



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

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RESOLUTION 11-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION URGING THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION TO OBLIGATE FUNDING FOR THE INDIANA GATEWAY PROJECT

WHEREAS, the citizens of Indiana require a safe, efficient and effective transportation system that maintains and enhances mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as "The Commission", being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County Region, has established a region-wide, cooperative, comprehensive and continuing planning process to develop the unified planning work program, long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program. The Commission enacts the plans and programs to facilitate federal, state and local funding for surface transportation improvements carried out by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), the region's communities, counties and transit operators, and provides technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, The Commission performs the above mentioned activities to satisfy metropolitan transportation planning requirements under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and other legislation mandating regional transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana is part of the greater Chicago region, which is the largest cargo and rail hub in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, the economy of Northwest Indiana depends on an efficient freight rail network; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan identifies improved freight and passenger rail efficiency as a key strategy for the revitalization of Northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Gateway project is situated on Norfolk Southern Railway's Chicago Line between Porter, Indiana and the Indiana/Illinois state line and on Amtrak's Michigan Line between Porter and the Michigan state line; and

WHEREAS the Indiana Gateway project was selected because it addresses the single most delay-prone intercity rail passenger corridor in the country and does so in a way that provides both immediate congestion relief benefits for both freight and Amtrak passenger rail traffic; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has previously resolved to support the Midwest High-Speed Rail Initiative; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the Indiana Gateway project will result in the creation of over 700 jobs and over \$4 million in private investment in Northwest Indiana during the construction phase; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the Indiana Gateway Project is essential to the viability of the Chicago-Detroit high-speed rail corridor in which the Federal Government is investing \$602 million; and

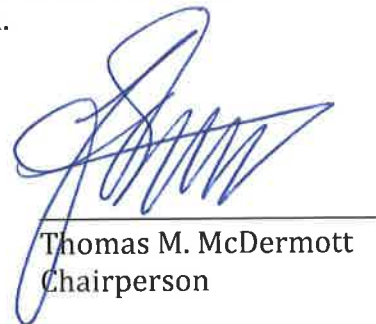
WHEREAS, in 2010, the Indiana Gateway project was selected to receive \$71.4 million in federal high-speed rail funding through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, to date, these funds have not been obligated by the Federal Railroad Administration and are therefore vulnerable to rescission by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, INDOT stands ready to immediately work with the railroads to implement the project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Commission hereby urges the Federal Railroad Administration to obligate the \$71.4 million in federal high-speed rail funding in order for INDOT, Amtrak and Norfolk Southern Railroad to commence work on the Indiana Gateway Project.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this eighteenth day of August, two thousand eleven.



Thomas M. McDermott
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Ken Layton
Secretary