

Technical Planning Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
YouTube Recording:

https://www.youtube.com/live/YZ37O9FNXMM?si=iCwK_E_chmJbOu0r

June 4, 2024

Minutes

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

Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), Dean Button (Hammond), Jessica (no last name provided [Hammond]), Kelly Wenger (NICTD), Andy Vasquez (Porter County), George Topoll (Union Township), David Wright (GPTC), Lisa Shrader (INDOT), Chris Murphy, Danielle Hayes, Alex Olesker, Martin Bobcik, Julie Ritzler (INDOT), and Scott Pruitt were in attendance.

NIRPC staff present were Tom Vander Woude, Grace Benninger, Stephen Hughes, Charles Bradsky, Candice Eklund, and Flor Baum.

On a motion by Dean Button, second by Kelly Wenger, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) approved the April 9, 2024, minutes, as presented.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Stephen Hughes gave an informational presentation on the Nonprofit Transportation Feasibility Study. NIRPC engaged the TranSystems team to understand nonprofit transportation needs in Northwest Indiana better and develop a plan to address these needs. A survey was sent to a list of 22 interested nonprofit organizations to gain information about their services and transportation needs. Reasons for not providing transportation include the following: funding insufficient staff, geographic challenges, insurance, and transportation needed at irregular times. Interviews were held, and six agencies were selected to discuss the next steps: Pines Village Retirement Communities, Maria Reiner Center, Opportunity Enterprises, Health Visions Midwest, PCACS, and Goodwill Industries. The shared transportation model solves mobility gaps, especially for nonprofit clients, cost-effectively by leveraging the capacity of multiple providers. Broker and Centralized model case studies were discussed. TransSystems will develop an implementation plan and provide it to NIRPC and participating nonprofits by the end of June. NIRPC will convene with interested nonprofits for regular meetings. The broker will act as a program manager and execute the implementation plan. For more information, contact Stephen at shughes@nirpc.org.

Tom Vander Woude gave an informative presentation on the Committee Restructuring for 2024. In 2015, NIRPC changed the committee structure into what we have today. The new committee structure was adopted by NIRPC on April 18, 2024, and implemented in July 2024. The current committees and federal programs will be included in NIRPC's statutory areas and will be streamlined, aligning with the focus of the *NWI 2050+ Plan*.

- Transportation: The Technical Planning Committee (TPC), the Surface Transportation Committee (STC), and the Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee (3PC) will be placed into the Transportation Committee (TC).
- Economic Development: Freight, local government assistance, the Economic Development District, the revolving loan fund, and the Land Use Committee will be included in the Economic Development Committee.
- Environment: The Environmental Management & Policy Committee (EMPC) will remain the same.
- Leadership: Finance & personnel, Legislative Committee, and the Outreach committees.

The TC's roles and responsibilities were discussed. The TC will review and provide recommendations to Full Commission/ EB regarding the adoption of and amendments to MPO's core planning documents. The TC will also review and provide recommendations to the Full Commission/ EB regarding a portion of and amendments to plans and policies related to transportation, public participation, and other subjects as required. The TC will review and provide recommendations to the Full Commission/ EB regarding adopting Federal performance measure targets and receive progress reports on performance measures. Specific to the TIP, the TC will receive recommendations from TROC and ensure consistency with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The TC will establish working groups to manage components of transportation funding solutions and set categorical funding targets and priorities for specialized working groups, allocating federal transportation funding for various programs.

The membership categories are as follows:

- 15 Commissioners (5 per County, including Chair); Quorum of the majority of attendees with no less than 3 in attendance. Commissioners may appoint a qualified staff representative as a proxy.
- 3 Transit Operators (1 per County) Eligible Federal Transportation Funding Sub-Recipients
- 1 NWI Forum Representative
- 1 INDOT Representative
- 1 NICTD Representative
- 1 from Lake County FTA Direct Recipient (GPTC)
- 1 from LaPorte County FTA Direct Recipient (Michigan City Transit)
- 1 FHWA Representative – non-voting
- 1 FTA Representative – non-voting
- 1 Bicycling Advocacy Group Representative (NEW)
- 1 County Parks Representative (NEW)
- 1 Indiana Toll Road Representative (NEW)
- 1 Ports of Indiana Representative (NEW)
- 1 Freight Industry Representative (Rail, Trucking, or Affiliated) (NEW)
- 1 Southwest Michigan Regional Planning Commission Representative (non-voting) (NEW)
- 1 Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Representative (non-voting) (NEW)
- Drive Clean Indiana (non-voting) (NEW)

For more information, contact Tom at tvanderwoude@nirpc.org.

Programming

Nothing to report.

Staff Updates and Reports from Planning Partners

Staff updates and announcements were made. Drive Clean Indiana shared updates. For more information, visit www.drivecleanindiana.org.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

The next TPC meeting is slated for August 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.