

2011 RDA OBJECTIVES

The RDA was created to partner with others in the “heavy lifting” required to develop the infrastructure that will make Northwest Indiana economically vibrant. The legislation that created the RDA directs us to focus on our region’s collective assets. These regional assets are interrelated as the basic building blocks of a local economy that must become globally competitive.

In 2011, the RDA will continue to mature as an organization and firmly establish its position as the catalyst for redeveloping Northwest Indiana. We will create opportunities to advance our objectives with a new strategic focus and clarity of mission. The 2011 objectives include:

GARY/CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. Foster a deeper partnership between the RDA and GYY to facilitate agreement upon
 - a. the prioritization of the Landrum and Brown Comprehensive Business Plan recommendations in guiding the airport’s future trajectory and the timetable for implementation
 - b. the determination of the role of the Compact with the City of Chicago on the future of airport development in accordance with the LBCBP
 - c. the formulation of a transportation strategy for enhanced highway access
 - d. the formulation of a redevelopment strategy for land use redevelopment beyond the airport footprint
 - e. the exploration of intermodal services envisioned for GYY and its integration with regional and state level logistics planning efforts
2. Promote regional collaboration in the executing of the final railroad MOU and in the launching the extension of the main runway project

NICTD

1. Gain consensus on the various alternative approaches to enhancing the current and future positive impact of NICTD commuter train service on the region’s economy and quality of life, including, but not necessarily limited to:
 - a. Alternative routes
 - b. Plans for obtaining required capital funding
 - c. Plans for generating ongoing operating funding
 - d. Integration with other modes and/or providers of public transportation
 - e. Implementation steps and timetable

SHORELINE

1. Continue to strengthen the partnership between and among the RDA, NIRPC and the Lake Michigan Coastal Program of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to work with involved units of local government to carry out the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Coordination of Marquette Vision Efforts.
2. Implement the Marquette Advisory Council established in the above MOU to carry out the enunciated purposes.

3. Seek expanded opportunities to stimulate private investment in conjunction with implementation of lakefront projects.
4. Seek expanded opportunities for accessing and leveraging other sources of public and private funds to augment or replace RDA funding for approved projects or for redirecting funding requests on proposed projects

REGIONAL BUS AUTHORITY

1. Assure that there is clear understanding of the RDA's role in supporting the development of a unified transit system in Northwest Indiana and its effort to assist the RBA and other constituencies in securing a sustainable, long-term funding solution.
2. Encourage the RBA and other constituencies involved to communicate clearly and effectively the need for funding from other sources to support bus transit services, the benefits of a consolidated system of service delivery and the consequences if permanent funding is not forthcoming.

Expire the RDA's financial support for all bus transit operations on December 31, 2011.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Adopt RDA policy for Job Creation
2. Specify potential private sector investment opportunities and gain support for the RDA's future role in assisting the IEDC with economic development efforts of regional significance
3. Implement the Job Creation Fund program in partnership with IEDC

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Formulate the legislative strategies for communicating the value of RDA's project investments and financial management since inception, preserving the current level of annual funding commitment from RDA contributors and for protecting its revenue payments which support the RDA's major initiatives
2. Develop and implement an overall communications strategy to raise awareness of the RDA's positive economic impact on state, regional and local levels and to garner active support on RDA initiatives through key constituencies and public involvement
3. Increase dialogue and raise awareness at the Federal and State Government levels about the RDA's partnership role as a financial and intergovernmental intermediary on projects of regional significance in order to diversify project revenue using RDA funds as local match and increase the ratio of financial leverage from public sector investment
4. Increase dialogue and raise awareness with private sector investors and non-governmental entities, such as major foundations, about the RDA's role in funding economic development projects that will generate high rates of return on investment and will result in diversifying the tax base and enhancing quality of life in Northwest Indiana
5. Integrate the newly-appointed members of the Board of Directors into the governance structure
6. Develop and implement a strategic plan to guide the RDA through 2015