

## 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 21, 2017

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Portage, 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 three meeting participants, none filled out the participant survey.

Summary of comments received:

- There were questions about projects in Valparaiso and the Miller section of Gary.
- Support was expressed for bike and pedestrian facilities and alternative transportation.
- Concern was expressed regarding South Shore Line dwell times in Ogden Dunes.

Issues identified and recommendations provided:

- **Issue:** More bike and pedestrian facilities and alternative forms of transportation
  - **Recommendation:** This is an important component of NIRPC's 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. Additionally, the updated Greenways + Blueways 2020 plan is nearing completion.
- **Issue:** Train dwell times at Ogden Dunes NICTD station
  - **Recommendation:** High-level platforms are slated to be added to Ogden Dunes, greatly reducing dwell times.