NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION/EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 15, 2015, 9:00 A.M.
6100 Southport Road, Portage, Indiana

DRAFT AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Brian Snedecor 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of December 11, 2014 Executive Board Meeting Pages 1-5 9:01 a.m.

III. Report of the Chair Pages 6-7
   a) Norman E. Tufford Award
   b) Report of Nominating Committee
   c) Election of Officers/Executive Board
   d) Exchange of Gavel
   e) 2014 Schedule of NIRPC Meetings
   f) Committee Preferences and Assignments
   g) Staff Service Award

   Pages 8

IV. Report of the Executive Director – Ty Warner 9:20 a.m.

V. Presentation: Solarize NWI – Kathy Luther 9:40 a.m.

VI. Finance & Personnel Committee – Jim Ton, Chair 9:50 a.m.

VII. Environmental Management Policy Committee – Geof Benson, Chair Pages 9-10 10:00 a.m.

VIII. Transportation Policy Committee, Stan Dobosz, Vice-Chair Pages 11-32 10:05 a.m.
   a) Action on Resolution 15-06 Adopting the ITS Architecture – Scott Weber Pages 14-17
   b) Action on Resolution 15-01 Amendment #31 to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Gary Evers Pages 18-20
   c) Action on Resolution 15-02 Amendment #32 to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program – Gary Evers Pages 21-23
   d) Action on Resolution 15-05 Amending the FY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program for the City of Hobart – Belinda Petroskey Pages 24-26
   e) Action on Resolution 15-04 Amending the FY 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program for the City of Portage – Belinda Petroskey Pages 27-29
   f) Action on Resolution 15-03 Amendment #30 to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for the Hobart and Portage Transit Feasibility Studies – Belinda Petroskey Pages 3-32

IX. INDOT, Rick Powers, La Porte District Director 10:15 a.m.

X. Northwest Indiana Economic Development District, Roosevelt Allen, Vice-President 10:20 a.m.

XI. Other Business 10:25 a.m.

XII. Public Comment 10:30 a.m.

XIII. Announcements 10:35 a.m.
The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.
NIRPC Executive Board Meeting
NIRPC/Forum Building, Portage, IN
December 11, 2014

Minutes

Chairman Brian Snedecor called the Executive Board meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Board Members present included Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Anthony Copeland, Dave Decker, Don Ensign, Blair Milo, Brian Snedecor, Ed Soliday, Jim Ton and Nancy Adams via Skype (non-voting).

Other Commissioners present included Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, Jeff Dekker, Stan Dobosz, Bill Emerson, Jr., Karen Freeman-Wilson, Michael Griffin, Tom McDermott, Jr., Roger Miller, Rich Murphy, Diane Noll, Lori Reno and Joe Simonetto.

Others present included Justin Mount, Steve Walsh, Robert Alderman, Rick Powers, Bob Carnahan, Bruce Lindner, David Wright, Jim Nowacki, Jennifer Alander, Julia Surber, Tom MacLennan, Val Gomez, Teresa Torres, Rebecca L. “Sis” Williams, Renae Jackson, George T. Janiec, Christa Sierra, Christopher Murphy, Jon Voelz, Ray Dumbrys, Christopher Meyers, Carole Carlson, and Keith Benman.


Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Don Ensign.

Report of the Chair:
- Brian Snedecor thanked outgoing commissioners Nancy Adams, Jim Polarek, Rich Mrozinski and Anthony Pampalone for their service and commitment to the Commission. He also thanked Rosalie Jacobs, who retired a few months ago.
- Brian Snedecor and Ty Warner will meet with the Nominating Committee after the Executive Board meeting. Committee members include Blair Milo, Geof Benson and Tom McDermott.
- Brian Snedecor presented Jim Ton and Joe Simonetto with Perfect Attendance certificates, commenting that it is a challenge to meet full quorums and these two Commissioners attended all 12 meetings of the Commission in 2014.

Report of the Executive Director:
- Ty Warner provided the commissioners with the presentation given at the last meeting by Kelly Disser on economic development issues in the region as well as his contact information.
• Ty Warner attended the very successful TEDx (Technology Entertainment Design) local conference organized through the Emerging Leaders Network. Blair Milo was one of the four speakers and created her own slide of the Pathway to 2040. Blair Milo added that there is an opportunity to create a regional “happiest place on earth,” which would be a long-term deep-seated feeling of contentment which comes from earned success and the ability to add to the world around you. Through the six themes outlined in the Pathway to 2040 plan of transportation, environmental stewardship, etc., we can create this environment for everyone to have an opportunity to earn success.

• Ty Warner said a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chicago to Detroit high speed rail line is being reviewed. NIPRC has also been working with communities along the corridor for proposed high speed rail from Chicago to Columbus, with local stops in Gary and Valparaiso, and local funding is being secured for that EIS.

• Based on the resolution of support for the Regional Development Authority (RDA) passed by NIPRC, Ty Warner testified before the state budget hearings with Bill Hanna of the RDA in support of the RDA.

• Support for the RDA was the top issue at the OneRegion community leaders retreat held in October. NIPRC provided keypad polling for the event and Sarah Geinosky of NIPRC staff provided the technical support.

• Steve Strains recently presented on the 2040 planning process at IUN’s recent civic engagement conference.

• Sarah Geinosky, Gabrielle Biciunas and Scott Weber have been working with the Alliance for Regional Development. NIPRC took the lead in producing a GIS tool combining regional infrastructure tool combining data from the NIPRC region with data Northeast Illinois and Southeast Wisconsin. The tool will be showcased at the December 19 tri-state summit in Chicago.

• The next meeting of the Commission scheduled for January 15, 2015. There is a full agenda with election of NIPRC’s officers, and a quorum is needed for that full Commission meeting.

Presentation: Steve Walsh, Lake Shore Public Media moderated the October 29 public meeting regarding public transit services in Northwest Indiana and provided a summary and comments. He said there were public transit representatives as well as elected officials present at the meetings. NIPRC staff listened to the public and answered questions and presented on NIPRC’s role as a conduit for funding for some of the smaller agencies. Everybody Counts members were on hand and advocated for those with disabilities in Northwest Indiana. Steve Walsh said there was no solution, but a greater understanding of public transportation needs was achieved. Some people expressed frustration and others were satisfied with their transit options. He reported that North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan talked about North Township’s Dial-a-Ride, that it quadrupled in size since 2012 and said that the $1.3 million in federal funds they are using will run out before the end of next year. A local revenue source must be found in order to maintain the level of service they are providing. Steve Walsh provided examples of comments heard at the meeting by those who are in need of a better public transportation system.

Brian Snedecor thanked Steve Walsh for his time and patience in moderating both sessions on October 29. Ty Warner added that the transcripts and video of the meetings are available on the NIPRC website. Bound copies of the transcript were handed out today and a copy was at each Commissioner’s place with their packet. He encouraged the Commissioners to read the information to see the level of passion
in the region about the critical need for public transportation. He said that while the item on the agenda today ends the responsibilities of the settlement agreement with Everybody Counts, and the Consent Decree is over, it is not the end of NIRPC’s commitment to this issue of expanding transit service in the region. The challenge remains the lack of a local share match to be able to acquire more federal funding. Tom McDermott offered for NIRPC to form a committee to examine the needs of public transportation in the region and Karen Freeman-Wilson expressed her willingness to serve on such a committee. Brian Snedecor said bus transit is something everyone has to get serious about, as the need for it increases with the region’s increasing aging population. He commended GPTC for their efforts in trying to meet the demand for public transportation and thanked Everybody Counts for their engagement at these meetings. Ty Warner suggested inviting Mike Noland, the new NICTD general manager, to attend a Commission meeting next year.

**Finance & Personnel Committee:** Committee Chair Jim Ton reported that the committee met this morning and received various information, updates and reports. There were no adverse issues. The budget expenditure is under 80% and under 92% for the year. Some old equipment will be recycled. The staff health insurance plan was tweaked to meet the Affordable Care Act. NIRPC staff will be going to 26 pay periods from 24, which will help with NIRPC’s accounting process. Meetings on the office reconstruction are taking place regularly and work should begin in February. The Government Finance Office Association issued a Certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting to NIRPC for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for this physical year ending December 31. Jim Ton commended Angie Hayes and the accounting staff for their fine work. Ty Warner added that this is the highest award given for government financial reporting, and NIRPC has enjoyed 10 years of perfect audits.

**Environmental Management Policy Committee:** Committee Chairman Geof Benson said the committee met twice since the last Commission meeting. Chicago Wilderness is giving an award to Shirley Heinze Land Trust for their excellence in ecological restoration. This is the first given in Indiana. Next month, NIRPC will be looking for communities to volunteer to help promote solar rooftops, through installation for both residential and businesses. The next meeting will be on January 8 at the Indiana Dunes Ranger Training Station on Mineral Springs Road.

**Transportation Policy Committee:**
- Vice Chairman Stan Dobosz reported that the committee met on December 9 and heard a presentation from staff on the Regional Corridor Study, which will examine gaps between regional highways and limited access local arterials to help with congestion. A survey about people’s travel in the region is available and will be posted on line.
- Gary Evers described Resolution 14-33, Amendment #29 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for local projects for Griffith, Highland, Crown Point and Michigan City. These are the last of the 2013-2014 projects and the funds are zeroed out through 2014. On a motion by Jim Ton and a second by Anthony Copeland, Resolution 14-33 was adopted by the Executive Board.
- Gary Evers described Resolution 14-34, Amendment #28 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for 10 small INDOT projects. On a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Blair Milo, Resolution 14-34 was adopted by the Executive Board.
- Stephen Sostaric presented the Public Participation Plan Public Comment Report. Steve Strains presented an overview of the over two-year Public Participation Plan update process and the
extensive amount of work that went into developing the new plan. He added that NIRPC has engaged thousands of people in its almost 50-year history, and the Public Participation Plan is adding technological advantages such as social media, variable meeting locations and webcasts and webinars as they become available. He listed some of the ways the new plan is an improvement over the plan adopted in 2007. On a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Jim Ton, Resolution 14-35, the Public Participation Plan, was adopted by the Executive Board.

- Stephen Sostaric reported on the 2040 Plan Update Public Comment Summary Report which was in the packet. It provides comments people had during the comment period that opened the development of the update of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. Stan Dobosz said the next meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee will be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

**Indiana Department of Transportation:** Robert Alderman asked to meet with the officers immediately after the meeting to discuss a situation. Robert Alderman introduced Rick Powers, new Director of INDOT-Northwest District. Rick Powers presented his background and said he will work to improve the District. He said INDOT is shifting more toward maintenance than new construction. Robert Alderman asked to meet with Ty Warner, Blair Milo, Brian Snedecor and Ed Soliday early next year to discuss INDOT’s finances and funding priorities. Brian Snedecor expressed appreciation for everything Robert Alderman has done for the counties and communities in the Northwest District.

**Northwest Indiana Economic Development District (NWIEDD):**
Roosevelt Allen, Jr. reported that the NWIEDD discussed staffing the Economic Development District at their meeting on October 28. The district board members agreed to create and publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the work. One RFP was received from Ratio, which has offices in Indianapolis and Chicago. The NWIEDD will meet at 11 a.m. to review that proposal. The District also had a discussion with Heather Ennis and Kay Nelson of the Northwest Indiana Forum to lobby the governor and the Indiana Economic Development Corp. for their letters of recommendation to forward to the Economic Development Association to assist in receiving district status.

**Other Business:** No other business was brought before the Commission.

**Announcements:**
- Brian Snedecor expressed his appreciation for Nancy Adams and her service both to Porter County and the NIRPC Board. Nancy Adams (via Skype from California) said she enjoyed her four years in office, and working with the NIRPC Commission and staff. She also commended Blair Milo for her work at the TEDx Conference.
- Geof Benson introduced Beverly Shores’ new Clerk-Treasurer, John Voelz.
- Robert Carnahan, Cedar Lake Town Councilman, is completing 27 years on the council and was just reelected to his eighth term. He announced that US 41 was closed this morning due to an accident, but is now open.
- Gary Evers said a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is out and applications are due February 13, 2015. FHWA extended CMAQ funding for alternative fuels through 2017 and after that it will no longer be available. Alternative fuels include anything but electricity – biofuels, propane, E85, CNG, propane, etc.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

- [continued on the next page]
- Everybody Counts Executive Director Teresa Torres thanked Steve Walsh for his presentation and for his facilitation at the October meeting and she asked that NIRPC periodically hold these kinds of discussions on public transportation. She said the methodologies in the Plan approved by the NIRPC board today builds neither accountability nor solid expectations for what NIRPC will do to encourage more public participation. Teresa Torres questioned Steve Strains’ reference to the number of participants at NIRPC’s meetings. She said that an Everybody Counts client is still waiting for a response from NIRPC to a complaint, although she acknowledged NIRPC’s attorney issued a response. Ty Warner clarified that Steve Strains’ reference to the amount of people involved referred to NIRPC’s entire history, not just participation over the last two years.

- Jim Nowacki, Gary, commented that there are three prime sources of economic development in the City of Gary: all levels of government, U.S. Steel and the illegal drug trade. There was a drug raid on a property being rented by the Gary Chicago Airport to a trucking company. He pleaded that everyone responsible look at everything going on at the airport.

- Christa Sierra, Merrillville, related her experiences with the lack of an efficient public-transit system in the region and a bad experience she had with the South Lake County Community Services staff. She said that good public transportation is desperately needed by seniors and people with disabilities, but it should be available for everyone.

- Renae Jackson, Gary, thanked Steve Walsh for his facilitation at the meeting on October 29 and asked for a report on that meeting. She said it would be helpful to know how many people attended the other public meetings. The mailing list must continue to be updated. ADA compliance is needed in all communities. Everybody Counts has been trying to advocate for the disabled and convey their passion and despair regarding public transportation.

Hearing no other business, on a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Jim Ton, Brian Snedecor adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

*A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it. DVD recordings will be available once they are received by NIRPC from the videographer.*

For requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

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2015 NIRPC MEETING DATES

All Commission meetings are held at NIRPC at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

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<td>January 15</td>
<td>Full Commission Meeting</td>
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<td>February 19*</td>
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<td>March 19*</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
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The February and March meetings are expected to be held at another location due to the build out of the NIRPC-Forum offices. Locations will be posted in advance of the meetings. Please visit the NIRPC website at www.nirpc.org for more information.
NIRPC Meeting Information
2015

This is the usual schedule of meetings at NIRPC unless otherwise indicated. Visit www.nirpc.org for more information.

Executive Board/Full Commission
Meets monthly at 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd Thursdays at NIRPC
There is no meeting in November
The December meeting is on the 2nd Thursday
Staff contact: Ty Warner, twarner@nirpc.org

Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC)
Meets at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st Thursdays at NIRPC
Staff contact: Kathy Luther, kluther@nirpc.org

Finance & Personnel Committee (F & P)
Meets on call, usually at 8:00 a.m. on Commission meeting days at NIRPC
Staff contact: Angie Hayes, ahayes@nirpc.org

Land Use Committee
Meets at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month at NIRPC
Staff contact: Eman Ibrahim, eibrahim@nirpc.org

Legislative Committee
Meets on call
Staff contact: Ty Warner, twarner@nirpc.org

Local Government Assistance Committee
Meets at 9:00 a.m. in months that have five Thursdays (in 2015: January, April, July, October, December)
Staff contact: Jody Melton, jmelton@nirpc.org

Pathway to 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Implementation Committee
Meets quarterly at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC (in 2015: January 8, March 12, April TBD, August 13, October 8 and December 10)
Staff contact: Eman Ibrahim, eibrahim@nirpc.org

Regional Corridor Study Committee
Meets on call, usually the first Friday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC
Staff contact: Eman Ibrahim, eibrahim@nirpc.org

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Meets at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at NIRPC
Staff contact: Mitch Barloga, mbarloga@nirpc.org

The February and March meetings are expected to be held at another location due to the build out of the NIRPC-Forum offices. Locations will be posted in advance of the meetings. Please visit the NIRPC website at www.nirpc.org for more information.
MEMBER'S NAME: __________________________

Please indicate your order of preference by identifying your first preference as 1, your second preference as 2. You will be assigned to two committees, and your first preference will be met unless we need to “balance” the committees.

___ Transportation Policy (meets @ 9 am on 2nd Tuesday)
Short-Range Project Programming, Highways, Safety, Airports/Ports,
Public Transit (bus & rail), Trails, Long-Range Transportation Plan
Freight, Public Participation, Outreach

___ Land Use (meets on call, usually @ 10 am on 2nd Wednesday as needed)
Develop and review recommendations regarding regional land use for incorporation into the Comprehensive Regional Plan

___ Environmental Management Policy (meets @ 9am on 1st Thursday)
Air quality, Brownfield, Biodiversity, Water Supply Water quality, and Stormwater management planning

___ Finance and Personnel (meets @ 8am on 3rd Thursday as needed)
Financial Oversight, Budget Development, Personnel Policies, Procurement

___ Local Government Assistance Advisory (usually meets @ 9 am on 4th Wednesday, every other month)
Direction and oversight to staff in the provision of direct services to local governments in the region including grant assistance and information sharing

___ Legislative (meets on call)
The Legislative Committee does not meet on a regular basis. If you are interested in participating on this committee, it would be in addition to your service on one of the committees listed above.
Federal Legislation, State Legislation, Advocacy for Regional Issues

___ Pathway to 2040 Implementation Committee
(Meets @ 9 am on 2nd Thursday in January, April, July and October)


The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission usually meets @ 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd Thursday of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October. There is not a November meeting, and the December meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday.

Please complete this form and either fax to 219/762-1653, email to mthorne@nirpc.org, or mail to Mary Thorne at 6100 Southport Road; Portage IN 46368.
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
NIRPC AUDITORIUM, PORTAGE, IN
December 4, 2014

Members/Guests Present: Deb Backhus, Jennifer Gadzala, Charlotte Read, Brenda Scott Henry, Tom Clouser, Maggie Byrne, Kris Krouse, Kevin Breitzke, Dan Plath, Ralph Schultz, David Robertson, Geof Benson, Susan MiHalo, Daniel Goldfarb
NIRPC Staff: Kathy Luther, Joe Exl, Meredith Stilwell

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 9:12 with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Approval of November 6, 2014 EMPC Minutes
Upon motion by Deb Backhus and second by Kevin Breitzke and no opposition, the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

Presentations:
a. Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program (EERP) – Ralph Schultz,
Director of Planning & Operations, Forest Preserve District of Will County

The Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program (EERP) has been several years in making and is going into its third year. The 1992 Chicago Wilderness biodiversity plan laid out the condition of natural resources and how to preserve and actively engage in restoration. A few years later, agencies across the Chicago Wilderness region were surveyed and a report card produced based on the plan. The results proved that ground was being lost instead of gained which from a political standpoint was difficult to present. When a second report card was going to be created a few years later several large agencies wanted a way to show the areas moving forward with restoration and management instead. The EERP was launched in 2011 for the primary purpose of recognizing and promoting the use of Best Management Practices (BMP’s), and ultimately improving ecological restoration efforts in the Chicago Wilderness region through a voluntary, comprehensive assessment and accreditation process. The EERP offers many benefits beyond restoring the ecological health of a site. The key is that the program is rooted in the biodiversity recovery plan. The Chicago Wilderness Commission on Excellence in Ecological Restoration and Native Landscaping implements and administers the Program.

A wide array of experts & stakeholders contributed to the development of the EERP accreditation standards which are organized into the five categories of landscape context & site features; management practices; threat assessment & action plan; collaboration & resources; and agency/organization programs, practices, policies & procedures. The four levels of site accreditation awarded based on those standards are platinum (80%); gold (70%); silver (60%); and bronze (50%). While the designation lasts for five years and then must be renewed, there is an opportunity to upgrade after two years. This year 11 organizations will be awarded. The application process includes the completion of an online preliminary application; attendance of an EERP webinar to learn about the application and self-assessment process and standards; and a completion of the formal on-line application. Commission members review applications and conduct field visits to selected sites and follow up with a preliminary report to the applicant, who then has an opportunity to respond in writing. A liaison is assigned to each applicant. The commission then selects the appropriate level of accreditation and obtains approval from the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council prior to notifying applicants of accreditation. Percentages and points for each scope of standards section of the application were presented by Ralph. Public agencies, NGOs and private land owners can apply. Private applications tend to not score as well since they tend to be isolated sites. The entire program was underwritten by ArcelorMittal for the first two years. The Program has been pretty well received and the process is very organized and helpful to applicants. The application was provided at the meeting. Chicago Wilderness issues a press release for all accreditations. A level of achievement sign with a QR code on it and talking points and press release information are also provided to each awardee. This awards ceremony for this year is December 11th.
b. Shirley Heinze Land Trust EERP Silver Certificate Achievement – Kris Krouse, Executive Director and Danny Robertson, Shirley Heinze Land Trust

Kris Krouse stated there is 1400 acres of Shirley Heinze Land Trust owned land in Porter, La Porte and Lake Counties that is permanently protected. 350 acres on the east side of Michigan City was dedicated as state nature preserve in 2006 and in 2012 another 150 acres was dedicated and is the largest intact boreal flatwoods in the state of Indiana and they are excited to get the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Silver Certificate Achievement for the area.

Kris turned the presentation over to Danny Robertson who has a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from Purdue University and joined the Shirley Heinze Land Trust as Stewardship Technician in July of 2011. As the individual who completed the application, Danny stated the process proves the applicant is following best management practices and doing what they should be. The application process is very in-depth and helpful in showing how well the site is being monitored. They felt they were doing a great job, but after looking into it found it had been 10 years since some of the studies had been completed and was brought to their attention because of the application. While comprehensive and taking some time, the application process is surprisingly easy. He thinks it will spotlight one of Shirley Heinze best sites and how well they are doing with it. They will probably be applying for Meadowbrook, but have to wait until they have owned the property for at least 5 years. They will be receiving their Silver Level Award at the Chicago Wilderness ceremony on December 11th.

After the presentation Daniel Goldfarb spoke briefly about the Wildlife Habitat Council program which focuses more on corporate lands and is a lot more focused on collaboration. The have received a grant from IDNR to develop an accreditation process and he would love to come speak about it at a future EMPC meeting and see how the two programs can work together.

NIRPC BUSINESS:

a. CMAQ & HSIP Funding Application Extension

The application deadline for the solicitation/call for federal-aid transportation projects for Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties has been extended to Friday, February 13, 2015. Kathy is still looking for volunteers to assist with the review of applications.

Public Comment:

- Susan MiHalo announced that public comments on the high speed rail proposal are due December 19th and recommended reviewing it as various proposed routes will have major impacts in Indiana and a lot of impacts on dune and swale would be difficult to mitigate. She stated now is the time to make opinions known before the final environmental impact statement is released. The proposal may be viewed at www.greatlakesrail.org. Kathy indicated she would ask if NIRPC has taken a position on the high speed rail proposal for the Chicago to Detroit line.

Announcements:

- Announcements will be forwarded to the EMPC email distribution list.

Meeting adjourned.
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting
NIRPC Auditorium
December 9, 2014
MINUTES

Members Present
Stan Dobosz, Art Biciunas, Claudia Taylor, Don Parker, Tom MacLennan, Tyler Kent, Bob Thompson, Bruce Spires, Mark O’Dell, Bruce Lindner, David Wright, Dave Decker, Jeff Huet, Joe Crnkovich, Mary Jane Thomas, Joe Simonetto, Phil Gralik, Tom VanderWoude and Nick Minnich.

Guests
Ismail Attallah, Ken Martin, Rebecca “Sis” Williams, Craig Hendrix, Julia Surber, Keith Benman, Jake Dammarell, Ron Wiedeman, Brad Minnick and Pete Kohut.

NIRPC Staff

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements
   a) Vice-Chairman Stan Dobosz called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
   b) The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
   c) On a motion by Dave Decker and a second by Phil Gralik, the minutes of the November 12 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Presentation
   Eman Ibrahim gave a presentation on a new implementation program, the Regional Corridor Study. Of the 14 interchanges on 80/84, only 6 are regionally connected to US 30 or US 41. The stakeholder group worked to identify missing regionally significant segments between major highways and local arterials which would improve congestion, safety, and travel times. 23 segments were identified: 13 in Lake County, 7 in Porter County and 3 in La Porte County. Criteria are being developed to assist in project selection. A short CMAP video was shown, highlighting how community cooperation can help with better corridor planning. The timeline was also shown, with recommendation to the Commission to be made in May. Dave Decker said a study is beginning on a four-lane bypass in La Porte due to the Kingsbury intermodal facility. Scott Weber is assisting La Porte County with this.

3. Planning
   a) 2040 CRP Update – Mitch Barloga reported that an updated timeline will be presented next month and the update is on target for May approval.
   b) 2040 CRP Plan Update Draft Public Comment Summary Report – Stephen Sostaric said the report is in the packet and also on the website, and was previously emailed.
   c) Project Solicitation – Scott Weber said the solicitation is for INDOT and transit operator capacity expansion projects which are needed to run the air quality conformity analysis. A task force will meet next month to evaluate projects. The deadline has been extended to the first week in January. Steve Strains commented
that the projects being submitted are in line with the CRP. Long-range transportation projects are mostly in the TIP.

d) ITS Architecture – Scott Weber said he spoke with FHWA and they are pleased with NIRPC’s progress and wants a formal adoption at the January Commission meeting. It will be posted on the website in time for a January TPC recommendation to the Commission.

e) Functional Classification System – Sarah Geinlosky reported that there are still several communities they have not met with. Contact Sarah or Scott if your community has not yet met with them.

f) Bikes on Trains – Jack Eskin reported that the presentation from the consultant has been pushed back. They will conduct a site visit to the New Jersey Transit system, which is comparable to NICTD. They will have a draft case summary report and will also inventory NICTD stock, timetables, etc. A public meeting will be held in March and a bike ridership survey will be done to determine user and travel patterns. The study will be completed in late June.

4. Programming
   a) Gary Evers described Amendment #28 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for 10 small INDOT projects. On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by Don Parker, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended Amendment #28 to the NIRPC Board for adoption.
   b) Gary Evers described Amendment #29 to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program for local projects for Griffith, Highland, Crown Point and Michigan City. These are the last of the 2013-2014 projects and the funds are zeroed out through 2014. Mark O’Dell questioned the amount of funding for right of way for the signage project in Griffith. Gary Evers will double check the figures. On a motion by Mark O’Dell and a second by Don Parker, the Transportation Policy Committee recommended Amendment #26 to the NIRPC Board for adoption, subject to an answer on the Griffith signage project ROW. Gary Evers said new projects are needed. The deadline is February 13, 2015.
   c) Belinda Petroskey announced that Hobart and Portage have requested FTA funds for feasibility studies for public transit. These studies will further the 2040 cause for regional transit through congestion reduction and improved connectivity. The 30-day comment period begins tomorrow through January 9, 2015. The report on public participation will come back to this committee on January 13 for recommendation to the Full Commission at its meeting on January 15. Steve Strains commented that these projects are milestones for these two communities to consider and hopefully follow through.
   d) With regard to spending, Gary Evers said between now and June of 2015, the Chicago urbanized area funding apportionment was $17.8 million. We are at $14.9 million already issued in purchase orders and we are running out of money. If communities have a construction project set for 2015, please consider delaying the project. Merrillville’s Mississippi Street project was let but came in at $1 million federal greater than what was set aside originally. As it stands now, we will be $1.8 million short and projects will be pushed back. In La Porte, one-third of funds have been expended, so they are okay. Any change orders using federal funds must be approved by NIRPC or they will be blocked and you will be responsible for 100% local match.

5. Indiana Department of Transportation
   Ken Martin reported on the lettings for November 2014 through February 2015. He reported that Contract B-34726, Des 1296317, SR 53 bridge deck overlay over Turkey Creek is moved from 02/04/15 to 03/04/15 due to additional design time needed to address open road changes.

6. Transit Operators Reports
   a) LaPorte Transit – Tom MacLennan reported that there have been substantial ridership gains of 5% from 2012-2013. November ridership increased to 11.5%. Revenues are up over $100,000 for the first time in years and projections are that this year we will beat that by another 11%. The Cities of La Porte and Michigan City and
Purdue North Central will start the Triangle service next month through CMAQ funding with local match by the City of La Porte, LaPorte County, Michigan City and Purdue North Central.

b) **GPTC** – David Wright reported that the Lake Shore Connection between Gary, Hammond and East Chicago start this Monday with added hourly service during AM and PM peaks and will increase the number of connections to PACE and the Lake Shore South Connection. Schedules will be posted on line tomorrow. The Broadway Corridor Open House was November 17 and the presentation is on the livablebroadwayproject.com website along with the survey. Linking to that survey page is encouraged. New route maps will be provided in January. November ridership was low due to having only 19 regular service days.

c) **NICTD** – Joe Crnkovich reported that ridership was down in November 2% over November 2013, but weekend ridership was up 2.6%. Ridership is still down for the year due to the bad winter. Extra trains will run every Saturday through December 20. December schedule information is on the website. The North Point Road Bridge project is finished. The Calumet Bridge work west of the East Chicago station is finished. Catenary work is ongoing, and will be completed in about 5 years. Discussion continues on a high level platform in Gary. The West Lake study is continuing and on time and should be completed this time next year.

d) **Opportunity Enterprises** – Claudia Taylor said drivers are still needed and two new vehicles are coming in this month.

e) **Porter County Aging and Community Services** – Bruce Lindner said demand response service is provided in Porter County and goes three miles into Lake County to SR 51. About 1800 rides are provided monthly using seven buses a week. Two new replacement buses were received in October. Service runs from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

7. **Regional Transportation Partners** – No reports were given.

8. **Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration** – No reports were given.

9. **Planning Neighbors** – No reports were given.

10. **Other Business, Public Comment, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings**

a) **Announcements** – None.

b) **Public Comments** – None.

c) **Upcoming Meetings** – The schedule for both NIRPC committee meetings and the remaining 2040 CRP update public comment meetings was provided in the materials. The Executive Board will meet on Thursday, December 11 at 9 a.m. The **Pathway to 2040** Committee will meet on January 8 at 9:00 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 13, at NIRPC.

On a motion by Joe Simonetto and a second by Don Parker, Stan Dobosz adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at the phone or email below should you wish to receive a copy of it.

For requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.
RESOLUTION 15-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO ADOPT THE NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS) ARCHITECTURE 2015 UPDATE

January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, the citizens of Northwest Indiana require a safe, efficient and effective regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration ITS Architecture and Standards Rule/Policy requires any Metropolitan Planning Organization conducting transportation planning in a Transportation Management Area to implement a regional ITS architecture; and

WHEREAS, a Transportation Management Area is defined as an area required to conduct metropolitan area transportation planning with a population of over 200,000 people; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Indiana Counties of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte collectively have a population of over 200,000 people; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as "The Commission," being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lake, Porter and La Porte County Region, has established a regional, cooperative, and comprehensive planning program to develop the unified planning work program, long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program; to annually endorse the plans and programs; to facilitate federal transportation funding for the Indiana Department of Transportation, regional communities and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above mentioned activities to satisfy regional requirements under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21), as well as other federal, state and local legislation mandating cooperative, comprehensive and continuing regional transportation planning activities; and
WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional ITS Architecture 2015 Update is the product of a multi-modal, continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional ITS Architecture 2015 Update establishes a framework for managing Northwest Indiana’s ITS in a multi-modal, continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive manner; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration has reviewed the Northwestern Indiana Regional ITS Architecture 2015 Update; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s Transportation Policy Committee recommended the Northwestern Indiana Regional ITS Architecture 2015 Update for adoption at its January 13, 2015 meeting

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Commission officially adopts the Northwestern Indiana Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture 2015 Update.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this fifteenth day of January 2015.

____________________________
Chairperson

ATTEST:

____________________________
Secretary
Questions and Answers About the Northwest Indiana Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture 2015 Update

What are ITS?

ITS are elements in or relating to transportation that communicate information flows between the traveler and the travel environment. That ticket machine you bought your South Shore ticket with, that E-ZPass/I-Pass transponder you put on your windshield, and those signs you see on the highways telling you how long it takes to get somewhere are all examples of ITS you experience regularly. So are those less visible elements that you take for granted such as when you call 911 and expect an emergency vehicle to be dispatched to your exact location and your expectation that the warning gates will go down when a train is approaching.

What is an ITS Architecture?

An ITS Architecture is a framework for how ITS are managed in a region. Who is accountable for each of the ITS elements? An ITS Architecture begins by identifying all of the ITS elements and matches them to stakeholders. Then, the ITS Architecture describes how the stakeholders will be responsible for not only maintaining their existing elements to acceptable standards, but also the process for incorporating new ITS elements in the next 10 years. Finally, the ITS Architecture explains the process for how NIRPC and stakeholders will maintain and update it.

Why is NIRPC staff recommending that the ITS Architecture update be adopted?

An ITS Architecture is required to be part of the metropolitan area transportation planning process and periodically has to be updated. NIRPC had not updated its ITS Architecture since 2005. There have been many more ITS elements introduced since then, and it is important to establish a plan for how NIRPC and stakeholders will be responsible for those elements. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) put NIRPC under a corrective action during their last Planning Certification Review in December 2013 to update the Northwest Indiana ITS Architecture. NIRPC staff responded over the course of last year by arranging conversations with stakeholders and updating the Transportation Policy Committee on the progress of the update. This update meets both the detail and spirit of the requirement.
What is included in this ITS Architecture update?
  > A software database update of a lot of information about ITS in the region
  > A Report of the Update (a copy of which NIRPC staff brought here) with the following sections:
    - Introduction
    - Development of the Regional Architecture
    - Description of the Region and Definition of Scope
    - Stakeholder Identification
    - Operational Concept
    - Element Inventory
    - Functional Requirements of the Elements
    - ITS Services
    - Information Flows of the ITS Services
    - ITS Standards
    - ITS Agreements
    - ITS Projects
    - Maintenance Plan of the ITS Architecture

What happens if the NIRPC Executive Board/Full Commission adopts the ITS Architecture update?
  The Northwest Indiana Regional ITS Architecture will take effect, and the FHWA/FTA review team will have added confidence in considering whether to lift NIRPC from under the Federal Planning Certification Review corrective action.

What continuing role will the NIRPC Executive Board/Full Commission have regarding the Architecture?
  The NIRPC Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) will serve as the technical review committee for maintaining and updating the ITS Architecture into the future. Any substantive updates that the TPC makes will come to the NIRPC Executive Board/Full Commission for action.

Where can I go if I have questions about the ITS Architecture?
  A full copy of the report is posted on the NIRPC website (www.nirpc.org) at http://www.nirpc.org/transportation/intelligent-transportation-system.aspx. Also contact Scott Weber (219) 763-6060 x 122 sweber@nirpc.org or the U.S. Department of Transportation ITS website at www.its.dot.gov.

1/15/2015
RESOLUTION 15-01


AMENDMENT NO. 31

January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana’s citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as “the Commission”, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County area, has established a regional, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation improvement program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties, and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above activities to satisfy regional requirements under the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, as amended, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978, as amended, the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, the Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, the 1970 Clean Air Act, as amended, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (2005), and the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (2012), as well as other federal, state and local laws mandating transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is a product of a multi-modal, 3-C transportation planning process, compatible with regional goals and objectives and socio-economic and demographic factors used to form the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP); and
WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is an implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP); is fiscally constrained, and is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is developed by the Commission in coordination and cooperation with local elected and appointed highway and transit officials, special interest and service organizations, including users of public transit, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the changes to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program brought about by this amendment were reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force's Interagency Consultation Group (ICG).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby amends the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program by adding the new projects and making other changes as shown on the attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this fifteenth day of January, 2015.

______________________________
Chairman

ATTEST:

______________________________
Secretary
## Changes to Existing Local Projects & Project Phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DES</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Action Requested</th>
<th>Federal Funds</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funds Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>0900071</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>61st Ave Reconstruction (Arizona St to SR 51)</td>
<td>Split project into two pieces</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900071</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>61st Ave Reconstruction (Arizona St to SR 51)</td>
<td>Split project into two pieces</td>
<td></td>
<td>STP I</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>1297288</td>
<td>Lake County</td>
<td>Reconstruct Lake County Bridge 102</td>
<td>Split project into two pieces</td>
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<td>STP I</td>
<td>CN</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>$828,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1382220</td>
<td>LaPorte County</td>
<td>Johnson Rd Int Imp @ LaPorte County Road 400 North.</td>
<td>Increase Federal Funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>STP II</td>
<td>CN</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$975,000</td>
<td>$780,000</td>
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</table>
RESOLUTION 15-02

January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana’s citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as “the Commission”, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County area, has established a regional, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation improvement program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties, and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above activities to satisfy regional requirements under the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, as amended, the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978, as amended, the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, the Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, the 1970 Clean Air Act, as amended, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (2005), and the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (2012), as well as other federal, state and local laws mandating transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is a product of a multi-modal, 3-C transportation planning process, compatible with regional goals and objectives and socio-economic and demographic factors used to form the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP); and
WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is an implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP); is fiscally constrained, and is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is developed by the Commission in coordination and cooperation with local elected and appointed highway and transit officials, special interest and service organizations, including users of public transit, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the changes to the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program brought about by this amendment were reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force’s Interagency Consultation Group (ICG).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby amends the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program by adding the new projects and making other changes as shown on the attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this fifteenth day of January, 2015.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Secretary
### NEW INDOT Projects & Project Phases

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DES</th>
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<th>Project</th>
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<th>Phase</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Non-Federal</th>
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<tr>
<td>1400287</td>
<td>INDOT</td>
<td>SR 149 Culvert Clean &amp; Repair (1.64 mi S of jct US 20)</td>
<td>Add New Project</td>
<td>NHPP</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$11,256</td>
<td>$9,005</td>
<td>$2,251</td>
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</table>

Located in Porter County, about 0.5 Miles N of Toll Road. Cost to Complete: $125,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DES</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Action Requested</th>
<th>Federal Funds</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funds Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>1401659</td>
<td>INDOT</td>
<td>US 6 Curve Correction, located 2.71 mi W of SR 39, Horizontal Curve Between Mill Creek &amp; CR 425 W</td>
<td>Add New Project</td>
<td>STP</td>
<td>CN</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
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Located in LaPorte County, about 4 Miles East of Westville.
RESOLUTION 15-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015-2016

January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, the preparation of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a necessary and required part of the metropolitan area transportation planning process as specified in 23 CFR 450.314; and by its State statutory authority, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is charged with planning responsibility in three domains; and

WHEREAS, the work tasks described within NIRPC’s UPWP for the three-county northwestern Indiana region are in conjunction with the programs of the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and significant planning projects in the region by other agencies; and

WHEREAS, this program will be funded through the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, foundations, and NIRPC’s local funds from each member county;

WHEREAS, all regional transportation and other significant planning projects in the three-county region should be included in the UPWP;

WHEREAS, the City of Hobart is to conduct a Public Transit Feasibility Study;

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study will include interviews, public meetings, community surveys, transit demand estimation, demographics analysis, and cost analysis and Five-Year Financial Plan;

WHEREAS, federal funding of $80,000 by Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and a local match of $20,000 by City of Hobart were identified for the City of Hobart Transit Feasibility Study for a total of $100,000;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission adopts this Fiscal Years 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program amendment.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this fifteenth day of January, 2015.

__________________________
Chairperson

ATTEST:

__________________________
Secretary
Amendment to the UPWP 2015-2016

City of Hobart Transit Feasibility Study

Objective:

Conduct a feasibility study on the potential for public transit in the City of Hobart. This project will involve the procurement of professional services.

Past Work/Basis:

Due to a bequest to the City, Hobart has been coordinating with the Legacy Foundation on a transit service for persons over 50 years of age. The service has proved so successful that existing capacity has been exceeded. The City is now prepared to explore the potential for creating a more extensive public transit service.

Expanding public transit to areas currently unserved or underserved, especially in the more urbanized northern Lake County, is supported in the 2040 CRP. This project also supports the CRP’s call for a coordinated, regional transportation system as the City has expressed interest in exploring the potential for a partnership with an existing transit operator. The feasibility of a partnership as a service delivery mechanism will also be explored in the proposed study.

2015-2016 Work Elements/Methodology:

This project involves conducting a Transit Feasibility Study using interviews, public meetings, community surveys, transit demand estimation, demographics analysis, origin-destination data, cost analysis and Five-Year Financial Plan. This project will be completed through a professional services contract.

The procurement process for the RFP will be overseen by the NIRPC oversight staff. Transit planning staff will facilitate development of the scope of work, review of proposals, and selection of consultant. These activities will be accomplished with an advisory committee appointed by the Mayor of Hobart.

FY2015-2016 End Products:

1. Summary of interviews with persons and organizations interested in transit.
2. Summaries of public meetings with people interested in public transit.
3. Analysis of community surveys/demographics analysis and transit demand estimation.
4. Recommendations for service types appropriate for the City of Hobart
5. Cost analysis of service types and potential Five-Year Financial Plan

Funding Sources: 2015-2016

Federal FTA (5307): $80,000
Other Agency: City of Hobart: $20,000
RESOLUTION 15-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015-2016

January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, the preparation of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a necessary and required part of the metropolitan area transportation planning process as specified in 23 CFR 450.314; and by its State statutory authority, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is charged with planning responsibility in three domains; and

WHEREAS, the work tasks described within NIRPC’s UPWP for the three-county northwestern Indiana region are in conjunction with the programs of the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and significant planning projects in the region by other agencies; and

WHEREAS, this program will be funded through the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, foundations, and NIRPC’s local funds from each member county;

WHEREAS, all regional transportation and other significant planning projects in the three-county region should be included in the UPWP;

WHEREAS, the City of Portage is to conduct a Public Transit Feasibility Study;

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study will include interviews, public meetings, community surveys, transit demand estimation, demographics analysis, and cost analysis and Five-Year Financial Plan;

WHEREAS, federal funding of $80,000 by Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and a local match of $20,000 by City of Portage were identified for the City of Portage Transit Feasibility Study for a total of $100,000;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission adopts this Fiscal Years 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program amendment.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this fifteenth day of January, 2015.

________________________________________

Chairperson

ATTEST:

________________________________________

Secretary
Amendment to the UPWP 2015-2016
City of Portage Transit Feasibility Study

Objective:

Conduct a feasibility study on the potential for public transit in the City of Portage. This project will involve the procurement of professional services.

Past Work/Basis:

Portage is currently without regular fixed route public transit. The Township Trustee operates several small buses for all senior citizens in Portage Township. It is restricted in use and priority is given to seniors who use the township meal facilities. The service does not receive federal transit assistance.

Portage is the largest city in Porter County and a recognized job center. What is not easy is getting around to the jobs, as there are multiple job centers developing. A new student center, a growing downtown, and well established commercial and employment centers make Portage a natural candidate for a new public transit system in Porter County.

Expanding public transit to areas currently unserved or underserved is supported in the 2040 CRP. This project also supports the CRP’s call for a coordinated, regional transportation system as the City has expressed interest in exploring the potential for a partnership with an existing transit operator. The feasibility of a partnership as a service delivery mechanism will also be explored in the proposed study.

FY2015-2016 Work Elements/Methodology:

This project involves conducting a Transit Feasibility Study using interviews, public meetings, community surveys, transit demand estimation, demographics analysis, origin-destination data, cost analysis and Five-Year Financial Plan. This project will be completed through a professional services contract.

The procurement process for the RFP will be overseen by the NIRPC oversight staff. Transit planning staff will facilitate development of the scope of work, review of proposals, and selection of consultant. These activities will be accomplished with an advisory committee appointed by the Mayor of Hobart.

FY2016 End Products:

1. Summary of interviews with persons and organizations interested in transit.
2. Summaries of public meetings with people interested in public transit.
3. Analysis of community surveys/demographics analysis and transit demand estimation.
4. Recommendations for service types appropriate for the City of Portage
5. Cost analysis of service types and potential Five-Year Financial Plan

Funding Sources: 2015-2016
Federal FTA (5307): $80,000
Other Agency: City of Portage: $20,000
RESOLUTION 15-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING AMENDMENT NO. 30 TO THE 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR LAKE, PORTER, AND LA PORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA

AMENDMENT NO. 30
January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana’s citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as “the Commission”, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County area, has established a regional, comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation improvement program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties, and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation stakeholder interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above activities to satisfy regional requirements under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (2012), as well as other federal, state and local laws mandating transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is a product of a multi-modal, 3-C transportation planning process, compatible with regional goals and objectives and socio-economic and demographic factors used to form the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP); and

WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is an implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP); is fiscally constrained, and is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and
WHEREAS, the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program is developed by the Commission in coordination and cooperation with local elected and appointed highway and transit officials, special interest and service organizations, including users of public transit, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Federal Transit Administration, and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby amends the FY 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program by adding the transit project(s) as shown on the attachment to this resolution.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this fifteenth day of January, 2015.

__________________________________________
Chairperson

ATTEST:

__________________________________________
Secretary
**Transportation Improvement Program for Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties, Indiana for 2014-2017**  
Amendment No. 30, Dec. 9, 2014  TRANSIT ONLY

## Local Public Transit

### ADD New Public Transit Projects

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>FTA Funds</th>
<th>Total Non-Federal Funds</th>
<th>Air Quality Conformity Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1401744</td>
<td>NIRPC on behalf of Hobart</td>
<td>Transit Feasibility Study</td>
<td>FTA Sec. 5307</td>
<td>FY 2015</td>
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<td>$120,000</td>
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<td>1401745</td>
<td>NIRPC on behalf of Portage</td>
<td>Transit Feasibility Study</td>
<td>FTA Sec. 5307</td>
<td>FY 2015</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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