

**Resolution 16-29**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 UPDATE  
OF THE NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

October 20, 2016

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Indiana's citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource conserving regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in Northwest Indiana;

**WHEREAS**, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as "The Commission," being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the council of governments for the Lake, Porter and La Porte County area, has established a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing (3-C) transportation planning and programming process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties and transit operators and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests;

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (hereinafter referred to as "The RDA", was established in September 2005 under Governing Statute IC36-7.5;

**WHEREAS**, The RDA was reauthorized by bipartisan majorities in both houses of the Indiana General Assembly in 2015;

**WHEREAS**, The RDA was uniquely designed to focus specifically on needs and opportunities that have the potential of facilitating improvements in the economy, environment and quality of life in this region;

**WHEREAS**, The RDA has successfully brought a return on investment to the northwest Indiana region of \$5.11 for every dollar spent for a total of more than \$1.1 billion by 2015;

**WHEREAS**, The RDA has complied with the Legislature's 2015 instructions to refocus its Comprehensive Strategic Development Plan around building a commuter rail asset that would provide the "connectivity" to Chicago that would attract new residents, create jobs and build the regional economy through the West Lake expansion and the South Shore double-tracking projects; and

**WHEREAS,** The RDA's Comprehensive Strategic Development Plan 2016 Update details the costs, benefits, and fiscal and economic impacts of commuter rail expansion in Northwest Indiana,


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission supports the Comprehensive Strategic Development Plan 2016 Update of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 20th day of October, 2016.



James G. Ton  
Chairperson

ATTEST;



Geof R. Benson  
Secretary