

**Transportation Resource Oversight Committee Meeting
(Lake and Porter County)
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Minutes**

Charles Bradsky called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was streamed live on YouTube. In attendance were Jack McGraw (Burns Harbor), Greg Falkowski (Crown Point), Mark O'Dell (Chesterton), David Wright (GPTC), Dean Button (Hammond), Alex Metz (Hobart), Duane Alverson (Lake County), Martin Bobcek (Porter County), Kevin Breitzke (Porter County Surveyor), Jeff Huet (Schererville), George Topoll (Union Township), Max Rehlander (Valparaiso), Beth Shrader (Valparaiso), Bob Thompson (Valparaiso), Jill DiTommaso, Phil Gralik, TJ Gordon, Evan Laviolette, Ryan Lisek, Chris Murphy, Scott Pruitt, Trisha Nugent, Alex Olesker, and Eric Wolverton.

NIRPC staff included Charles Bradsky, Tom Vander Woude, Stephen Hughes, Flor Baum, and Candice Eklund.

Approval of Minutes

The May 21, 2024, TROC meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Jeff Huet and seconded by Dean Button.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Program of Projects (PoP) Update

Charles Bradsky reported the annual funding that INDOT allocates to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) each year will be less in FY 2025. This committee received \$23.5 million instead of the anticipated \$25 million, which is a 12% reduction in funding. Charles has not received an answer from INDOT yet as to why the funding was reduced. The PoP has been reviewed, and as it stands now, some projects will need to be moved out to compensate for the reduced funding. Charles will contact the communities whose project may be affected before it becomes official. There were discussions about the possibility of the TROC Lake and Porter UZA borrowing funding from the TROC Michigan City UZA this year to fill some of that gap and pay them back in a later year. This scenario would help La Porte County with their superstructure bridge that needs to be replaced, which La Porte County discussed with this committee in February this year. This scenario will be discussed and voted on at the TROC La Porte meeting this afternoon.

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Discussions

Charles reported there were not many changes to the NOFA application for this cycle, but that the funding set aside for each project type has been removed because it was difficult to program dollar amounts for all the project types. Dean Button noted that, at times, the project score calculations on the applications were not correctly reflected from one worksheet to another. Charles acknowledged this inconsistency in the system and said they could be carried over manually and would also be addressed at the committee meeting when the applications are reviewed in future applications. Dean Button also noted that it was difficult to locate the project location within the links to the maps and requested a color-coded key on the map so the appropriate factor could be entered into the report. Again, Charles said he would look into this. Jeff Huet added there were previous discussions on various maps and how to obtain and discern information needed to complete the application and felt the shading needed to be more specific. Charles said additional corrections to the application and maps will continue to be approved for future NOFA applications after this NOFA cycle.

David Wright requested information on maps for specific intersections and was directed to contact Charles. David also said the transit map doesn't reflect their current routing in Gary and Hammond (L3 and R4 route) and that he would contact NIRPC to supply the specific route information.

New Business

- a) Road Safety Audits (RSAs) are being finalized and will be sent out by October 1st. 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 Proposal (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.
- b) INDOT will now be responsible for reviewing all CE and PE consultant contracts. This resulted from another professional firm in Indiana (not in the NIRPC region) submitting many billable hours for PE after the project went to letting, to cover errors and omissions, which is not allowed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m. The next meeting will be held on November 19, 2024.

The livestream video recording for this meeting is available on NIRPC's YouTube Channel at [TROC Lake & Porter 9.24.24 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)