



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368

Fax Messages (219) 763-6060
(219) 762-1653

On the Internet www.nirpc.org
E-mail Messages nirpc@nirpc.org

RESOLUTION 13-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUANCE AND MAINTENANCE OF AMTRAK'S HOOSIER STATE SERVICE BY THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana's citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource-conserving multimodal regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and accessibility 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, Section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 requires all short-distance Amtrak corridor services of fewer than 750 miles used for intercity passenger rail service to become state-supported; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak's Hoosier State and Cardinal services together provide the Town of Dyer with daily intercity passenger rail service from Chicago to Indianapolis, Indiana and New York City, New York respectively; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan has a transportation goal of "Increased mobility, accessibility, and transportation options for people and freight."; and

WHEREAS, ridership to and from the Dyer station has experienced a 357% increase between 2003 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, elimination of the Hoosier State service would reduce rail service to the Dyer station to three days a week, thereby reducing access to alternative transportation modes, which hinders the implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan; and

WHEREAS, future improvements and expansion to the Hoosier State service would provide even greater automobile-free mobility and accessibility to and from Northwest Indiana, fulfilling the aims of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby expresses its support for the Indiana Department of Transportation to provide the required financial support necessary to maintain and improve Amtrak's Hoosier State service between Chicago, Illinois and Indianapolis, Indiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this supporting resolution is contingent upon there being no adverse financial impact on state funding for any public transit providers in the State of Indiana.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this nineteenth day of September, 2013.



David Uran
Chairperson

ATTEST:



James G. Ton
Secretary