NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 16, 2015, 9:00 A.M.
6100 Southport Road, Portage, Indiana

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Blair Milo, Chair 9:00 a.m.

II. Appointment to the NIRPC Board 9:01 a.m.

III. Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2015 Executive Board Meeting Pages 1-4 9:02 a.m.

IV. Presentation: Greenways + Blueways 2020 – An Introduction – Mitch Barloga 9:03 a.m.

V. Report of the Chair – Blair Milo Committees 9:20 a.m.

VI. Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner 9:25 a.m.

VII. Finance & Personnel Committee – Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Pages 5-11 9:30 a.m.
a. Action on Resolution 15-10, Equipment Maintenance Pages 9-10
b. Procurement Recommendation Page 11

VIII. Environmental Management Policy Committee – Geof Benson Pages 12-14 9:40 a.m.

IX. Transportation Policy Committee – Stan Dobosz Pages 15-25 9:45 a.m.

X. CRP Update Meeting Reports Pages 17-25

XI. INDOT, Rick Powers, La Porte District Director 10:00 a.m.

XII. Northwest Indiana Economic Development District, Roosevelt Allen, Jr. 10:10 a.m.

XIII. Other Business 10:15 a.m.

XIV. Public Comment 10:20 a.m.

XV. Announcements 10:25 a.m.

XVI. Adjournment 10:30 a.m.

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NIRPC Executive Board Meeting  
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN  
March 19, 2015  

Minutes

Chairwoman Blair Milo called the Executive Board meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a brief stretch session.

Executive Board Members present included Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Dave Decker, Don Ensign, Michael Griffin, Blair Milo, Rich Murphy, Bob Schaefer, Greg Stinson and Jim Ton.

Other Commissioners present included Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Bob Carnahan, Jeff Dekker, Stan Dobosz, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Stan Dobosz, Roger Miller, Lori Reno, Joe Simonetto and George Topoll.

Others present included Rick Powers, Mike Noland, John Parsons, Meredith Perks, Joe Crnkovich, Rebeccah Holwerda, Rick Heimann, Ron Kurmis, George Rogge, Ray Dumbrys, Deb Backhus, David Wright, Renae Jackson, Lorelei Werner, Matt Deitchley, Christopher Murphy, Keith Benman, and Carole Carlson.


Appointments to the Commission: Ty Warner announced the appointments of Don Samburg by the Town of Winfield, Jeremy Rivas by the Porter County Council, Patty Arnett by the Town of Kingsford Heights, and the reappointment of Tom Schmitt by the Town of Schererville to the NIRPC Commission.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Dave Decker.

Presentation: Ty Warner introduced Mike Noland, NICTD General Manager, who gave a report on the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) and its 20 year plan. NICTD just started the Sunrise Express, which is express service from South Bend to Chicago. The South Shore commuter railroad and city of Gary are working on plans to build a modern, high-level boarding platform for the Miller stop to cut trip times. Improvements will also be done to the station at Ogden Dunes. The high-level boarding platforms will shave as much as three minutes off a train stop and provide better access for riders with disabilities. Mike Noland said some local source of funding will have to be found in order to make its 20-year strategic business plan a reality. That plan calls for $183 million in market expansion projects and $604 million in main line improvements. The West Lake Corridor to Dyer is in the draft EIS phase. NICTD is looking for a New Starts grant from Indiana to provide the 50% match for funding. A 2:1 return on investment is projected. The interconnectivity to Chicago is vital to economic growth.
Cutting travel times into and out of Chicago will keep our Millennials here. Federal funding is moving away from engineering and gearing toward shovel-ready projects. Brief discussion took place.

Report of the Chair:
Blair Milo reported that more work on the committee structure was accomplished. A draft graphic of the committee structure was described. Three committees provide assistance to the Commission under overall function of the Council of Governments: the Legislative Committee, the Finance & Personnel Committee and the Local Government Advisory Committee. Under the Metropolitan Planning Organization role, projects would originate in the Transportation Finance Committee and then flow to the six topical committees (Environmental Management Policy Committee; Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee; Land Use Committee; Rail Vision/Freight; Transit Operators Roundtable and the Surface Transportation Committee) for recommendation to the Technical Planning Committee which will be reformulated from the Transportation Policy Committee and Pathway to 2040 Implementation Committee for final recommendation to the NIRPC Commission for adoption. The Outreach Committee is born of the Public Participation Plan and works alongside the process of the MPO committees to ensure accountability and transparency. It was noted that the economic development element of planning is done through the Northwest Indiana Economic Development District. More information will follow. Gary Evers added that INDOT has totally overhauled their system of delivery of projects in the last 12 months. He is hopeful that this structure will give transparency and he looks forward to the Commission helping making these funding decisions. Blair Milo asked for feedback and comments. The committee structure will be adopted at the next full Commission meeting in May.

Report of the Executive Director:
- NARC Conference: Ty Warner reported on the NARC Conference. Discussion in DC focused on the highway trust fund and how to fund it. Everyone felt that a tax is needed, 38 technically feasible solutions were identified but Congressional representatives are hesitant to be connected with raising or instituting a new tax.

Bob Shaefer added that less money from the feds and state will be forthcoming. Ray LaHood’s message was to raise the gas tax, which was last increased in 1993. Jay Williams indicated they are increasing the budget by $20 million and updating CEDS guidelines. Bob Schaefer will be attending the National Association of Workforce Boards in a couple of weeks.

Blair Milo said there was good discussion with the legislators and it is important we represent some of the other concerns about tax increases and constituent feedback on the fact that the highway trust funds have gone towards decorative pieces in the federal highway system and creating some of the museums on transportation initiatives throughout history. Some feel the money should be used for highways appropriately first before trying to raise more money. However, even without those projects it is still not enough to fund infrastructure projects throughout the U.S. Other options discussed were user fees, toll roads, vehicle mileage traveled and how it might be captured. Roosevelt Allen commented that Indiana is a donor state, contributing more money than we get back, and that needs to change.

- Ty Warner reported that there was great participation at Purdue “Road School,” broadened as the Purdue Transportation Conference, with good sessions provided by Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga,
Sarah Geinosky and Gabrielle Biciunas. Blair Milo was a keynote presenter, touting NIRPC’s 2040 Plan as an example of exemplary implementation.

- NIRPC met on the build out plan and the timetable was revised and we are in a holding pattern.

- The draft update of the 2040 Plan is out for public comment. The Executive Board will meet in April and the update of the 2040 Plan will be up for adoption at a meeting of the full Commission in May.

- Watch your inboxes for information on a local food study summit on April 24.

- Ty Warner presented Allen Hammond with a certificate of appreciation for his 10 years of service to NIRPC.

Finance & Personnel Committee: Committee Chair Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the committee met this morning and received various information, updates and reports. There were no adverse issues. Year-end reports were completed and submitted to the State. Two contracts are being recommended to the Executive Board for approval.

- The annual contract with the Kankakee River Basin Commission. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Don Ensign the contract with the Kankakee River Basin Commission was approved by the Board.

- The agreement between NIRPC and South Shore Clean Cities for professional education and training was approved by the Board on a motion by Greg Stinson and a second by Dave Decker.

Environmental Management Policy Committee: Committee Chairman Geof Benson said under consent agenda, the minutes were available in the materials.

Transportation Policy Committee:

- Vice Chairman Stan Dobosz reported that the committee met on March 17 and heard a presentation from Rick Heimann, Director of the Port of Indiana at Burns Harbor and its role as an economic engine for the region.

- The draft 2040 CRP Update Companion is now out for public review until April 10. The draft and schedule of public meetings are on the NIRPC website.

- Belinda Petroskey described Resolution 15-07, Amendment #34 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for transit projects for NICTD and East Chicago. On a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Resolution 15-07 was adopted by the Executive Board.

- Gary Evers described Resolution 15-08, Amendment #33 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for bridge painting and bridge maintenance INDOT projects. On a motion by Roosevelt Allen, Jr. and a second by Dave Decker, Resolution 15-08 was adopted by the Executive Board.

- Gary Evers described Resolution 15-09, Amendment #35 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for existing project divisions for Munster and Valparaiso and new projects or phases for Chesterton, Porter County and Michigan City. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Bob Schaefer, Resolution 15-09 was adopted by the Executive Board.

- Stan Dobosz said the next meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee will be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.
**Indiana Department of Transportation:** Rick Powers said efforts are now going into pothole repairs. INDOT is purchasing a portable hot plant which will allow the use of hot mix in the winter. The copper wire thieves were apprehended by Indiana State Police. Mr. Powers introduced Matt Deitchley, new Director of Communications for the Northwest District. Over 146,000 feet of wire has been replaced, mostly on 80-94 and I-65. Proactive measures are being set in place and no further thefts have been found. Rick Powers said he attended a mayors’ roundtable in Gary with a great presentation on Bessie Coleman, the first African-American female pilot, receiving her pilot’s license in Europe in 1921.

**Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD):**

- Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that he and Dave Decker attended a meeting in New York last month with the Special Creditors Committee, their financial underwriters and their law firms, but had not been given an opportunity to prepare a final bid on the Indiana Toll Road. It shows, however, how cooperation by local governments is innovative and can be accomplished. He encouraged letters of support for the Lake & LaPorte County venture be sent to the Indiana Finance Authority. IFM Investors of Australia entered into a definitive purchase and sale agreement for the Toll Road with a $5.72 billion bid on March 11. They have until September to come up with the financing.

- Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that there is an opening on their Board for a Porter County elected official. Contact Commissioner Allen or Jody Melton prior to March 25. The date of the next meeting will be announced.

**Other Business:** No other business was brought before the Executive Board.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

- Renae Jackson, Everybody Counts, spoke of Everybody Counts’ Executive Director’s request following the October public transit meeting to meet with NRPC’s Executive Director in the new year.

**Announcements:** There were no announcements made.

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Don Ensign, Blair Milo adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

_A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NRPC from the videographer._

For requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at _mthorne@nirpc.org_. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

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FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda

Thursday
April 16, 2015
8:00 a.m.

NIRPC Office
Portage, Indiana

1. Call to Order
2. Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2015
3. Review of Financial Status
4. Approval of Claims Register
5. Resolution Establishing A Policy To Address Maintenance Deficiencies Of Federally Funded Equipment
6. Procurement Recommendation
7. Vehicle Disposition
8. Accounting Software Update
9. Building Improvement Status Update
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

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NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

March 19, 2015
NIRPC Offices
Portage, Indiana

Members Present
Roosevelt Allen, Jr.
Dave Decker
Jeff Dekker
Greg Stinson
Jim Ton

Staff and Others Present
Ty Warner
Angie Hayes
Allen Hammond
Robert Carnahan
George Topoll

Members Absent
John Bayler
Geof Benson
Jeff Freeze
Richard Hardaway
Diane Noll
David Uran

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Roosevelt Allen, Jr.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Jeff Dekker, seconded by Jim Ton, the Committee approved the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting.

Review of Financial Status

Angie Hayes presented the financial report. At this time there are no cash issues to report. Staff has completed the 2014 year end reports. The 2014 LaPorte County distribution was received. Angie informed the Committee the NIRPC subrecipients met in February to discuss and vote on the RBA Local Share Capital Funds. The NIRPC Lake and Porter county subrecipients voted to allocate the funds by ridership. The funds were allocated as follows: East Chicago Transit $3,306.98; North Township Dial a Ride $563.96; South Lake County Community Services $819.30; Porter County Aging & Community Services $398.53; Opportunity enterprises $1,118.38; and City of Valparaiso $3,066.15. These funds will remain at the Commission and used solely for local match for federally funded equipment.
On the General Fund Expenditures Report, Angie explained two Communication line items, the Commission/Executive Director and Transportation, are higher than anticipated. The Commission/Executive Director line item has the NARC Conference expenses included and the Transportation line item has annual planning software expense included. The Budget to Actual with Cash Variance and General Fund Expenditure reports were presented to the Committee. The total expenditures of the period ending February 28, 2015 are at 13.86%.

Approval of Claims Register

Angie Hayes presented the claims register to the Committee for approval. Upon a motion by Jim Ton, seconded by Greg Stinson, the Committee approved the claims register.

Kankakee River Basin Commission Agreement

Angie Hayes presented the Kankakee River Basin Commission agreement to the Committee. It's the standard contractual agreement that reflects the salary, rent and accounting services to the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Upon a motion by Dave Decker, seconded by Jeff Dekker, the Committee approved the agreement to be presented to the Executive Board.

South Shore Clean Cities Inc. Agreement

Roosevelt Allen Jr. presented the South Shore Clean Cities, Inc. agreement to the Committee for approval. Upon a motion by Jeff Dekker, seconded by Dave Decker, the Committee approved the agreement to be presented to the Executive Board.

Employee Handbook Changes

Angie Hayes presented the employee handbook changes to the Committee. The following proposed changes have been reviewed by Attorney Hollenbeck.

The clarification for alternate holidays is they must be used by the end of the calendar year in which they were earned.

Since the Commission has changed to biweekly pay periods, there is a need to adjust how vacation leave and sick/personal leave are accrued. Vacation and sick/personal leaves will be accrued on a biweekly basis instead of a monthly basis. This change gives staff a slight increase in the amount of hours earned.

The final change is compensatory time. Time earned under the general fund allocation job code must be used in the calendar year in which it was earned and will not be carried over into the new calendar year. This change applies to both exempt and non-exempt employees. Upon a motion by Jim Ton, seconded by Greg Stinson, the Committee approved the employee handbook changes.
**Accounting Software Update**

Angie Hayes updated the Committee regarding the accounting software. The original beginning date was to be January 1 however that has been revised to a July 1, 2015 start. Extensive accounting system changes to the chart of accounts has delayed the implementation of the new accounting software. Staff is submitting all state required forms to be generated by the accounting software to the State Board of Accounts for approval.

**Building Improvement Status**

Ty Warner updated the Committee on the status of the building improvements. The construction bids were not awarded on January 22nd since the total of the bids made the project over budget. No further construction information is available at this time. Dave Hollenbeck and Ty Warner are trying to arrange a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Portage to determine the next steps. The Committee discussed that the Commission is already receiving a rent savings with the new lease even without the proposed changes to the building and also received additional rent savings because of the delays in receiving the upgraded internet.

**Other Business**

Angie informed the Committee the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards in the 2013 audit will be changing because the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) administered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) was not included in the original report. An additional exit conference with the State Board of Account will be required and then the updated report will be posted on the Commission website. Angie informed the Committee she is anticipating the State Board of Accounts to be here sometime in April.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.
RESOLUTION 15-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO ADDRESS MAINTENANCE DEFICIENCIES OF FEDERALLY FUNDED EQUIPMENT

Whereas, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereafter referred to as "The Commission" desires to establish a policy to address possible and potential deficiencies with subrecipients that have demonstrated non-compliance with federally funded vehicles, equipment and facilities; and

Whereas, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires federally funded vehicles, equipment and facilities be maintained to prolong the useful life of the asset and protect the FTA investment. 49 CFR 18.32 (d) (4); and

Whereas, the Commission desires to make a clear and concise policy for all subrecipients to follow, thus minimizing the possibility of losing federal funding for itself and the subrecipients who receive transit funding through the Commission.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, the Commission, in compliance with 49 CFR 18.32 (d) (4), will monitor and review subrecipient maintenance plans within the biennial review process. The review will ensure that the subrecipient does not have variances that differ from the manufacturer specifications, and that maintenance plans are being followed that are designed to ensure proper care and maximize the useful life of the federally funded investment.

Be It Further Resolved that if a deficiency is determined from the biennial review process or another method of monitoring and oversight, the subrecipient will be notified in writing within ten business days and subsequently will have thirty days to respond in writing to the deficiency. The Commission’s Finance and Personnel Committee will be notified of the deficiency if a satisfactory response is not received within the required timeframe. Upon receipt of a satisfactory response to the deficiency within the timeframe, the subrecipient will remain eligible for all transit funding. The response must include a corrective action plan and provide documentation on a weekly basis showing that the deficiency is being addressed and corrected.

Be It Further Resolved, that if the subrecipient does not perform the necessary corrective actions within sixty days after the initial Finance and Personnel Committee notification, all pass-through transit funding will be withheld until all deficiencies are resolved and compliance is restored.
Be It Further Resolved, if compliance efforts are not demonstrated after transit funding is withheld, within 10 business days the Commission's representatives will contact the subrecipient's board and/or elected official to arrange a meeting to discuss the deficiencies. The governing board and/or elected official from the subrecipient has an affirmative obligation to participate in the remediation process and specifically is obligated to meet expeditiously with the Commission's representative to discuss the deficiencies.

Be It Further Resolved, that if deficiencies are not brought into compliance with federal regulations, the Commission may require all FTA funded vehicles and equipment be returned at the subrecipient's expense and that entity dismissed as a subrecipient. If the subrecipient is dismissed, additional costs may be incurred at the discretion of FTA. Any additional costs incurred will be the responsibility of the dismissed subrecipient.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 16th day of April 2015.

Blair Milo, Chair

ATTEST:

Robert F. Schaefer, Secretary
Procurement Recommendation
April 16, 2015

Two Vehicles Replacements—Procurement #14-10
- Purchasing two propane fueled replacement vehicles for LaPorte TransPorte.
- Paid with Federal Transit Administration Funds (85%) out of grant IN-90-X053-00 and the above listed agencies (15%).
- Recommendation to purchase two vehicle replacements not to exceed $136,000 in federal funds.
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
NIRPC Auditorium
April 2, 2015

Members/Guests Present: Mike Molnar, Dorreen Carey, Susan MiHalo, Leslie Dorworth, Jody Melton, Michael Kuss, Deb Backhus, Geof Benson, Maggie Byrne, Dan Plath, Ashley Snyder, Michelle Caldwell, Leanne Whitesell, Charlotte Read, Lee Botts, Candice Smith, Jennifer Gadzala, Kacey Alexander, Bruce Carter, Natalie Conlon, Kevin Breitzke, Chandra Viswanathan, Peter Avis, Kay Nelson

NIRPC Staff: Kathy Luther, Joe Exl, Stephen Sostaric, Scott Weber, Belinda Petrosky, Meredith Stilwell

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Approval of March 5, 2015 EMPC Minutes
On a motion by Deb Backhus and second by Jody Melton, the March 5, 2015 EMPC meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Presentations:
a. NIRPC 2040 CRP Update – Stephen Sostaric, Scott Weber and Kathy Luther-NIRPC
   NIRPC is in the midst of a comment period for the 2040 CRP update as well as for the 2016-2019 TIP and air quality analysis. There are three major planning products required by NIRPC: The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is included within the CRP; the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The 2040 CRP was adopted in 2011. The CRP is broken down into recommendation sections that include growth and conservation; transportation; environment and green infrastructure; human and economic resources; stewardship and governance.
   The growth and conservation element covers demographics and housing trends in 2013; growth patterns; and local food systems. The four priorities considered in this Plan Update reflected in the CRP goals are livable urban, suburban, and rural centers; revitalized urban core cities; managed growth that protects farmland, environmentally sensitive areas, and important ecosystems; and linked land use and transportation. Since 2010, the region has lost 2,521 people but this change does not indicate a major long term trend of population loss. The region’s housing supply continued to grow between 2010 and 2014, despite the population loss. Some of the growth and conservation element priorities implementation/action items by NIRPC between 2011 and 2015 include transit oriented development (TOD) projects; corridor studies; Creating Livable Communities (CLC); NIRPC Creating Livable Communities (CLC) Initiative; Urban Core Subcommittee; cultural & historic inventory mapping project; prioritizing transportation funding to support centers, revitalization areas, and infill & growth areas as well as tracking development patterns. Community projects include the Gary Northside Redevelopment Project; Roxana TOD Project in East Chicago; Lake Michigan Gateway Implementation Strategy in Michigan City; and the Marquette Plan Update 2015.
   The transportation element in the update shows safety data; the congestion management process; 2015 Intelligent Transportation System Architecture update; non-motorized transportation and transit. There is a new FY 2016-2019 Transit TIP and while new regional
transit services, ridership is up and more communities are exploring transit as an option, a lack of a dedicated source of local match still stymies system-wide growth.

Kathy Luther presented the Environmental Chapter updates and changes. In the green infrastructure and ecological resources section there are now 294 natural/recreational areas; 21 fewer “managed areas”; an increase of 6,500 acres and the refined Chicago Wilderness GIV 2.1 which shows significantly more analysis of both habitat quality and connectivity. The Water Quality & Resources section changes show 878 more stream miles impaired, primarily due to new data from the TMDL study requested by the EMPC; new IDNR floodplain maps; per acre estimates of Ecosystem Services $$ for different resources has been added; Six watershed management plans have been completed/approved to date; When the Little Calumet River East Branch and Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway Plans are completed, 27% of our land will have approved plans; and a CSO long-term control plan status summary has been added. In addition the significant water withdrawals data and air quality data have been updated and Great Lakes regional water consumption coefficients have been added to the Plan. NIRPC implementation actions for this portion of the plan include environmental red flag investigations for transportation projects; development and support of watershed management plans; update of Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV); and support letters for partners implementing GIV through land acquisition.

The Human & Economic Resources chapter elements are collaboration is key to economic health and vitality and continued support of the key strategies of advancing top industry clusters; leveraging land use and multimodal transportation; continuing to support Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD); and supporting education and job development partners.

Stephen took the presentation back over to discuss the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a short-term project list of highway, transit, non-motorized and environmental projects which implements the Regional Transportation Plan and includes local and state projects. Current regionally significant projects are the Illiana Expressway; SR 312 reconstruction in Hammond; US 20/SR2 Interchange in Rolling Prairie; US 41 center turn lane (US 231 to 93rd Avenue); and 45th Avenue grade separation at Calumet Avenue. A summary of transit TIP projects reflected 229 proposed projects for a total of $265,516,090 with total Federal expected funds of $120,795,282 and $144,720,799 local funds needed. The transit projects are mostly for maintenance and improvements to existing services.

Scott Weber presented the Air Quality Conformity section of the Plan indicating all regionally significant capacity expansion projects must conform to Air Quality Budgets for ozone and fine particles every 5 years to 2040. There is interagency consultation between NIRPC, FHWA, FTA, US EPA, IDEM, and INDOT. New projects being added are the Willowcreek Road extension; Livable Broadway Bus Rapid Transit; Gary Public Transit Lakeshore South; Gary Public Transit Lakeshore North; and the Triangle Transit Service.

Comments made after the meeting may be emailed to comments@nirpc.org; by telephone at (219) 763-6060 ext. 160; and by US Postal Service at 6100 Southport Rd., Portage, IN 46368. NIRPC can be found online at www.nirpc.org; on facebook at facebook.com/nirpcmopo; and on twitter at twitter.com/nirpc.

Lee Botts commented that NIRPC needs to try harder to communicate with news sources to inform citizens of the region.
NIRPC Business:
a. **CMAQ Funding Applications** – Kathy Luther, NIRPC
   Kathy noted that the list of CMAQ projects provided at the last EMPC meeting was inaccurate and a new list was handed out to meeting attendees. A poll will be sent out to schedule a subgroup meeting to analyze the proposals in more detail.

Public Comment: None

Announcements:
- Kay Nelson provided the group with a legislative update of current House and Senate bills and their status.
- Meeting and event announcements will be forwarded to the EMPC email distribution list.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.
Transportation Policy Committee  
April 14, 2015 9:00 a.m.  
NIRPC/Forum Building  

AGENDA

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Opening and Announcements  
   a) Pledge of Allegiance; Introductions  
   b) Meeting Participation Survey  
   c) Action on the minutes of the March 17 TPC meeting (Pages 1-4)

2. Presentation — Project Planning Review Update — Mitch Barloga

3. Planning  
   a) 2040 CRP Plan Update — Mitch Barloga  
   b) Public Comment Period Results — Stephen Sostaric  
   c) Action on Functional Classification System Update — Scott Weber/Sarah Geinosky  
   d) Action on Congestion Management Process Update — Scott Weber (Handout)  
   e) Quarterly Tracking Update — Amanda Pollard  
   f) Updated Planning Agreement — Steve Strains (Pages 5-16)

4. Programming  
   2015 Spending Update — Gary Evers

5. Indiana Department of Transportation  
   Project Lettings Report — Lyndsay Quist (Pages 17-19)

6. Transit Operator Reports  
   a) City of LaPorte Transit  
   b) City of Valparaiso V-Line and ChicaGo DASH  
   c) East Chicago Public Transit  
   d) Gary Public Transportation Corporation  
   e) Michigan City Transit  
   f) Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District  
   g) North Township Dial A Ride  
   h) Opportunity Enterprises  
   i) Porter County Aging and Community Services  
   j) South Lake County Community Services
7. Regional Transportation Partners
   a) Gary/Chicago International Airport
   b) Local Highway Projects
   c) Indiana Toll Road
   d) South Shore Trails
   e) Port of Indiana
   f) Regional Development Authority
   g) South Shore Clean Cities
   h) Other

8. Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration

9. Planning Neighbors
   a) Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
   b) South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
   c) Southwestern Michigan Commission

10. Public Comment on Agenda Items

11. Other Business, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings
   a) Other Business
   b) Staff Announcements
   c) NIRPC Committee Meetings:
      • Land Use Committee – 10:00 a.m. April 15 at NIRPC
      • Finance & Personnel Committee – 8:00 a.m. April 16 at NIRPC
      • Executive Board – 9:00 a.m. April 16 at NIRPC
      • Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee – 1:30 p.m. April 23 at NIRPC
      • Pathway to 2040 Implementation Committee – 9:00 a.m. April 30 at NIRPC
      • Local Government Advisory Committee – 9:00 a.m. April 30 at NIRPC
      • Environmental Policy Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m. May 7 at NIRPC

   The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at NIRPC.

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Meeting Report
Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity
March 12, 2015
Valparaiso City Hall, 2:00-4:30

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC’s stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the nine meeting participants, five filled out the participant survey. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
  - Caucasian – 5
- Age
  - 45-54 – 1
  - 55-64 – 4
- Three respondents identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- There should be more denser, mixed-use development around transit hubs
- Transit should also serve the new hospital and west of Campbell Street
- A question on what the transit oriented development projects in Valparaiso were
- More transportation options (train, bike, walking) in the area, with connections to other places
- Continued development and expansion of complete streets
- Questions regarding regional air quality
- Questions regarding regulation and tracking of water withdrawals
Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue:** More transportation options
  - **Recommendation:** More bike trails to more places, encourage more Complete Streets, changes to transit routes, greater connectivity to other communities

- **Issue:** Development around transit hubs
  - **Recommendation:** Denser, mixed-use development around transit hubs

- **Issue:** V-Line service to currently unserved areas/locations
  - **Recommendation:** Expand service to go west of Campbell Street and to the new Porter Regional Hospital
Meeting Report

Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 17, 2015

Merrillville Town Hall, 2:00-5:00

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC’s stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the three meeting participants, two filled out the participant survey. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
  - Caucasian – 1
  - African-American – 1

- Age
  - 55-64 – 1
  - 65 years or older – 1

- One respondent identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- There needs to be more frequent and widespread bus service that stops at more places.
- The South Shore Line extension should be going across Lake County to Valparaiso instead of down the west side of the county.
- Question on why there are so many fewer opportunities to access the lakefront in the urban core.
Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue**: Accessibility to transit services
  - **Recommendation**: More frequent stops, placing stops beyond major activity centers such as the mall
Meeting Report

Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 19, 2015

Michigan City City Hall, 3:00-5:00

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC’s stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the three meeting participants, none filled out the participant survey. No comments were received
Meeting Report

Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 21, 2015

IUN Library, Gary, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC's stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

There were no participants at this meeting. No comments were received.
Meeting Report

Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 24, 2015

Munster Town Hall, 3:00-6:00

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC’s stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the six meeting participants, one filled out the participant survey. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
  - Caucasian – 1
- Age
  - 65 years or older – 1
- One respondent identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- Question regarding the status of the Illiana Expressway
- Question on the expected impact on the region’s air quality with expected industrial shutdowns

No commenters provided recommendations to address specific issues.
Meeting Report

Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 26, 2015

Porter Regional Hospital, 2:30-5:30

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC’s stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the three meeting participants, one filled out the participant survey. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
  - Caucasian – 1
- Age
  - 65 years or older – 1
- No respondents identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- There is a movement in Valparaiso to form a civic incubator to do improvements with citizen teams outside traditional channels. It can be developed as a template to be used in other places in the region such as Hammond and Gary.

Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue**: It is often difficult to get work done in a community through existing channels
  - **Recommendation**: Support and encourage the formation of citizen teams acting as a civic incubator to induce changes outside of those channels.
Meeting Report

Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 31, 2015

East Chicago Public Library, 2:00-5:00

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC’s stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the eight meeting participants, none filled out the participant survey.

Summary of comments received:

- Sidewalks, lighting, safety, and existing business districts should be the focus of planning in Gary
- There needs to be better opportunities for lakefront access in the urban core.
- Question regarding current plans and status for the Willowcreek extension
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should be the core of any planning effort
- Outreach should be more tailored for different communities, including engaging younger generations.

Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue:** Basic services/features are an important component in revitalizing a city.
  - **Recommendation:** Focus on basics such as sidewalks, lighting, and safety.

- **Issue:** Accessibility of places throughout the region
  - **Recommendation:** The ADA should be the core of any planning effort

- **Issue:** Community outreach difficulties
  - **Recommendation:** Tailor outreach efforts for different communities and begin civic involvement at younger ages.