Letter from the Commission Chair

May 2015

To the Residents of Northwest Indiana:

In 2011, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) approved the award-winning *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan* -- the first such document with a vision for sustainable growth and development in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. The *2040 Plan* represented an ambitious initiative to bring together the complex issues which shape the three counties of Northwest Indiana, from transportation and the environment to economic development and regional stewardship & governance. The overwhelming support for the *2040 Plan* by the NIRPC Commission demonstrated our region's mutual desire to provide the best possible planning practices to enhance the quality of life for our region's citizens.

The *2040 Plan* looks at transportation issues within a much broader, integrated framework of issues related to how our region grows into the future. NIRPC is required by Federal mandate to update the region's transportation plan (contained within the larger *2040 Plan*) every four years. To meet this requirement and ensure the *2040 Plan* remains current and relevant for our future, NIRPC has adopted the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion*, which provides a snapshot of our regional advancements since 2011, as highlighted in all chapters of the plan. The process towards the adoption of the *Update Companion* included extensive public outreach including a number of listening sessions with residents in the three county region. Further input was gathered with the release of the draft document during several open houses ahead of its final adoption.

The *Update Companion* does not attempt to rewrite the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan* of 2011, but updates key elements while leaving intact its goals and objectives and a number of initiatives proposed to advance the vision of a more vibrant, revitalized, accessible and united region.

The *Update Companion* highlights a number of successes since the 2040 Plan was adopted, including the establishment of the "Creating Livable Centers" Initiative, the update to the Marquette Plan, and the adoption of Complete Streets policies.

Overall, the *Update Companion* continues to promote the vision of the *2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan*, leaving in place key strategies to help provide guidance for our decision-makers at all levels of government. The *Update Companion* keeps us on track for a bright future for Northwest Indiana, with your continued involvement critical to this success.

Sincerely,

Blair Milo
Mayor, City of LaPorte, and Chair, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Northwestern Indiana
Regional Planning Commission

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RESOLUTION 15-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING THE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE COMPANION FOR NORTHWESTERN INDIANA

May 21, 2015

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as "The Commission", being designated the Council of Governments, representing all local governments in the region has established a comprehensive planning process including the three domains of environmental, economic development and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, 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 2102 (MAP-21), as well as other federal, state and local laws mandating 3-C transportation activities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has conducted the 2040 update planning process in an open and participatory manner, involving numerous people, with a specific effort to engage low income and minority populations and soliciting public comment at various points in the process, including requesting public comment on the draft 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion, and the Commission has reviewed and considered the comments received; and

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 Commission has analyzed the benefits and burdens of the implementation of the plan and has found that there are no unfair burdens, nor unfair lack of benefits for low income and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has developed a working Congestion Management Process to consider multi-modal solutions to traffic congestion problems; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion is the product of a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that the draft 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion conforms to the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has solicited public comment on the draft 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission officially adopts the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan Update Companion this 21st day of May, 2015.

Blair Milo
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Robert J. Schaefer
Secretary

Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion

Overlooking Long Lake at West Beach.
Photo by Mitch Barloga.

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