



CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

CREATING THE PLAN

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368 (219) 763-6060

AGENDA

2040 CRP Steering Committee

April 21, 2011

9:00 AM at NIRPC

- 9:00 Welcome
- Introductions
 - Review Minutes of Previous Meeting
(*March 17, 2011 Minutes*)
(*March 17, 2011 Summary*)
- 9:05 Outreach & Public Involvement (Hubert Morgan)
- Schedule (*Handout*)
- 9:10 Introduction & Overview of CRP Draft Plan (HNTB & NIRPC)
- 9:17 Steering Committee Review
- 9:30 Commentary by Chapter
- *Introduction*
 - *Growth & Conservation*
 - *Transportation*
 - *Environment & Green Infrastructure*
 - *Human & Economic Resources*
 - *Stewardship & Governance*
 - *Implementation*
- 10:35 Presentation on Environmental Justice Analysis (NIRPC Staff)
- 10:45 Next Steps
- 10:50 Other Business
- Staff Comments/Announcements
 - Steering Committee Comments
 - Public Comments
- 11:00 Adjourn

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2011 @ 9:00 AM at NIRPC

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

**2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
NIRPC Auditorium
March 17, 2011
Minutes**

Members

Mike Aylesworth, K-Todd Behling, Geof Benson, Joan Bliss, Bob Carnahan, Kathy Chroback, Jan Dick, Dale Engquist, Rich Herr, Keith Kirkpatrick, Sergio Mendoza, Kay Nelson, George Malis, Mark Reshkin, Dan Suson, Bob Thompson

Guests

Kristi DeLaurentis, Eric Ehn, Don Ensign, Robert Earnshaw, Don Parker, Cecile Petro, Craig Phillips, Teresa Schultz, Jerry Tessarolo,

Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Joe Exl, Kathy Luther, Hubert Morgan, Belinda Petroskey, Steve Strains, John Swanson, Tom VanderWoude

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chairperson Kathy Chroback called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with self-introductions. The minutes and summary of the February 24 meeting were approved as submitted.

CRP Framework

- Plan Table of Contents and Status – Steve Strains discussed the elements of the plan. A section on transportation will be included in the 2040 Plan. The full version of the transportation section will be a stand-alone long range transportation plan which meets all the federal requirements. 80% of the draft plan is complete and is being reviewed internally and with the consultant. When the draft is completed, it will be brought to the Steering Committee by April 14 for comments to be formed prior to the April 21 meeting. The revised schedule was presented with the public comment period scheduled for April 28 through June 3. Response will be made to all comments. Final adoption of the Plan is expected at the June 16 NIRPC board meeting.
- ❖ Population Forecasts – Kevin Garcia reported on the 2040 projected figures for population and employment based on the new data from the 2010 Census. The trends scenario looked at current figures and projected out. The preferred scenario is based on livable centers and revitalizing the urban core. We took the initial projections of 170,000 population and 80,000 employment figures and based on stakeholder input and the vision created, we filtered the distribution down. The new census figures for population were used but the growth patterns were kept the same. Discussion followed. Porter County's projected growth of 2200 people was questioned. It was suggested that the preferred scenario be tempered with some trends. While policies can be put in place for change, there will still be growth. The growth should be focused on livable centers, which will grow somewhat through annexation and growth in livable centers will encourage public transit. If we focus most of the growth in the north and preserve rural areas, that's what we want to accomplish. Growth preference will be shown in the land use presentation which follows. Under federal guidelines, the plan must be reviewed every four years and benchmark years will require remodeling. Concern was raised for

2040 CRP Steering Committee Meeting
March 17, 2011
Minutes

communities applying for funding if figures show growth is not as high as anticipated. Looking at current resources and infrastructure is a process directed by the steering committee and from comments at workshops. The effect of the Illiana, if built, was not included in the current projections. Since it is still under study, staff cannot use projections at this time. If the Illiana gets built, we would make adjustments in the forecasts.

We've gone with projections of 33% to almost 40%. When asked how useful these numbers will be if population figures drop as they did with the City of Gary, Kevin replied that back in 1960 if someone predicted the population loss which occurred in the last 10 years, people would have been very skeptical. Yet people knew there was going to be a drop in population. These are visionary projections but must be based on some reality. There is potential for revitalization in the northern cities. Economic conditions may also dictate growth patterns.

Bill briefed the committee on the corrective action from the DOT in the certification review on environmental justice. NIRPC was under criticism for negating the population figures. The federal government is looking to see how we address this issue which came about in a public hearing in which members of the Gary minority community argued that NIRPC's policies and projections have harmed environmental justice communities. It is important that we demonstrate a different approach to this issue. The northern communities deserve our efforts to help them with their revitalization efforts. It was noted by a committee member that there was no representation at today's meeting by the core communities of Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and Michigan City. Their attendance at this point in time is vital to the process. Staff was encouraged to identify the preferred scenario when explaining these projections to the public and also be prepared to deal with questions regarding the possible annexation of unincorporated areas. The three counties are critical to the success of the region and we must continue to strongly think regionally.

After further discussion, the committee recommended and approved that the projected trends and preferred scenario models be displayed side by side for comparison purposes. An explanatory coversheet and incorporation of suggested revisions will be provided to the committee prior to the April 21st meeting for review and feedback.

Co-Chair Chrobak exited the meeting and Geof Benson took over as Chair.

- ❖ Environment & Green Infrastructure Presentation: Kathy Luther presented the new water withdrawal and consumption data between 2002 and 2009 using state statistics. Information regarding public water supply capacity and usage was given. Capacity for individual water supply facilities is under homeland security and is protected information. Per estimates from IDEM, approximately 212 million gallons per day is available for use in the region. The average per person usage is 117 gallons per day. Adding the projected increase in population of 170,000, we would need 20 million more gallons to meet their needs. Adding new capacity will cost millions in new infrastructure investment. The Great Lakes Compact requires conservation measures. Indiana has grandfathered itself at the current level from Lake Michigan. Industries in the region are not consuming the majority of the water that they pull out daily, but it is being returned. Even steam emitted into the atmosphere remains in the Great Lakes Basin because of wind currents, etc. It will be a mitigating factor in the development of the southern Lake

County communities as they will not be able to take water from the Great Lakes Basin to support population growth.

Valparaiso has been determined to be in the Kankakee River Basin and not the Great Lakes Basin. The Lake Michigan Basin has 83% of the population, with 67% on public water supply with the balance on wells. The Kankakee Basin has 17% of the population and 85% are on public water supply. We must therefore assume that the percentages will stay the same with the projected increase in population. DNR has a water resources task force. They have a lot of information on aquifers and capacities are being studied. Some information is available on their website. Brief discussion period followed.

- ❖ **Growth & Conservation Presentation:** Eman Ibrahim presented on the Growth & Conservation chapter, focusing on the importance of land use, graphics and housing. Land use planning reflects the quality of life and sustainability. Two types of analyses were done. Land use inventory using local comprehensive plans and zoning from the 41 communities was put into GIS over the last 2-1/2 years giving us a good database to work with. The second was urban growth analysis, looking at how the region's landscape changed from 1992-2006 using USGS data and examining trends throughout the 15 year period. We then created a land suitability assessment for future development. Current trends through 2010 consist of certain percentages of low, medium and high density, parks, open space and recreational, light and heavy industrial and commercial land uses and were mapped by county. Mapping showed Lake County has heavy industrial and water features. Porter County has downtown areas, significant light industrial and mixed use, parks and open space. LaPorte has high agricultural and vacancy. There is significant wetland throughout the region. It was suggested that this data be prefaced with explanatory information and slight modification when taking it out to the public. Changes were mapped between 1992 and 2006, showing significant losses in agricultural land (1%), and 20% of lost open space and forested lands. Development increased by almost 42% around municipalities in the 15 year period and there was a 59% increase in wetlands, possibly due to flooding. New development has occurred around the municipalities. Population increase over that period was a little over 4%. Meetings are being held with county planners to discuss the 125% increase in development in unincorporated areas. Total growth from 1992-2006 was 76 square miles, of which 68 square miles was in unincorporated areas. Policies may need to be developed to control growth in unincorporated areas. Environmental assets were used to look at land suitability, classified into 3 tiers: Tier 1 is open space, water resources, and water features, restricted 100%. Tier 2 has rural soil assets and soil assets outside of the rural zone are in Tier 3. TAZ zones were used to classify urban, suburban and rural areas. Tier 3 is most suitable for development. Land use demand out to 2040 divided between the three counties was mapped using infill. Only 27 square miles are needed for future development, which can be concentrated in Lake County.
- ❖ **Outreach & Public Involvement:** Hubert Morgan reported that staff is currently scheduling dates and locations for outreach meetings during the public comment period. He described a meeting with the LaPorte County Rural Summit which was held on Tuesday. As we hear comments, we will share with the committee. Comments on barriers to regional implementation included a fear of change in rural areas, lack of communication, poverty, and disability, lack of participation, local government, economic conditions, and apathy and waste disposal is at a crisis point. We will be meeting with Merrillville High School on planning, and meetings with realtors and other stakeholders

2040 CRP Steering Committee Meeting
March 17, 2011
Minutes

will be held to communicate our work and get their feedback. We will have a list of dates and venues for our comment period shortly.

Other Business

- Staff Announcements – None were given.
- Steering Committee Comments
We haven't envisioned innovative transportation means enough. A lot has been lost over time with the need for practicality. It was again noted that the plan will be revisited every four years.
- Public Comments – None were given.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

Acting Chair Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda
- February 24 Meeting Minutes
- February 24 Meeting Summary
- CRP Elements
- Revised List of Dates

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to receive a copy of it.

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.



CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

CREATING THE PLAN

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368 (219) 763-6060

SUMMARY

2040 CRP Steering Committee

March 17, 2011

9:00 AM at NIRPC

Co-Chair Mayor Chrobak welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made by members and guests. Members reviewed and approved the February 24, 2011 minutes and summary as presented. The following are highlights from the meeting:

1. CRP Framework:

- Members were given a handout describing the status of the draft plan and the percentage of sections completed, noting that the Transportation element will also be a stand-alone document.
- The list of revised dates was provided with public comment period beginning April 28 and ending June 3, with Plan adoption date moved to June 16.
- At the May meeting, a report will be given on comments received to date.

2. Population Forecasts:

- Kevin Garcia presented on the 2040 population and employment projections and distributions based on stakeholder input and the vision.
- Members discussed and provided suggestions on growth, distribution, presentation & explanation of information.
- The plan is a dynamic document that will be updated every four years.
- Members recommended and approved that the projected forecasts display trends and vision numbers, a coversheet with explanation and suggested revisions provided to members before the April 21st meeting for feedback.

3. Environment & Green Infrastructure Presentation:

- Kathy Luther explained water withdrawal and consumption data.
- Information regarding public water supply capacity and usage was given.

4. Growth & Conservation Presentation:

- Eman Ibrahim presented on a portion of the Growth & Conservation chapter, focusing on the importance of land use.
- Two types of analysis were performed, such as land use inventory into GIS and urban growth analysis on how land has changed over time.
- The presentation covered the development process of land suitability, priority areas and data numbers.
- A series of graphs and maps representing land use changes and data were presented.

5. Outreach & Public Involvement:

- Hubert Morgan reported on the outcomes from the Rural Summit in La Porte County.
- Currently scheduling dates and locations for outreach meetings during the public comment period.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 21 at 9:00AM at NIRPC

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

2040 CRP – List of Dates

Revised

April 7 – EMPC Meeting

April 12 – TPC Meeting

April 12-15 – AQ Consultation/Conformity Analysis Begins

April 21 – 2040 Steering Committee Meeting

April 28 – Full Commission/Executive Board Meeting

April 28 - Public Comment Period Begins

May 5 – EMPC Meeting

May 10 – TPC Meeting

May 11 – Land Use Committee Meeting

May 19 – 2040 Steering Committee Meeting

May 26 – Full Commission/Executive Board Meeting

June 2 – EMPC Meeting

June 3 - Public Comment Period Ends

June 14 – TPC Meeting

June 16 – Steering Committee Meeting/Recommendation

June 23 – Full Commission/Executive Board Meeting /Plan Adoption

CRP 2040 – Table of Contents

Introduction

Foreword.....	1
Introduction	3
The 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan.....	4
Growth and Revitalization Vision.....	5
Growth and Revitalization Values.....	6
Making it Work - Growth and Revitalization Principles.....	7
The CRP Planning Process	8
Vision and Goals Development.....	9
Subregional Cluster Workshops.....	9
Regional Scenarios Development	9
The Preferred Direction – A Synthesis of Ideas	10
Elements of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan	11

Regional Growth and Conservation

Regional Growth and Conservation	2
Introduction	2
Growth & Conservation Goals & Objectives:.....	7
The Current Condition	8
Our People: Demographics of Northwest Indiana.....	8
Importance.....	8
Key Issues and Opportunities	8
Trends and Analysis	9
Urban Core Communities.....	10
Lakefront Communities.....	11
Our Increasing Diversity.....	13
Our Aging Population.....	15
Housing	17
Key Issues and Opportunities	17
Housing Supply.....	18
Residential Vacancies.....	19

Housing Affordability	21
Existing Land Use	25
Regional Growth Analysis (1992-2006).....	28
Conversion of Agricultural and Open Space	30
.....	32
Shifting Population and Development Patterns	32
Regional Urban Framework	35
Urban Framework Strategies	36
Strategy 1: Reinvest	36
Strategy 2: Link Transportation and Land Use.....	40
Strategy 3: Smarter Land Use Decisions through Land Suitability.....	42
Strategy 4: New Ways to Determine and Address Housing Needs	45
Housing Choice.....	45
Housing Mix	45
Housing Affordability	46
Strategy 5: Green Cities	46
Green Streets	46
Strategy 6: Work Together.....	48
Strategy 7: Create Livable Centers.....	52
Rural and Unincorporated Framework	57
Preserving the Region’s Rural Character and Resources	58
Healthy Communities – Developing Our Local Food Systems	61

Transportation

Transportation	1
Transportation Goals & Objectives:.....	3
A Commitment to Environmental Justice	4
Elements of the Region’s Transportation Infrastructure Network	7
Highways	7
Overview of the Existing Highway Network.....	7
Issues and Challenges	8
Safety Issues.....	8
Accidents in the Region.....	9
Vehicular Accidents Involving Non-motorized Transportation.....	9
Accidents Involving Trucks	10

Railroad Crossing Accidents	11
School and Transit Bus Accidents	12
Congestion Management.....	13
Environmental Justice Analysis	22
Highway Recommendations	22
Capacity Expansion Projects	22
Public Transportation.....	25
Overview of Public Transportation in Northwest Indiana	25
Recent Planning Initiatives.....	28
Issues and Challenges	30
Long Term Funding	30
Regional Leadership.....	30
Regional Oversight and Management	31
Outreach and Education	31
Regional Benefits of Public Transportation	31
Emerging Opportunities for Intercity Passenger Rail.....	32
Recommendations: A Regional Transit Framework.....	33
Aviation	35
Overview of the Gary-Chicago International Airport.....	36
Aviation-Related Initiatives.....	37
Airport Area Development.....	39
Freight Movement	40
Study of Regional Freight Movement	42
Benefits of an Effective Freight Movement Network	42
Industrial Land Use Planning.....	43
Freight Issues and Challenges	43
Plan Policy and Recommendations.....	53
Non-Motorized Transportation	56
Overview of Non-Motorized Transportation in the Region.....	56
A Regional Inventory of Non-Motorized Transportation.....	57
Non-Motorized Transportation Issues	59
Benefits of Non-motorized Transportation	60
Regional Opportunities for Non-Motorized Transportation.....	60
Best Practices	62
Performance Measures.....	68

Implementation 70

Environment and Green Infrastructure

Environment and Green Infrastructure 2

- Recent Planning Efforts..... 3
- Environment and Green Infrastructure Goals and Objectives..... 3
- Water Resources 5
 - Lakes & Streams..... 6
 - Wetlands 8
 - Floodplains..... 9
 - Aquifers..... 9
 - Watershed Management..... 10
 - Water Withdrawal, Consumption, and Supply 11
- Green Infrastructure 20
 - Managed Lands..... 21
 - Regional Open Space 21
 - Forestlands..... 23
 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat 24
 - Prime Agricultural Lands..... 24
- Air Quality 25
 - National Ambient Air Quality Standards..... 26
 - Air Toxics 29
 - EPA Approach to Emissions Reduction 30
- Brownfields 31
 - Background 31
- Plan and Policy Recommendations..... 34
 - What Is the Green Infrastructure Network?..... 35
 - What Are the Benefits of the Green Infrastructure Network? 37
 - How Can Urbanized Areas Contribute to the Green Infrastructure Network? 38
 - Achieving the Green Infrastructure Network 42
- Best Practices 46
 - Water Resources..... 46
 - Ecological & Open Space Assets 52
- Performance Measures..... 55
- Implementation 56

Human and Economic Resources

Human and Economic Resources.....	1
Human and Economic Resources Goals and Objectives	2
Current Conditions and Needs.....	3
Economic Clusters	4
Economic Trends.....	4
Analysis of Economic Development Problems and Opportunities	5
Plan and Policy Recommendations.....	7
Economic Development Strategies	7
Economic Development Programs.....	8
Local Food Systems	10
Strategies for Core Communities.....	11
Support for Ongoing Projects and Initiatives.....	12
Best Practices	13
Performance Measures.....	13
Implementation	13

Stewardship and Governance

Stewardship and Governance.....	1
Stewardship and Governance Goals and Objectives	3
Current Stewardship Challenges.....	3
Organizing for Leadership and Collaboration	4
NIRPC’s Current Structure and Partnerships	4
Fostering New Inter-Local Partnerships and Cooperation.....	11
A Renewed Commitment to Environmental Justice	12
Plan and Policy Recommendations.....	13
Planning, Review and Coordination.....	13
Funding Support.....	13
Advocacy and Environmental Justice.....	14
Education and Communication.....	14
Legislative Priorities	14
Best Practices	15
Performance Measures.....	16

Implementation Strategies 17

Implementation

Livable Centers, Infill Development and Rural Areas..... 4
Green Infrastructure and the Environment 4
Economic and Work Force Development 6
Integrated Transportation Initiatives..... 7
Regional Participation and Environmental Justice..... 8
Intergovernmental Collaboration 8

CRP Plan Review Approach

Please review the Introduction and Implementation Chapters. Then, based on your personal preferences, please select ONE of the other five Chapters to review.

2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan - DRAFT

Check	Chapter
Please review	Introduction
	Chapter 1... Growth and Conservation Patterns
	Chapter 2... Transportation
	Chapter 3... Environment and Green Infrastructure
	Chapter 4... Human and Economic Resources
	Chapter 5... Stewardship and Governance
Please review	Chapter 6... Implementation
	Appendix

Comments

Please select an overall general response to each chapter as well as provide any specific comments you may have

Required Review Elements

Introduction

Circle One

Strongly Agree

Somewhat Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Implementation

Circle One

Strongly Agree

Somewhat Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Other CRP Chapters

Please check the other Chapter you reviewed and offer your comments below

- 1 Growth and Conservation
- 2 Transportation
- 3 Environment and Green Infrastructure
- 4 Human and Economic Resources
- 5 Stewardship and Governance

Circle One

Strongly Agree

*Somewhat
Agree*

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Introducing the 2040 CRP

**Comprehensive Regional Plan
Steering Committee**

CRP Introduction

April 21, 2011

CRP Overview



- INvision Northwest Indiana
- “Vision” Plan (Growth & Revitalization Vision)
- Livability Principles
- Values and Principles
 - Support Urban Reinvestment
 - Ensure Environmental Justice
 - Protect Natural Resources
 - Integrate Transportation and Land Use
 - Support Local Plans
- CRP Process
- Introduce Plan Elements



Growth & Conservation

- Growth and Revitalization Vision

- Community Types – Role
- Focused Revitalization
- Growth and Infill
- Green Infrastructure
- Community Plans



- Demographics Overview

- Population is moving further out
- getting older
- Becoming more racially and ethnically diverse



Growth & Conservation

- Housing
 - New units have out paced population – basis for vacancies
 - New units being built mostly in suburban locations
 - When considering transportation costs, the majority of suburban locations are unaffordable
 - Need for Jobs-housing balance
- Land Use
 - 1992-06 Urban use coverage increased by 42% - population by 4.3%
 - Urban uses are consuming agricultural and undeveloped Land – 68 square miles or 125% (1992-06)



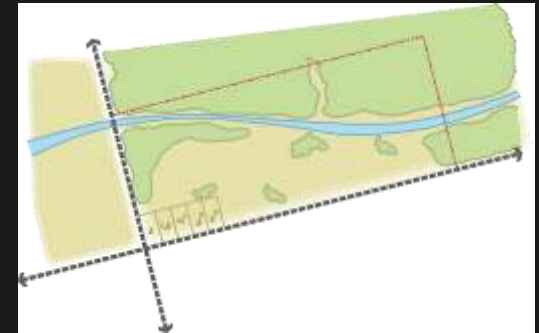
Growth & Conservation

- Urban Framework Strategies
 - *Reinvest* – Marquette Plan, infill
 - *Link Transportation and Land Use* – transit oriented development, freight, corridor studies
 - *Smarter Decisions through Land Suitability* - Minimize urban development impacts
 - *New Ways to Determine and Address Housing Needs* – Housing Mix and affordability
 - *Green Cities* – Green streets, open space
 - *Work Together* - RDA, Gary Airport, partnerships
 - *Create Livable Centers* – Nexus for many land use and transportation goals



Growth & Conservation

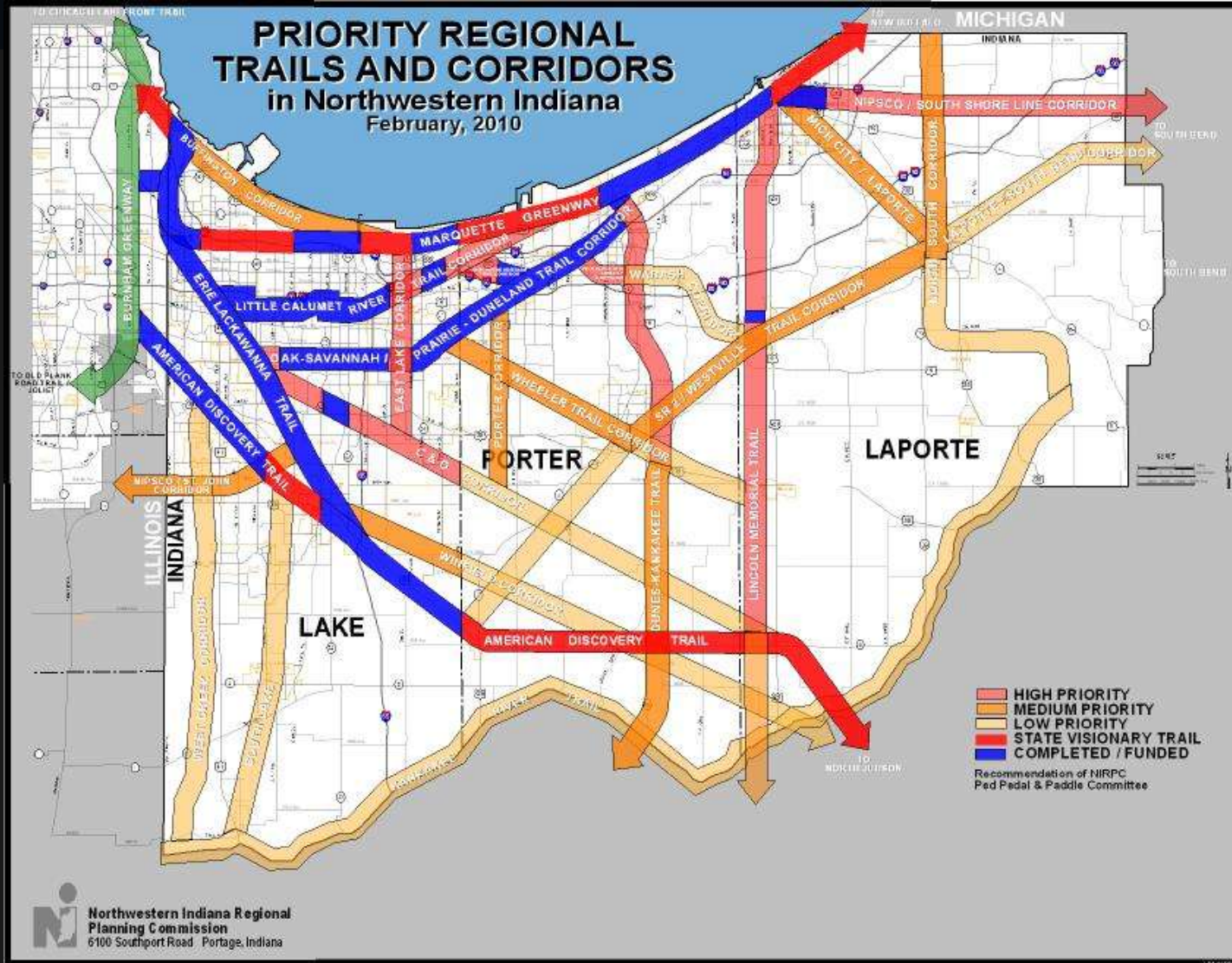
- Rural and Unincorporated Framework
 - Agricultural protection mechanisms – voluntary, agriculture districts, buffers
 - Goods Movement Network
 - Conservation Design - voluntary
 - Unincorporated land divisions
 - Site planning exercise for the benefit of conservation
 - Does not change fundamental area requirements
 - Encourages clustering to minimize rural impacts
 - Corridor Studies
 - Subarea Plans
 - Developing the local food system



- Vision is a multi-modal system supporting the Growth and Revitalization Vision
 - Support urban investment and livable centers - project criteria
 - Congestion management
 - Implement an extensive public transportation program
 - Realize Gary Airport and airport area improvements
 - Further develop and implement freight recommendations
 - Implement non-motorized transportation - walk, bike, water



Transportation



Environment and Green Infrastructure

- Green Infrastructure Network – convergence –
 - Ecosystem approach
 - Growth and Revitalization Strategy
 - Livable Centers Strategies
- Water Resources Conservation – basin divide
- Watershed management
- Water consumption/capacity
- Wastewater
- Air Quality
- Brownfields Reinvestment



Environment and Green Infrastructure



Environment and Green Infrastructure

- Green Infrastructure Network –
 - Protect/manage ecological assets
 - Protect/manage water resources
 - Thoughtful design/construction of “gray infrastructure”
 - Growth solutions that minimize impact to green
 - Restore enhance and connect elements of the ecosystem
 - Direct urban growth in a manner that minimizes impacts
- Benefits
 - Community, sustainability, mobility
 - Economic, environmental, lifestyle



Human and Economic Resources

- Strategy - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Key Strategies
 - Land use and Multimodal Transportation
 - Education and Job Development
 - Develop top industry clusters
 - Transportation/distribution/logistics
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - IT/Technology
 - Professional Medical Services
 - Job Creation and Green jobs



Human and Economic Resources

- Industrial Sector Support
 - Freight
 - Food systems strategies
- Use and expand current programs
- Key strategies for the core communities
- On-Going Initiatives (i.e. Marquette Plan)
- Requires coordination with many partners
 - Regional Development Authority
 - NW Indiana Forum
 - NW Indiana Economic Development District
 - Indiana Economic Development Corp.



- Key Continuing Roles for NIRPC

- Planning, Review and Coordination
- Funding and Financial Support
- Advocacy and Environmental Justice
- Education and Communication



- Challenges – to NIRPC and Local Government

- Individual programs
- Efficiency in effective services
- Basis for communication and collaboration
- Social justice considerations not well integrated
- Education and awareness is often needed

- Partnerships
 - Many in place and need to be strengthened
 - New – Universities – Development Community
- Plan and Policy Recommendations (27)
 - Review new comprehensive plans for consistency
 - Model ordinances
 - Watershed planning
 - Funding support for shared services, brownfields, etc.
 - Working group for core communities interests
 - Annual forum for CRP implementation
 - Local training
- Legislative Priorities



Implementation

- The Role of NIRPC
 - Policy – Major issues/legislative/Council of Governments
 - Funding and Finance
 - Education and Awareness
 - Local Assistance Programs
- Managing Progress
 - CRP Implementation Committee
 - Performance Measures
- Implementation Action Plan
 - To be ranked in a constrained 5 and 10 year program



- Key “Bold” Implementation Projects

- Chicago-Gary International Airport
- Westlake Corridor Expansion
- Gary Broadway Corridor Rapid Transit
- Complete the Marquette Greenway
- The Marquette Plan
- Broadband Initiative
- Illiana Expressway – I-57 to I-65
- NW Indiana Transit Vision
- Realize Southshore Transit Oriented Development
- NW Indiana Intermodal, Multi-Modal Freight Network
- Kankakee Grand Marsh Restoration
- NW Indiana Wastewater Program



Environmental Justice



Environmental Justice

- Definition - “The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people...”
- 2040 CRP Policy Framework – the building blocks of a just region
 - Emerged from the public involvement of EJ communities
 - Vision of a vibrant, revitalized accessible and united region
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Growth and Revitalization Vision – fundamentally a growth management vision evolved from scenarios
 - Project selection criteria/ the illustrative list
 - Key strategies: green cities and open space, invest in livable centers



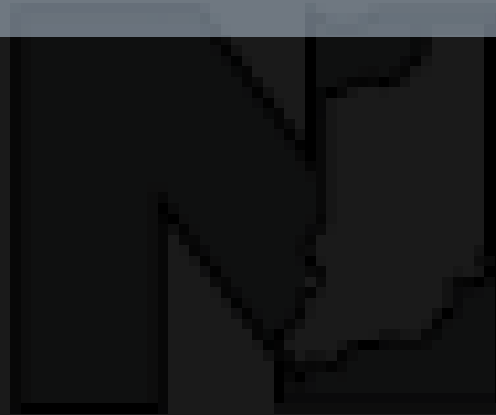
Environmental Justice

- Environmental Justice Process
- Public Involvement
 - Major Public Meetings
 - Outreach Subcommittee and Outreach Coordinator
 - EJ Workshop and Working Group
- Technical Analysis: benefits and burdens
- IDENTIFY POPULATIONS - Geographic / Demographic analysis - Identify WHERE residential, employment, and transportation patterns of low-income and minority populations so that their needs can be identified and addressed, and the benefits and burdens of transportation investments can be fairly distributed
- EVALUATE - Assessment of benefits – jobs w/in 30 minutes, access to hospitals, transit, etc.



Steering Committee Discussion

Next Steps



Key Progress Dates

- April 28th - CRP comment period opens
- June 3rd – CRP Comment Period closes
- June 16th – CRP Steering Committee Recommendation Meeting
- June 23rd- NIRPC Full Commission/Adoption
- July – CRP Launch Activity
- July 21 – Form Implementation Committee

CRP Contact: Gabrielle Biciunas

219-763-6060 (x156) gbiciunas@nirpc.org

