



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

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RESOLUTION 11-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO SUPPORT THE "CALUMET CONNECTIONS" PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the citizens of Northwest Indiana require a safe, efficient and effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system to attain and maintain socially, economically and environmentally sound living conditions towards an improved 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 regional, cooperative and comprehensive planning program to develop the unified planning work program, long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted the *2010 Ped and Pedal* Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan in January, 2011, which proposes an extensive network of both on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian routes in the NIRPC region; and

WHEREAS, NIRPC has been actively working with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and Openlands for a number of years to connect non-motorized transportation routes between Illinois and Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Active Transportation Act is set to be introduced into the United States Congress, and which would award up to 50 metro areas and communities across the US up to \$75 million each over a five-year period, and which may be folded into the reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and

WHEREAS, Openlands received a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to prepare a study called "Calumet Connections" which identifies a system of non-motorized improvements which would substantially complete a connected bicycle and pedestrian network in the bi-state suburban Calumet area; and

WHEREAS, the "Calumet Connections" projects has outlined a detailed budget of potential projects which split the proposed \$75 million request between both the SSMMA and NIRPC regions with each entity being responsible for the administration of these said funds; and

WHEREAS, the "Calumet Connections" proposal positions our bi-state region to compete for these federal funds once and if the Active Transportation Act passes through Congress, or when other federal funds become available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission endorses and adopts the recommendations of the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee and the Transportation Policy Committee in support of the "Calumet Connections" proposal.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this 15th day of September, two thousand and eleven.



Chairperson

ATTEST:



Secretary