

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(Lake and Porter County)
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Duane Alverson (Lake County), Deb Backhus (Gary), Dean Button (Hammond), Jeff Huet (Schererville), Mike Jabo (Valparaiso), Steve King (Merrillville), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), George Topoll (Union Township), David Wright (Gary), Trisha Nugent, Eric Wolverton, Jake Dammarell, and Lori Latham.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Kevin Polette, and Candice Eklund.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 25, 2022 TROC meeting minutes were approved on motion by Duane Alverson and seconded by Dean Button.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Spending Plan 2023/2024 Review and Update

Charles Bradsky presented the current spending plan and stated that it is the committee's preference to fund CN at 80 or 90% rate first and then fund PE and ROW with remaining funds. It was requested that Local Public Agency's (LPA's) review their projects in FY 2023 to ensure construction funding includes inflation costs. The projects below were discussed and approved at the meeting, with changes being made live:

- The Summer Street project under Hammond was under funded, so adjustments were made to phase 2.
- The Marquette Greenway project at Kennedy and Cline Avenue should have ROW funding but showing as PE. Dean Button will email Charles of this request so it can be included in the July Amendment.
- Dean Button requested the project to widen the bridge on U.S. 20 over Kennedy Avenue be withdrawn due to a trail alignment being altered. Charles will discuss with INDOT and Mitch Barloga for approval.
- Dean Button said the letting of phase 2 for the Hohman Avenue project will be moved to 12/11/24 due to the environmental review needing to be completed. This will be an administrative modification.
- Jake Dammarell said the Merrillville project at 69th Avenue and Mississippi Street requires additional ROW funding in FY 2023. The total for ROW funding needed in FY 2023 is \$227,000.
- Deb Backhus said the 15th Avenue project in Gary currently has no ROW funding. They requested \$720,000 in federal funding.
- Jake Dammarell said the Hobart project at 61st Ave and Marcella Blvd requests \$600,000 federal for ROW.
- Charles Bradsky stated there was \$942,000 remaining with \$426,000 set aside for change order requests. This funding will be divided by apportionment.
- David Wright said the Hobart Expansion project will not need funding in 2022. The route will start in 2023.
- Jeff Huet said the Kennedy Avenue phase 2 project in Schererville is being for reviewed for inflationary costs.

On motion by Dean Button and seconded by Mark O'Dell, the committee approved to adopt the changes made today and to allow Charles Bradsky to make ROW adjustments to projects based on the current spending plan.

2022 NOFA Update

There are currently no new updates to the NOFA. The next NOFA will be held in the fall of this year.

Other New Business

- Charles Bradsky provided an update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). INDOT released information today stating they are on track for the TIP and STIP approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) on June 10, 2022.
- Safe Streets for all (SS4A) – This is a \$1 Billion competitive annual grant. The Federal Highway (FHWA) is looking at safety for all users.

- Marquette Greenway Trail – Charles Bradsky is responsible for the process and Mitch Barloga is responsible for the negotiations with the LPA's on this initiative. Charles will create three Request for Proposals (RPF's) for the design for Lake, Porter, and La Porte Counties, which will Let by September 2024. A Request for Quote (RFQ) will also be created for a project manager. The state of Michigan has funding for CN but not for the design or ROW.
- Carbon Resolution Program (CRP) – This is a new funding program that can be used for PE and ROW only. It is a mix of transportation alternatives and CMAQ. Allocations for this program will be \$450,000 in FY 2023 and will go up incrementally each year until FY 2026.
- Railroad Grade Separation – INDOT has requested a listing of railroad crossings that could benefit from a grade separation due to safety or fluidity. Charles asked the LPAs to submit their data to him by May 19, 2022.

Other New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m. The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. A future meeting is scheduled for November 11.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKWzbfkuUUo>