

Technical Planning Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
YouTube Recording:
[Technical Planning Committee Meeting 4-11-23 - YouTube](#)
April 11, 2023
Minutes

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

In attendance were George Topoll (Union Township), Beth Shrader (Valpo Transit), Kelly Wenger (NICTD), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Kay Nelson (Forum), Dean Button (Hammond), Ryan Lisek (DCI), David Wright (GPTC), Michael Jabo (Valparaiso), and Kevin Breitzke.

Also in attendance were Mary Kay Timm (Dyer), Rebekah Hammond (NICTD), Steve King (Merrillville), Dennis Cobb, Chris Murphy (StructurePoint), Courtney Anderson (CIORBA), Don Oliphant (CBBEL), and Jake Dammarell (BF&S).

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Charles Bradsky, Scott Weber, Kevin Polette, Grace Benninger, Stephen Hughes, Eman Ibrahim, and Flor Baum.

On motion by Mark O'Dell, second by Dean Button, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) approved the minutes of February 28, 2023.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Mitch Barloga presented on the *NWI 2050+* draft report and public comment. It is required by federal law to update our long-range plan every four years. Every plan produced must also have a 20-year time horizon and provide practical and measurable solutions. The *NWI 2050+* continues to have focus areas on the following: *Connected, Renewed, United, and Vibrant*. The IJA new emphasis areas in *NWI 2050+* focuses on Resiliency, Housing, Carbon Reduction, and Freight. The chapters presented were Active Transportation, Climate, Freight, Land Use, Roads, and Transit. The public comment period ends on May 5, 2023. The full draft can be viewed on <https://nirpc.org/nwi-2050/>.

Programming

Charles Bradsky and Scott Weber spoke on Res 23-05: FY 2024-2028 TIP. Due to Lake and Porter County being designated as non-attainment for ozone for the 2008 and 2015 standards, NIRPC is required to demonstrate Air Quality Conformity in order to pass any new long-range transportation plans, including *NWI 2050+*, or the TIP. This included the TIP for 2024-2028 that was scheduled for adoption this spring. There have been conversations between NIRPC and regulatory partners from Interagency Consultation Group of Air Quality, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), US EPA, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. It has been determined that NIRPC must revise the emissions budgets that are in the state implementation on Air Quality for NIRPC to demonstrate Air Quality Conformity for the *NWI 2050+* and the FY 2024-2028 TIP. With the new travel demand model received in February, the restricted budgets that were set last year, along with being designated as Severe Non-Attainment Area, and upgraded to Maintenance last year, NIRPC is unable to meet the requirements until additional margins of safety are implemented. Therefore, Res 23-05 WILL NOT be voted on for recommendation to The Commission.

Topical Committee Reports

Nothing to report.

Reports from Planning Partners

Ryan Lisek (DCI) reported on projects, upcoming events, and funding programs within NWI. Drive Clean Indiana (DCI) is Indiana's only U.S. Department of Energy-designated Clean Cities Coalition. Please visit www.drivecleanindiana.org for more information.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

The next TPC meeting is slated for May 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.