

**Technical Planning Committee**  
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room  
July 12, 2022  
Minutes

Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call.

In attendance were Kevin Breitzke, David Wright (GPTC), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Mary Tanis, George Topoll (Union Township),

Kay Nelson (Forum), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Lauri Keagle (DCI), Jennifer Smith (INDOT), Chris Murphy, Kelly Wenger(NICTD), Eric Wolverton (StructurePoint), Beth West, Jeff Huet (Schererville), Steve King(Merrillville), Lauri Keagle (DCI), Ron Gibson, Matt Gaielek, Deb Backhus, and Jebes Anderson.

NIRPC staff present Ty Warner, Scott Weber, Mitch Barloga, Kevin Polette, Thomas Dow, Charles Bradsky, Skye Gray, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of April 5, 2022 were approved on motion by Kay Nelson, second by Mark O'Dell, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

### Planning

Kathy Luther and Jen Birchfield spoke on Resolution 22-15: Adopting Green Infrastructure design guidelines to implementing elements of the NIRPC Living Streets Policy for programmed transportation projects. NIRPC is responsible for planning and programming transportation projects that utilize federal grants that adhere to objectives from the *NWI 2050 Plan* and the *Greenways and Blueways 2020 Plan*. Green Infrastructure policies and Green Street requirements continue to be adopted on state, regional, and municipal levels to abide by EPA and stormwater requirements. For more information, contact Kathy Luther at [kluther@nirpc.org](mailto:kluther@nirpc.org), or Jen Birchfield at [jbirchfield@nirpc.org](mailto:jbirchfield@nirpc.org). On motion by George Topoll and second by David Wright, the TPC approved to recommend Res. 22-15 to the Commission.

Thomas Dow presented on the *2050+ Plan* update. A land use element is being incorporated, as it is highly related to the active transportation element. There is also a transit, freight, and surface transportation element. The first three public kickoff events happened in June within Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties. A survey to gather public opinion has been launched in June. During the months of August through October, a series of workshops will be conducted throughout the Region to develop the framework for the plan. There will be public network open houses in the winter months. Additional workshops will be held from January through March of 2023 for Purpose Driven Planning. By April, the public report open houses will be underway. Report approvals are slated in May of 2023.

### Programming

Charles Bradsky presented on Res 22-16; Amendments 20-22.05 (Infrastructure) & 20-22.06 (Transit). The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been approved by the US Dept. of Transportation. However, a letter of approval has not been received from the Feds or INDOT. Therefore, NIRPC must operate under the old TIP. The resolution was release for a 21-day public

comment on June 13, and closed on July 5. No technical or public comments were received. The infrastructure amendments for FY22-23 include adding PE for Gary. Griffith has an increase in design fees for an intersection modification. Hammond is moving design fees to right-of-way (ROW) on their trail project. INDOT has one bridge replacement project, four bridge rehabs, one new bridge project, and four bridge removals. La Porte is adding ROW and an increase to construction (CN) funds. Laporte county has two replacement projects and a trail project with an increase in ROW funding. Lake County has a trail project with an increase in ROW funds. Michigan City is eliminating a project. Porter County has an increase in design fees. Transit projects for FY 22 include eight new projects for NICTD and three new bus purchases for La Porte Transportation (Transporte). On motion by George Topoll and second by Mark O'Dell, the TPC approved to recommend Res. 22-16 to the Commission.

### **Topical Committee Reports**

Mitch Barloga (3PC) reported that NIRPC is awaiting DNRs Next Level Trails program final funding cycle to commence.

### **Reports from Planning Partners**

Lauri Keagle (DCI) reported on upcoming events and programs within NWI. Please visit [www.drivecleanindiana.org](http://www.drivecleanindiana.org) for more information.

### **Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

The next TPC meeting will be on August 30, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.