

Meeting Report

Public Meeting on Amendment #4 to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Update Companion, the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity

March 28, 2017

Center for Visual & Performing Arts, Munster, 6:00-8:00

As part of the 30-day comment period for the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Amendment #4 to the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) Update Companion, and air quality conformity, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) hosted five meetings throughout in the month of March. All meeting locations except one were accessible by fixed route public transportation.

Prior to the public comment period, notice was given to NIRPC's stakeholders and the local media that the public comment period was to commence, and the list of meetings was included. The information was also posted on the NIRPC website and NIRPC social media outlets were used to provide further notice.

The meeting was done in an open house format. A presentation was created for the series of meetings. The presentation was played on a continuous loop during the meeting. Informational boards were also displayed, with NIRPC staff available to help answer questions and collect comments. Staff from the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District was also available to help answer questions related to their projects. Comment cards were provided as well as information on how to provide comments after the meeting. This information was also provided at the end of the presentation. Computers were also made available to provide the opportunity for electronic commenting. Attendees were informed that their comments would be included in a comment report that would include staff responses at the end of the process and that the report would be publicly available.

Of the 27 meeting participants, nine filled out the participant survey, with seven completing the demographic section. The demographic results were as follows:

- Race
 - Caucasian – 7
- Age
 - 55-64 – 4
 - 65 and Up – 3
- One respondent identified as a person with a disability.

Summary of comments received:

- Opposition to the West Lake Corridor train project was expressed
- Concerns expressed regarding possible transit oriented development
- Would like to see better transit in the region

Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue:** Concerns regarding possible transit oriented development based around the West Lake Corridor
 - **Recommendation:** As this is a Regional Development Authority (RDA) project, those interested were referred to the RDA.
- **Issue:** Better transit in the region
 - **Recommendation:** Improved public transit in the region is an important component of the 2040 Plan. NIRPC continues to support and advocate for a multi-modal transportation system which has transit as a major part of it.