

Technical Planning Committee
NIRPC – Virtual Meeting
September 14, 2021
Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's extended Executive Order 21-26. 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.

Kevin Brietzke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call.

In attendance were Bryan Blazak (St. John), Jake Dammarell (BFS), Kevin Brietzke (chair), Jessica Miller, Steve King (Merrillville), Kelly Wenger (NICTD), Emily Nayder (SSCC), David Wright (GPTC), Tim Werner (CIORBA), Chris Murphy (Structurepoint), Eric Wolverton (Structurepoint), and George Topoll (Union Township).

NIRPC staff present were Mitch Barloga, Charles Bradsky, Meredith Stilwell, Candice Eklund, Kevin Polette, Scott Weber, Thomas Dow, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of July 13, 2021 were approved on motion by David Wright and second by Kelly Wenger. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Peter Kimball and Scott Weber presented on the Census Assessment. The assessment compared the 2010 population with the 2020 population within The NIRPC Region. Collectively, population for all three counties has increased by 1.6%. Lake County's population has increased by .5%, Porter County has increased by 5.4%, and LaPorte County has increased by .9%. Further detail within the NIRPC Region was presented, using the census tracts that captured the growth within the three counties. The changes in the municipalities within The Region were also presented. The Industrial core in Lake County and Northwest Porter County experienced the most decline. Saint John and Crown Point experienced an influx in population. Municipal Population density change was discussed. Northern core communities, such as Hammond, Highland, and New Chicago had the densest population in our Region. The percentage of minority by census tract, will help to determine the locations of environmental justice (EJ) and be re-evaluated. The Census Bureau will release new urban area boundaries for the Chicago and Michigan City areas. NIRPC will adjust the urban area boundaries for Federal Highway purposes. The Census Data will be available on the NIRPC website. Contact Peter or Scott for more information.

Programming

Charles Bradsky presented on Resolution 21-17, Amendment #22-02 to FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). No public or technical comments were received during the 21-day public comment period, which began on August 19, and ended September 9. All projects were found to be exempt and non-regionally significant from the Air Quality Conformity. NIRPC is

waiting for Federal Highway (FH) and Federal Transit Agency approval. Any projects that have phase changes in 2022 or 2023 are in the current STIP. Charles delineated INDOT and local projects. On motion by George Topoll and second by David Wright, the Technical Planning Committee approved to recommend Resolution 21-17 to The Full Commission.

Topical Committee Reports

Mitch announced 3PC hosted a micromobility webinar on August 31. A recording is available on NIRPC's YouTube channel. The next Ped Peddle and Paddle meeting is slated for October 7.

Reports from Planning Partners

Emily Nader (SSCC) reported on events and programs. Please click [here](#) for complete details of the South Shore Clean Cities report. Visit www.southshorecleancities.org or contact Lauri at lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.