



# CREATING TOMORROW TODAY

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## *CREATING THE PLAN*

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

### **2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Steering Committee Meeting NIRPC Auditorium August 26, 2010 Minutes**

#### **Members**

Geof Benson, Joan Bliss, David Blumenthal, Kathy Chroback, Jan Dick, Dale Engquist, Phil Gralik, Jerry Halperin, Rich Herr, George T. Janiec, Eric Kurtz, Christopher Meyers, Richard Morrisroe, Brian Poland, Pat Pullara, Mark Reshkin, Jill Ritchie, Bob Thompson, Joe Wszolek

#### **Guests**

Patricia Carlisle, Willie Cotton, Maria Guillen, Lorraine Guillen, AJ Monroe, Althea Parker, Craig Phillips, Cara Spicer

#### **Consultants**

Phil Hanegraaf, Chris Kopp, Spence Gardner

#### **Staff**

Gabrielle Biciunas, Kevin Garcia, Ryan Hicks, Eman Ibrahim, La’Kisha Girder, Hubert Morgan, Chase Morris, Bob Niezgodski, Steve Strains, Mary Thorne

Co-Chair Kathy Chroback called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. On a motion by Eric Kurtz and a second by Geof Benson, the minutes and summary of the July 22 meeting were approved.

#### **Outreach & Public Involvement**

Hubert Morgan reported on recent efforts to pass on information about NIRPC throughout the region including presence and outreach at fairs and festivals throughout the summer. A report is being compiled and will be presented at a future meeting on the efforts to get people acquainted with NIRPC and its mission and other issues. There will be eight dates in September and October and venues are being confirmed for working with the public on our scenarios. They will be held in Gary, East Chicago, Michigan City, Hammond, LaPorte, Kouts, Cedar Lake and a large meeting will be held in Portage on September 30 at Woodland Park from 1 to 5 PM. Times will vary to best accommodate everyone’s schedules. While the public is always welcome at NIRPC meetings, planners, practitioners, business organizations, stakeholders, etc. will be sought out for the meetings. We will enlist the assistance of the press, radio and television to help get the word out.

#### **Regional Scenario Development**

Phil Hanegraaf presented the scenario work completed to date. The *CommunityViz* results were run in the transportation model. The scenarios were constructed around goals looking out to 2040 based on GIS data and TAZ data for land use, socio-economic and environmental. Phil gave an overview of the four scenarios. The two static scenarios are trends, using population of 172,000 and employment of 80,000 and the plans scenario for existing land use based on

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municipal and county comprehensive plans using population of 579,000 and employment of 81,000. The two interactive scenarios are the 41 livable centers based on population of 150,000 and employment of 60,000 and the infill/revitalization of East Chicago, Hammond, Gary and Michigan City based on population decline, business decline, brownfields, etc. Population and employment for the four communities was doubled.

Chris Kopp discussed the transit vision based on the high speed rail plan, the Marquette Plan, RBA, West Lake Corridor study, and other plans. A good central connector system emerges. The high speed rail from Chicago to Ohio and Indianapolis allows for the development of some commuter rail projects. The importance of Gary Airport was evident as a way to revitalize Gary. The data can be laid over other scenarios to study the results. An overlay was done for the Illiana with certain assumptions for study purposes only. Growth patterns results were shown using control totals of 150,000 population and 60,000 employment.

The results for the Trends, Centers, Infill and Transit were comparatively the same. By center type, the large centers show higher except for the Illiana scenario which pulls development south. With Infill communities, the numbers are about the same except for Trends and Plans. Employment figures are fairly consistent except for Infill. Unincorporated growth is high for Trends and Plans and much lower for the Centers, Infill and Transit. Illiana again pulls to the south. Transit priority figures are consistent in Centers, Infill, Illiana and Transit. Employment proximity figures were similar. Watershed growth is similar except for Plans. Employment growth shows higher for the Great Lakes Watershed than for the Kankakee Watershed. Prime agricultural land showed higher impact with Trends and Plans for population and employment.

With regard to impacts on environmental assets, Centers, Infill and Transit show similar impacts. A brief discussion followed of managed environmental lands, the West Lake Corridor and the Illiana followed. Figures obtained from the travel demand model were discussed for each of the scenarios. Infill and Transit show the least comparative at about 30 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) show overages on Plans and Trends. A problem with Trends and Plans for Air Quality will exist. Fuel costs were not factored into the analysis. Bill Brown was unavailable to answer other questions. The data and the details will go out to the public and the results will come back to the Steering Committee.

Next steps are the public comment period and calibration of the model.

Other Business

**Staff Announcements:**

- The plan will be available to the public next spring with adoption hopefully in April 2011.

**Public Comment:**

- Willie Cotton asked for decisions to be made with compassion and wisdom.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on October 14 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC to further discuss scenarios and the committee was asked to prepare for a 3 hour meeting.

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Mayor Chroback adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Handouts and materials provided:

- Agenda
- July 22 Meeting Minutes
- July 22 Meeting Summary
- Scenarios Summary
- Scenarios Analysis and Methodology Report

*Audio tapes of this meeting are filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to schedule a time to hear them.*

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at [mthorne@nirpc.org](mailto:mthorne@nirpc.org). Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

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