tanis, the TPC approved to recommend Resolution 22-11 to the Executive Board/Commission for approval.

Topical Committee Reports

Mitch Barloga reported that the Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee (3PC) is in recess until May. Eman Ibrahim reported that the Land Use Committee (LUC) met on February 24 and discussed new implementations out of strategies and action items that came out of the *2050 Plan*. The LUC is slated to meet in May. Scott reported that the Surface Transportation Committee met on February 22 and held their first quarterly safety update. The STC is in recess until May.

Reports from Planning Partners

Ryan Lisek (DCI) reported on events and programs. Please go to <https://files.constantcontact.com/b4f049b7201/1ef6293e-a9b8-425a-9a97-055f3d9a8e9f.pdf?rdr=true> to view the complete details of the Drive Clean Indiana report. Please contact Ryan at rlisek@drivecleanindiana.org or visit www.drivecleanindiana.org for more information.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

The next TPC meeting will be on April 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.