

# CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

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## *CREATING THE PLAN*

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

### AGENDA

#### **2040 CRP Steering Committee**

May 19, 2011

9:00 AM at NIRPC

- 9:00            Welcome
- Introductions
  - Review Minutes of Previous Meeting  
*(April 21, 2011 Minutes)*  
*(April 21, 2011 Summary)*
- 9:05            Environmental Justice (Hubert Morgan & Kevin Garcia)
- Impact Analysis of Expansion Projects
  - Outreach
- 9:30            Draft CRP Public Comments (NIRPC)
- Comments Received to Date
  - Chapter by Chapter Discussion
- 10:15           Other Business
- Staff Comments/Announcements
  - Steering Committee Comments
  - Public Comments
- 10:30           Adjourn

### **Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2011 @ 9:00 AM at NIRPC**

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**2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting  
NIRPC Auditorium  
April 21, 2011  
Minutes**

**Members**

Vanessa Allen, Geof Benson, Kevin Breitzke, AJ Bytnar, Cassandra Cannon, Ken Dallmeyer, Jan Dick, Dale Engquist, Rich Herr, George Janiec, Keith Kirkpatrick, Sergio Mendoza, Kay Nelson, George Malis, Sandy O'Brien, Charles Oberlie, Craig Phillips, Brian Poland, Mark Reshkin, Jill Ritchie, Dan Suson, Bob Thompson

**Guests**

Joe Csikos, Maria Guillen, Blair Milo, David Wright, Don Parker

**Staff**

Gabrielle Biciunas, Ryan Hicks, Eman Ibrahim, Kathy Luther, Jody Melton, Hubert Morgan, Chase Morris, Belinda Petroskey, Stephen Sostaric, Steve Strains, John Swanson

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Charles Oberlie called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with self-introductions. The minutes and summary of the March 17 meeting were approved on a motion by Geof Benson and a second by Daniel Suson.

**Outreach**

Hubert Morgan reported on the aggressive outreach efforts throughout the CRP process. The public comment period for the draft 2040 Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Air Quality Conformity Determination consists of 18 meetings and will begin with a meeting on May 4 in LaPorte and end with a meeting on June 1 in Crown Point. A meeting with LNI will be held on May 6.

**CRP Draft Plan**

Steve Strains described the process from the formation of an Advisory Committee in mid-2008 for the Regional Forum on the Future of Northwest Indiana in December of 2008, the formation of the Steering Committee, the drafting of a vision statement, goal setting workshops to create the goals and objectives which guide this process. Sub-regional cluster workshops were held to create centers, corridors, green areas, etc. The regional scenario workshops developed a growth and revitalization vision. Today's meeting will be to discuss the contents of the draft plan.

Phil Hanegraaf presented the basic elements of the plan – Introduction, Growth and Conservation, Transportation, Environmental and Green Infrastructure, Human and Economic Resources, Stewardship and Governance and Implementation. The Appendix will show the Goals and Objectives and highlight a section of Bold Visionary Projects. These elements constitute the main chapters in the Plan.

Mayor Oberlie instructed the committee to state their overall assessment of the chapters and then make specific comments. The Steering Committee began a discussion on each of the chapters as follows:

**Introduction**

- Geof Benson: Agree, well written. Population growth entirely attributed to the growth of the Hispanic Population. This assigns credit or places blame. John Swanson responded that figures were taken from births, deaths and in-migration, but this can be re-written to not assign credit or place blame.

- Craig Phillips: The document needs page numbers. In the regional scenario description, under local plans, he was concerned with the way the local plans are portrayed with full build-out by 2040. That's just not going to happen.
- Sandy O'Brien: Concerned with the whole land use plan. A lot of things in a preferred growth area like Winfield will encourage greenfield sprawl and that does not improve density of the downtown-type urban growth.
- Bob Thompson: Comp Plans are based on public input – what the public tells us they want to see. The section under *The 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Paragraph 2* "...the CRP does not recommend usurping local agency interests... deals largely with multi-jurisdictional needs and opportunities that no single agency can manage or effect on its own." Address it as transportation and transit needs.

### Growth and Conservation

- Bob Thompson: Page 2: "Northeast Indiana" should read Northwest Indiana. Page 8, Map A showing population change from 1980 to 2010. Not a fair representation. Kevin Garcia responded that this is a generalized map showing all growth shown over unincorporated area for modeling purposes, not actual growth.
- Craig Phillips: Page 55 Performance Measure/Indicators, Paragraph 2: How feasible is it to implement some of the suggestions regionwide? It is possible in the core communities but not in other areas. Don't create a one size fits all situation. Performance measures need to reflect diverse growth in diverse communities.
- Geof Benson: Page 11 – Redo the header on the graph.
- Ken Dallmeyer: Page 16 Housing Supply – If the average occupancy stays the same, the growth of both population and housing should increase at the same rate. Include total housing change, not just new housing.
- Bob Thompson: Good. Page 55 - Performance measures – 8 units per acre is ambitious. Page 56 goods movement is good. The framework and scoring systems will not reflect us getting help to do something like this.
- Ken Dallmeyer: pages 50-51 local walkability – concept of traditional urban lots should be addressed – longer, deeper, narrower frontages. Phil Hanegraaf responded it might be a solution in one context like for a condo development. Providing examples may be a solution.
- Brian Poland: Page 16 at top: Core communities: delete the word "extremely". Page 53: Livable centers and pop figures are not the 2010 census for Hammond and Gary. Staff will update.
- Sandy O'Brien: Page 52 - Map of livable centers? Sizes, etc? Tom VanderWoude responded that actual size estimates are time intensive and we can't get too specific – communities may have their own estimates. Phil Hanegraaf added that the CRP gives regional data; it is not community-specific. Hubert Morgan added that certain communities have identified and mapped their centers.

### Transportation

- Jan Dick: kudos for including non-motorized. It is a good chapter.
- Geof Benson: Illiana is being included but Illinois did not include it in their CRP. It's only in environmental study stage. Seems like an endorsement for Illiana. John Swanson said that it may not be built. It is not constrained, and no funding is ascribed to it. It represents a bold concept but it will not be in the long range transportation plan.
- Ken Dallmeyer: Good chapter; needs page numbers. Increased mobility section on third page: Add bullet to reduce conflict between types of services and goals. (grade separations, pedestrian crossings, motorized vs. non-motorized, trucks vs. cars, etc.) Strategies to make everything work better. Under accidents in the region section, "buses" overemphasizing the impacts of these accidents. You need a sense of proportionality – maybe add a new table?

- Craig Phillips: Pages 37-39: Aviation Section: Porter County Airport is the second largest in the state, ED development associated with airport. Info is online. Linked on Valpo website. Give credit where due.
- Ken Dallmeyer: Pages 20-21. Projects that passed CMP. How are they related to the vision goal parameters? Pages 26-27: Ken has already given comments along with data error on chart on page 28 to Belinda Petroskey.  
Belinda responded that staff edits are in progress.
- George Malis: Difficult to read. Bad flow. You need page numbers, numerical coding on topics, etc. to make it easier.
- Mark Reshkin: An Index is vital.
- Daniel Suson: Page 40: Under *Highway*: The three examples given are repetitive. Clarify how they are different from each other  
John Swanson responded that it relates to the functional classification system but should be clarified by staff.
- Keith Kirkpatrick: Under *Regional Benefits of Public Transportation*: Needs a stronger statement in favor of public transportation.  
John Swanson responded that a regional transit vision is in the works and will be in the *Bold Projects* Section.  
Phil Hanegraaf: Introduction, Page 25 shows it.

#### Environment and Green Infrastructure

- Dale Engquist: Page 20. Map should be in the front of the chapter and may be full page. It is the whole green infrastructure network and should be prominent. Page 21. Under *Regional Open Space Needs*: should read THOUSANDS of acres.
- Mark Reshkin: The EMPC meeting to consider this chapter. An annotated index is necessary. Darker print for critical areas in the index. Water and air should be discussed more together. Need water quality and air quality. Water quantity in the Kankakee Valley region is important. Sprawl will not stop and projection of water results is key. An Executive Summary should be in each chapter. Provide expertise in NIRPC to supplement and answer key questions from the cities and towns to get a closer working relationship between NIRPC and each community.  
John Swanson responded that an Executive Summary will be created. We want to hit hard on policy recommendations.
- Daniel Suson: Page 21. Can we put hard numbers instead of “thousands of acres”? Kathy Luther has those figures and will insert them.
- Geof Benson: Strongly – somewhat agree. Page 25 the verbiage under the table line 3: “the designation has not been to maintenance” the word “changed” is missing. Page 51 under *Ecological and Open Space Assets* add Save the Dunes, and on page 47, under *Watershed Management...* omit Conservation Fund.
- Kay Nelson: Agree. Page 12 reduction in withdrawal by industry... we do not emphasize **personal conservation** as much as we should in the document.

#### Human and Economic Resources

- Sandy O'Brien: Education pluses and minuses should be discussed in more detail.
- Keith Kirkpatrick: Education section lacking, focused more on economic side. Mention Regional Workforce, University cooperation and other organizations and initiatives.
- Geof Benson: In Goals, a strong educational component was evident, but it's not in the plan.
- Kay Nelson: Needed more time to read the plan and have her co-workers read it for their input. Topics of reports are inaccurate, misrepresentation of commerce related to the Forum, gaming institutions should not be called “gambling,” there's no tourism section, etc.  
Mayor Oberlie added there is more than a month to review and submit comments. Staff will be constantly updating the plan.

- Brian Poland: Some problems: US 20 connection should be in Hammond, not East Chicago, Cline Ave north of I-94 relates to the bridge which is in East Chicago, Glidden is not on the lakefront, and BP is Whiting not East Chicago.
- Craig Phillips: Somewhat agree. Address “brain drain” and “talent retention” in the region.
- AJ Bytnar: Shovel Ready on Page 8: Hobart has a shovel ready site which should be referenced in the plan as does LaPorte. Page 9 under fiber optic and broadband??  
Kay Nelson said to defer to Don Kolibowski at the Forum on fiber optic and broadband.  
John Swanson added that this is considered a Bold, Visionary Project.
- Keith Kirkpatrick: Section seems data-starved. Find some key data in existing reports.  
John Swanson responded that the CEDS is data-laden.
- Daniel Suson: This section is only 13 pages. Needs more data. More mention of post-secondary education. There is only 1 sentence on page 12. Education plays a major role as a driver in economic development and how NIRPC will coordinate those discussions in economic development.
- AJ Bytnar: Hammond has a College Bound Program. That needs expansion.
- Mark Reshkin: Grad programs, nursing, management, etc.
- AJ Bytnar: Has the plan been reviewed by the IEDC?  
Mayor Oberlie: No. Local EDA has reviewed it.

### Stewardship and Governance

- Craig Phillips: lukewarm response. Page 14 #7: proceed with extreme caution. Where did the top 10 issues come from? Page 12: Plan and policy recommendations: keep the roles clear. Some communities have resources, some don't. Needs more direction to local communities as to how they should redo their comp plans.  
John Swanson responded that these are illustrative, not a *Top 10*.
- Bob Thompson: Neutral, with concern. Page 13, *Legislative Priorities*: step cautiously on “representing the region” and state lawmakers.  
Phil Hanegraaf responded that there are communities who have and who do not have needs. We need to give that context a little more clearly that it's case specific.  
John Swanson added that it is come from NIRPC's strategic planning. Our LGA committee is working on that. Commissions training workshops in May will address these issues and the shared services partnerships like MS4 for efficiency and effectiveness.
- Keith Kirkpatrick: All the other chapters state needs, this chapter jumps right in but doesn't say what the problem is and how we can fix it. Page 1 talks about NIRPC's role, but we need to state the need. We need governmental units to work better, more effectively and together. It's not coming out of this chapter.
- Geof Benson: We need to address the confusion of what does NIRPC do? Here's the problem here's the fix.
- Sandy O'Brien: Place transit funding on par with highway funding. We need that. Submitted projects were all road projects and 90% of that money is going to road projects. Environmental Justice should not be pigeon-holed into one chapter. Interfaith Federation and their role should be mentioned: page 1 and page 9.
- Keith Kirkpatrick: Page 10: Ivy Tech not mentioned or name needs updating.
- Mark Reshkin: Page 1. “Provide significant support and coordination” should replace “Leadership”. In Transportation you have leadership, in stewardship you have coordination.

### Implementation

- Bob Thompson: Neutral, very concerned. Step carefully. Page 2, #4, Local Assistance Program – is ok for those communities without the resources. These activities are new and will require staffing and program development.” Those that do have resources should be left alone to their development. Comments are welcome but time is essential.  
Phil Hanegraaf: NIRPC is there to help, but not get in the way. It's the larger actions taken in terms of changing approach that may affect the region as a whole.

- Geof Benson: Page 1, how many of the 41 communities have planners on staff?
- Keith Kirkpatrick: Page 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: strengthen the fact that NIRPC is a convener.
- George Malis: There is no opposition to local planners, but a protection of regionalism. If a community chooses to “sprawl” at the expense of some of our urban centers, NIRPC has to take the position to protect all of the communities. It’s checks and balances and it’s a comprehensive **regional** plan.

Mayor Oberlie reminded the committee that comments are being accepted through June 3.

### **Environmental Justice**

Hubert Morgan said environmental justice workshops were held a year ago by FHWA and FTA. The conclusion was that people need access to jobs and we formed an environmental justice working group to interface between the Steering Committee and EJ group. Sergio Mendoza and Vanessa Allen co-chaired the committee. Hubert read the definition of environmental justice. NIRPC went above and beyond federal requirements. Critical was input on goals and objectives and the vision for the region. The growth and revitalization vision as communicated by the residents of the region identified environmental justice communities geographically. This plan addresses the benefits and burdens analysis which will be added to the plan and show why response is critical. The process will be defined as major public comments were given at the workshops. A call for revitalization came from those workshops by the residents. Innovative ways to do best use in vacant land: agriculture, rebuild human capacity. Porter County has a plan to end homelessness in 10 years. John Swanson commented that we have expanded our outreach capability through keypad polling, which is being used with Leadership LaPorte, Towns and Small Cities, etc. The Porter County community Foundation includes 200 business leaders to design a program. Hubert added that we will meet with 50 students at Merrillville high School to review the plan and ask them, as future leaders in the next 30 years, how they can help implement this plan as adults. We need to ask them what their motivation is to stay in the region. Better opportunities for job access, centers, accessibility to jobs and homes. Hubert added that we have gone out to festivals, fairs cross the regional passing out NIRPC literature. We will continue to do so. Cassandra Cannon added that people are discussing NIRPC and the plan but do not feel welcome. They will fight back or promote their own group. Sergio said the outreach committee visited Whiting which is 40% Latino. It is our responsibility as a Steering Committee to make sure this information goes back to our communities and this goal was voiced from the beginning. Hubert said implementation will be critical and outreach will be ongoing.

### **Other Business**

- Staff Announcements
  - ❖ John Swanson discussed the commission workshops on smart growth planning on May 17 and May 18.
  - ❖ Mitch Barloga said the state of the trails event, Cornucopia, is next Wednesday at Red Mill County Park in LaPorte.
- Steering Committee Comments

Sandy O'Brien commented that of the list of projects, 91.5% of the money is for non-urban core community areas. John Swanson responded that capacity expansion accounts for 70% of maintenance and operations of infrastructure. Each community is strained and may not be able to come up with local match. Tom VanderWoude commented that a number of projects are INDOT projects.
- Public Comments – None were given.

The comment period runs from April 28 through June 3. The steering Committee will meet on June 15<sup>th</sup> and the NIRPC board will vote on adoption on June 23. Implementation begins in July. Bob Thompson and Craig Phillips are interested in serving on the Implementation Committee. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.

2040 CRP Steering Committee Meeting  
April 21, 2011  
Minutes

Mayor Oberlie adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

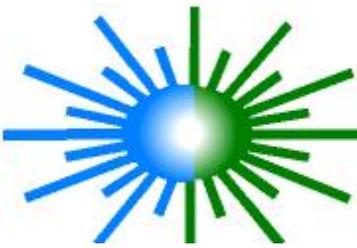
Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda
- March 17 Meeting Minutes
- March 17 Meeting Summary
- CRP Draft Table of Contents
- Draft 2040 CRP Plan
- Public Comment Period Announcement

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

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## *CREATING THE PLAN*

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SUMMARY  
**2040 CRP Steering Committee**  
April 21, 2011  
9:00 AM at NIRPC

Chair Mayor Oberlie welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made by members and guests. Members reviewed and approved the March 17, 2011 minutes and summary as presented. The following are highlights from the meeting:

1. Outreach & Public Involvement:
  - Hubert Morgan provided the meeting schedule and locations during the public comment period.
  - Locations are across the Region with both day and evening meetings.
2. Introduction & Overview of CRP Draft Plan:
  - The process, steps and events leading up to the draft plan were briefly presented.
  - A review of key elements from each chapter was explained.
3. Commentary by Chapter:
  - Members provided comments, suggestions, and omissions and offer an overall ranking for each chapter.
4. Presentation on Environmental Justice Analysis:
  - An explanation of the process and work completed to date was given
  - The importance of outreach efforts was discussed.
5. Next Steps:
  - The key progress dates leading up to Plan adoption in June were presented.
  - Members were asked to submit comments and suggestions by Monday in order for the draft plan to be updated for public review.

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

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