

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting  
La Porte County  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Jay Sullivan (La Porte County), Sylvia Martin (Michigan City), Tim Werner (Michigan City), Nick Minich (City of La Porte), Craig Phillips (City of La Porte), Beth West (City of La Porte/TransPorte), and Jake Dammarell.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Ann Weitgenant, Stephen Hughes, Flor Baum, and Candice Eklund.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 31, 2023, TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Nick Minich and seconded by Sylvia Martin.

**Public Comments** – There were no public comments.

**Program of Projects Update**

Charles Bradsky discussed the updated Program of Projects (PoP) stating it included the modifications from the local quarterly meetings held this month. Nick Minich requested \$92,000 in PE funding for DES #1900831. Nick will email Charles a formal request.

Charles provided an update on the approval of the 2024–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In order for the TIP to be approved, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) must be approved by INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), but not before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves NIRPCs Air Quality Conformity metrics and places them in the Federal Register. Indication is the FHWA and INDOT will approve and sign the LRTP on March 19, 2024, with an estimated TIP approval by April 1, 2024. Charles noted the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be released in September this year and applications will be accepted for 30 days. The 2026-2030 TIP will be created this fall.

**New Business**

At the Local Quarterly Meetings (LQMs), INDOT informs the Local Public Agencies (LPAs) they must submit POs timely because INDOT's Central Office has the right to close them after a few months if there are no submittals. If an invoice has not been submitted for three months, INDOT will need to be notified by email with an explanation as to why a cancelled check has not been sent to them.

**New Requirement Update: CN Estimates Must be Correct in RTIP**

INDOT and FHWA informed Charles that NIRPC's TIP needs to correctly reflect all the funds that are in a project, including stage submittals. The estimates need to be sent to Charles to ensure the updates are entered into the PoP and RTIP systems. This inclusion is important because there may not be available funding to afford the substantial increases.

**CA-23-6 Enhancing Transparency Through Use of the Investing in America Emblem on Signs**

The purpose of this register is to suggest guidelines for placing signs at construction sites to increase the transparency of how the project was funded if the project sponsor wishes to add these signs. These signs are available for federal reimbursement.

**Future Meeting Location Issue/Solution**

NIRPC is required to live stream their committee meetings on YouTube. Since there has been occasional connectivity issues at the current meeting site, other meeting locations were discussed. Craig Phillips

suggested the Health Foundation of La Porte as an alternate meeting location. Charles Bradsky and Candice Eklund will look further into this suggestion and report back to the Committee at the next meeting on May 21.

The New Administration Workshop will be held on February 29 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm at the NIRPC office. Meeting materials will be available at the workshop and a video will be distributed afterwards.

### **Other New Business**

Nick Minick requested keeping the projects at Lake and Polk Streets in the same year. This request will be discussed further once the 2024-2028 TIP is approved. In discussing moving projects to another year to accommodate this request, Nick suggested possibly moving funding from the North South Corridor project in FY 2026 to another year. A member of the audience asked if the funding allocated for the North South Corridor was for a design study or laying out a plan on what the bypass would look like. Nick Minick responded that the City of La Porte has a project for the design of the first phase that is currently funded in FY 2026, but without the county's NEPA document approval, the correct year for the funding may change. Without the planning study, there is not a Local Public Agreement (LPA) with INDOT to move forward with the design.

Sylvia Martin had a funding question regarding the Liberty Trail project in Michigan City. This project currently has \$250,000 in FY 2024 and she requested shifting this project to FY 2025 with funding of \$130,000 in federal funding (instead of the original request of \$250,000 in FY 2025). Craig Phillips requested an additional \$100,000 for DES #2300018. Craig and Sylvia will email Charles a formal request.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2024.

*The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [Transportation Resources Oversight Committee - LaPorte County 2-20-24 - YouTube](#)*