

Meeting Report

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

March 17, 2015

Merrillville Town Hall, 2:00-5:00

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 three meeting participants, two filled out the participant survey. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
 - Caucasian – 1
 - African-American – 1
- Age
 - 55-64 – 1
 - 65 years or older – 1
- One respondent identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- There needs to be more frequent and widespread bus service that stops at more places.
- The South Shore Line extension should be going across Lake County to Valparaiso instead of down the west side of the county.
- Question on why there are so many fewer opportunities to access the lakefront in the urban core.

Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue:** Accessibility to transit services
 - **Recommendation:** More frequent stops, placing stops beyond major activity centers such as the mall