

RESOLUTION 14-32

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED INVESTMENT IN COMMUTER RAIL CONNECTING CHICAGO TO NORTHWEST INDIANA AND THE EXPANSION OF THE WEST LAKE CORRIDOR

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; and

WHEREAS, 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, the region's communities, counties and transit operators, and provides technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, The Commission as a regional policy body and as staff is strongly committed to the successful implementation of a commuter rail project in Northwest Indiana, one of the key economic development and quality of life initiatives for the region, one which will drive the future of the region; and

WHEREAS, The Commission sees itself as a partner with NICTD; and

WHEREAS, access to a world-class economy is economically beneficial to the State of Indiana;


WHEREAS, more than 50,000 residents of Lake and Porter Counties commute to Illinois for employment annually;

WHEREAS, access to Chicago doubles the job base of Lake & Porter counties to 513,000 vs. 244,600;

WHEREAS, the average annual household income of \$82,000 for a South Shore commuter equates to approximately \$369 million;

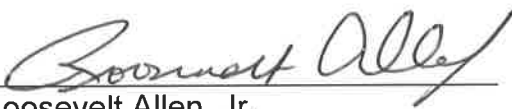
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby endorses increased investment in commuter rail connecting the Chicago market to northwest Indiana in general. The Commission also specifically endorses any opportunity for the development of the West Lake Corridor expansion.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this 16th day of October, 2014.



Brian Snedecor
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Roosevelt Allen, Jr.
Secretary