

Technical Planning Committee
NIRPC Lake Michigan Room
YouTube Recording:
https://www.youtube.com/live/EP22BxmL_B0?si=vMI1JwiDVVOR18IQ
September 10, 2024
Minutes

Chairman Kevin Breitzke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kevin Breitzke (Porter County), Beth Shrader (Valpo V Line), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), Mary Tanis (Dyer), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), George Topoll (Union Township), Julie Ritzler (INDOT), Kay Nelson (Forum), David Wright (GPTC), and Dean Button (Hammond) were present.

Brian Snedecor, Terry Martin, Jake Dammarel, Eric Wolverton, Alex Olesker, Martin Bobcek, Ed Vazquez, and Chris Murphy were also present.

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

On a motion by Mark O'Dell, second by Kay Nelson, the Technical Planning Committee (TPC) approved the August 2024 meeting minutes, as presented.

There were no public comments.

Planning

Grace Benninger presented on the 2024 2nd quarter Safety, Time Travel Reliability (TTR), Truck TTR (TTTR), and Congestion update. The State and the MPOs require these set targets. The information was distributed at the Surface Transportation Committee meetings. However, with the restructuring of all NIRPC committees, the quarterly report will now be presented at the TC. 5925 total collisions were reported in the Region, of which 990 resulted in injury and 23 in fatalities for the second quarter. Lake County had the highest number of collisions (4107 total), followed by Porter County (1108 total) and La Porte County (710 total). NWI's TTR Interstate target was 85.3%, 7.7% below the TTR state target. The Region's Non-Interstate TTR was 99.6%, 6.6% above the State target. The 1.41 target for Truck TTR for Interstate roads did not meet the 1.32 State target. Peak-Hour Excessive Delay Per Capita was 7.6h, well below the 15.6h required State target. Lastly, it was reported that over 80% of vehicles on the road are single-occupancy vehicles. For more information, contact Grace at gbenninger@nirpc.org.

Tom spoke on the Draft CMAQ 2nd Performance Period Mid-Point Performance Plan. NIRPC is subject to Federal regulations to document a plan with targets for Air Quality and congestion within the Region. Those targets are as follows:

- Peak hours of excessive delay per capita
- Percent of non-single occupancy vehicle travel
- 24-hour PM10 benefit
- Ozone precursors: NOx emissions benefit and VOC emissions benefit
- CO benefit

The initial plan must be submitted at the start of the performance period, and biennial updates must be provided. INDOT receives this documentation along with the biennial report. INDOT submits an annual report of CMAQ projects in Indiana to the Feds. The FHWA used the yearly submission to maintain an active database of CMAQ investments and Air Quality benefits called the CMAQ Public Access System, a required data source for calculating total emissions reduction measures.

Stephen Hughes presented on Resolution #24-11: Non-Profit Transportation Feasibility Study. NIRPC contracted TranSystems as a consultant in the fall of 2023 to study the feasibility of non-profit groups in Lake and Porter Counties. The advisory committee completed the project, which was made up of partnerships with the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Legacy Foundation, the Porter County Community Foundation, and Goodwill of Northwest Indiana. The contract was funded by local funding from the foundations and federal funding from the UPWP. The study was presented to the TPC on June 4, 2024, and the final report was delivered later that month. NIRPC opened a 21-day public comment period beginning on August 21, 2024. No significant comments were received. The final report of the Transportation Feasibility Study can be found online:

https://www.in.gov/nirpc/files/Transportation_Feasibility_Study_FINAL_REPORT.pdf

On motion by George Topoll, second by Dean Button, the TPC approved to recommend Res 24-11 to the Commission.

Programming

Charles Bradsky spoke on the 2024 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)/Call for Projects. The 2024 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Call for Projects will be released on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, and close at 5:00 PM on Friday, October 18. Approximately \$108.4M will be for infrastructure and transit projects programmed for fiscal years 2026-2030. Additional information will be presented at the September 24 Transportation Resources Oversight Committee (TROC) meetings. Communities are encouraged to contact Charles to discuss possible projects.

Staff Updates & Reports from Planning Partners

Nothing to report.

Announcements

Announcements were made.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

The Transportation Committee meeting is slated for October 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the NIRPC building.