

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting**  
**La Porte County**  
**Tuesday, September 24, 2024**  
**Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to technical difficulties, this meeting was not streamed live on YouTube. The recording was uploaded to YouTube on September 25. In attendance were Jay Sullivan (La Porte County), Mitch Bishop (La Porte County), Nick Minich (City of La Porte), Craig Phillips (City of La Porte), Tim Werner (Michigan City), and Doug Valmore.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Flor Baum, and Candice Eklund.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the TROC meeting held on May 21, 2024, were approved on a motion by Mitch Bishop and seconded by Tim Werner.

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

**Program of Projects (PoP) Update**

Charles Bradsky reported that INDOT's annual funding allocation to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) was less in FY 2025, resulting in a 4% reduction in funding for this (Michigan City) UZA. The PoP has been reviewed and is still balanced for FY 2025. Charles has not yet received an answer from INDOT about why the funding was reduced.

**Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Discussions**

Charles reported that the NOFA application for this cycle did not have many changes. The members were encouraged to contact Charles with questions when completing their applications.

**New Business**

Charles noted this was the first TROC meeting in the Health Foundation of La Porte facility. The meeting location changed from the prior location due to poor network connectivity, which was also experienced at this facility, and the meeting could not be streamed live. With continued connectivity issues and given the fact that all other NIRPC committee meetings are held at the NIRPC office in Portage, Charles asked the group if they would be interested in having the future quarterly TROC meetings at NIRPC, where the Local Quarterly Meetings were held before COVID but are now held virtually. Nick Minich asked if other NIRPC meetings could be scheduled on the same day to accommodate attending more than one meeting while at the NIRPC location, but also added discussions could be held to accommodate the request made by Charles. All other members agreed to change the meeting location to NIRPC. No motion was made & the discussion was tabled until the next meeting so Charles could research Nick's request.

INDOT will now be responsible for reviewing all CE and PE consultant contracts. This resulted from another professional firm in Indiana submitting many billable hours for PE after the project went to letting, to cover errors and omissions, which is not allowed.

Road Safety Audits (RSAs) are being finalized and will be sent out by October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 13 applications submitted this year, with four being eliminated due to other factors: in another study with INDOT, road closures, or already receiving funding to complete the project. The Corradino Group is the consultant performing these audits for NIRPC and they have a two-year contract. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be posted for a new two-year contract starting in 2026. A survey will be distributed next spring to request locations for additional RSAs. It is anticipated that 12-15 RSAs will occur yearly.

Charles proposed a funding option for bridge #512 on Michigan Boulevard in Michigan City. This is a bridge that needs a superstructure replacement, and the construction cost is estimated at \$4.3 million. La Porte County requested funding assistance for this bridge from INDOT recently but was denied. With Group 2 currently having an excess of \$1.2 million in 2025, Charles proposed loaning that money to Lake and Porter (Group 1), with repayment in 2028 when La Porte County could let the project. If additional funds are needed, Group 1 could then loan the extra money, and this UZA could repay them in 2029. Nick Minick asked if the Lake Street and Polk Street projects could possibly be moved up in the PoP for Group 2 to use the \$1.2 million, but he would need to review the spending plan before making a final decision. Charles stated all projects were awarded at the prior NOFA except for these two (roadway) projects because they did not score well. Craig and Nick both mentioned that the Lake Street project is becoming important due to increased truck traffic downtown. Nick agreed this needed to be worked out but doesn't feel the money is being evenly shared. Craig Phillips asked if the PE portion of these two projects could be funded so they can begin moving forward. It was decided to table this vote. Charles will send out the current spending plan before the next meeting so a vote can be taken on November 19, 2024.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

*The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [Transportation Resources Oversight Committee - LaPorte County 9-24-24 - YouTube](#)*