RESOLUTION 19-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MAKING THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION FOR THE NWI 2050 PLAN AND THE 2020 TO 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITH RESPECT TO OZONE

May 16, 2019

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana's citizens require a safe, efficient, 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 (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 requirements of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015 (PL 114-94), applicable portions of all prior federal transportation program authorizing legislation, as well as other federal, state, and local laws mandating or authorizing transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone; and

WHEREAS, Lake and Porter Counties have been designated as a nonattainment area with respect to the 2008 "8-hour" standard for ozone; and LaPorte County has been designated as a maintenance area with respect to the 1997 "8-hour" standard for ozone; and
WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Transportation Conformity Rule in 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 requires all Transportation Conformity non-exempt and regionally significant projects included in a Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation improvement program to be referenced to that Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the NWI 2050 Plan is the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation plan and the 2020 to 2024 Transportation Improvement Program is the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation improvement program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s Interagency Consultation Group on Air Quality comprised of the Commission, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and the Indiana Department of Transportation reviewed the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report and recommended its adoption by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has solicited public comment on the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report between April 1, 2019 and April 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s Technical Planning Committee recommended Resolution 19-18 to the Commission for adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission hereby adopts the Air Quality Conformity Determination for the NWI 2050 Plan and the 2020 to 2024 Transportation Improvement Program with respect to ozone.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this sixteenth day of May, 2019.

Diane Noll
Chairperson

ATTEST:

George Topoll
Secretary