Framework Plan Overview

Based on the direction that was supported by the residents/stakeholders and validated by the Working Group, NIRPC Executive Board and stakeholders, the planning team developed a land use “Framework Plan” that builds upon the vision statement and guiding principals. The Framework Plan was developed around a series of project systems that included:

- Composite Framework
- Community Investment Framework
- Industry Framework
- Green Infrastructure Framework
- Motorized Transportation Framework US 12 and US 20
- Alternative Transportation Framework

Each framework illustrated general recommendations and key recommendations specific to that system in text and graphic form, and when combined represented a Composite Framework for land use strategies.

Composite Framework
This framework illustrates the composite land use strategy envisioned for the Phase II study area. It illustrates a desired mix of existing and refined land uses and a set of key elements that represent the long-term vision for the lakeshore communities.

Community Investment Framework
Each community along the lakeshore has a unique character and desired role in the region. This framework illustrates potential community efforts that will complement its unique character and strengthen its ability to compete in the regional market.

Industrial Framework
Viable, successful industries are important to the economic health of the region. This framework suggests strategies that will strengthen viable industries along the lakefront, and calls for the reclamation and remediation of industrial sites when functional beneficial and mutually agreeable. It also broadens the definition of industry, recognizing tourism, green technologies, and outdoor recreation as vital components of the region’s economy.

Green Infrastructure Framework
Northwest Indiana is home to globally rare eco-systems of dune and swale, and oak savanna, and countless tributaries forming the complex Lake Michigan watershed. This framework emphasizes the importance of healthy natural systems and offers recommendations to protect and enhance the region’s watersheds and habitats.

Motorized Transportation Framework US 12 and US 20
This framework outlines a series of roadway recommendations intended to improve connections to the lakefront, between lakefront communities and within lakefront communities and attractions. When implemented, these recommendations will improve the safety of residents and visitors, the aesthetics of the corridors, and the economic development potential along the corridors.

Alternative Transportation Framework
This framework outlines a series of infrastructure recommendations necessary to make the region truly multi-modal. By reducing dependency on the automobile, the region will be better positioned to protect and enhance its natural resources.