

## **Meeting Report**

### **Public Meeting on 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity**

**March 12, 2015**

**Valparaiso City Hall, 2:00-4:30**

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update, 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted seven meetings throughout the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation, and all were accessible by demand response public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC's stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website. Fliers were provided to transit operators for posting on their vehicles, meeting locations were provided with fliers, PSAs were sent to local broadcast media, and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was given at each meeting, with questions, comments, and discussion encouraged throughout the meeting. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the nine meeting participants, five filled out the participant survey. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
  - Caucasian – 5
- Age
  - 45-54 – 1
  - 55-64 – 4
- Three respondents identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- There should be more denser, mixed-use development around transit hubs
- Transit should also serve the new hospital and west of Campbell Street
- A question on what the transit oriented development projects in Valparaiso were
- More transportation options (train, bike, walking) in the area, with connections to other places
- Continued development and expansion of complete streets
- Questions regarding regional air quality
- Questions regarding regulation and tracking of water withdrawals

Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue:** More transportation options
  - **Recommendation:** More bike trails to more places, encourage more Complete Streets, changes to transit routes, greater connectivity to other communities
- **Issue:** Development around transit hubs
  - **Recommendation:** Denser, mixed-use development around transit hubs
- **Issue:** V-Line service to currently unserved areas/locations
  - **Recommendation:** Expand service to go west of Campbell Street and to the new Porter Regional Hospital