2050 MTP 2027 Update

Executive Board Meeting
May 21, 2026

MTP - Background

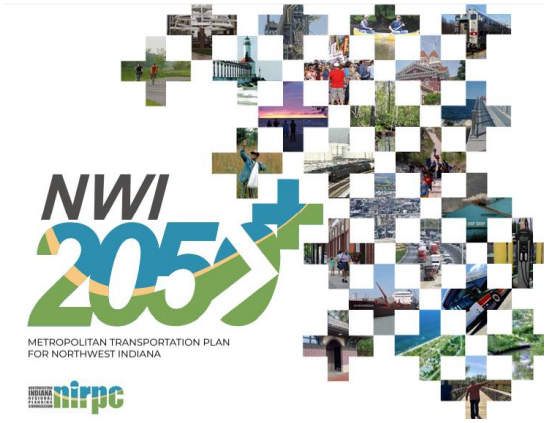
Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

A long-range plan that sets regional policy for the development of a multimodal transportation system to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of people and goods

- Required by Federal law as part of a continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) planning process
- Must have at least a 20-year horizon
- Must be fiscally constrained
- Must be updated every four years

MTP – 2027 Update

NWI 2050+ *UPDATE*



- Carry over vision and major goals of *NWI 2050+*
- Maintain the horizon year of 2050
- Maintain organization of *NWI 2050+*
- Incorporate new data and public and stakeholder feedback
  - Update all federal and regional performance measures and indicators
- Update technical components of plan: socioeconomic forecasts, financial plan, air quality conformity
- Focus on specific implementation actions including regionally significant projects

MTP – 2027 Update

NWI 2050+ UPDATE – Project Timeline

Q1-2026			Q2-2026			Q3-2026			Q4-2026			Q1-2027			Q2-2027		
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Regional Profile and Performance						**Assessment and Analysis**			**Plan Recommendations**					**Plan Preparation and Adoption**			

Regional Profile and Performance Report
Existing Conditions and Performance Measures

Implementation Action Areas Assessment
Internal and stakeholder review of implementation actions

Finalize Implementation Actions
Link implementation to theme and goal area

***NWI 2050+* UPDATE**
Develop public comment draft
Public comment period
Final Plan Development
Final Plan Adoption

Plan and Policy Summary
Goals Synthesis and Regional Plan Summary

Financial Plan
Estimate available revenues
Demonstrate fiscal constraint

Socioeconomic Forecast
Update population and employment projections

Transportation Investments
Establish investment priorities
Update project selection criteria
Solicit projects > Analyze projects > Develop project list

Public Meetings and Engagement
Identify broad level priorities and potential new implementation actions

Task: Regional Profile and Performance Report

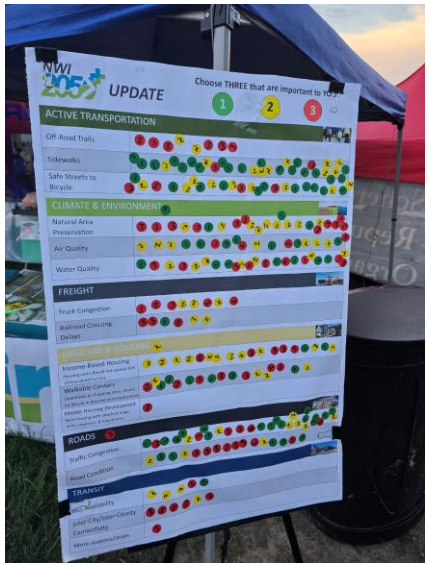
- Serves as an “existing conditions” report
- Describes the existing conditions and data relevant to the metropolitan planning process
- Includes the “latest available estimates and assumptions for population, land use, travel, employment, congestion, and economic activity”
- Includes federally required transportation performance measures along with locally developed performance measures

Task: Public Engagement

- Series of summer “pop up” engagements

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY			
	Number of Events	Estimated Engagement	Number of People who Voted
Lake County	4	986	733
Porter County	2	780	515
La Porte County	6	435	65
TOTAL	12	2,201	1,313

Preference Board Results - All Counties		
Rank (1 = most important)	Category	Index Score
1	Natural Area Preservation	13.5
2	Water Quality	11.0
3	Air Quality	10.8
4	Road Condition	10.1
5	Traffic Congestion	9.1
6	Income-Based Housing	8.5
7	Sidewalks	7.0
8	Safe Streets to Bicycle	6.0
9	Off-Road Trails	5.8
10	Walkable Centers	4.8
11	Railroad Crossing Delays	3.3
12	Bus Availability	3.1
13	Truck Congestion	3.0
14	Middle Housing Development	1.8
15	Inter-City/Inter-County Connectivity	1.3
16	More Stations/Stops	1.1



Task: Public Engagement

- Online survey https://arcg.is/0neyq42

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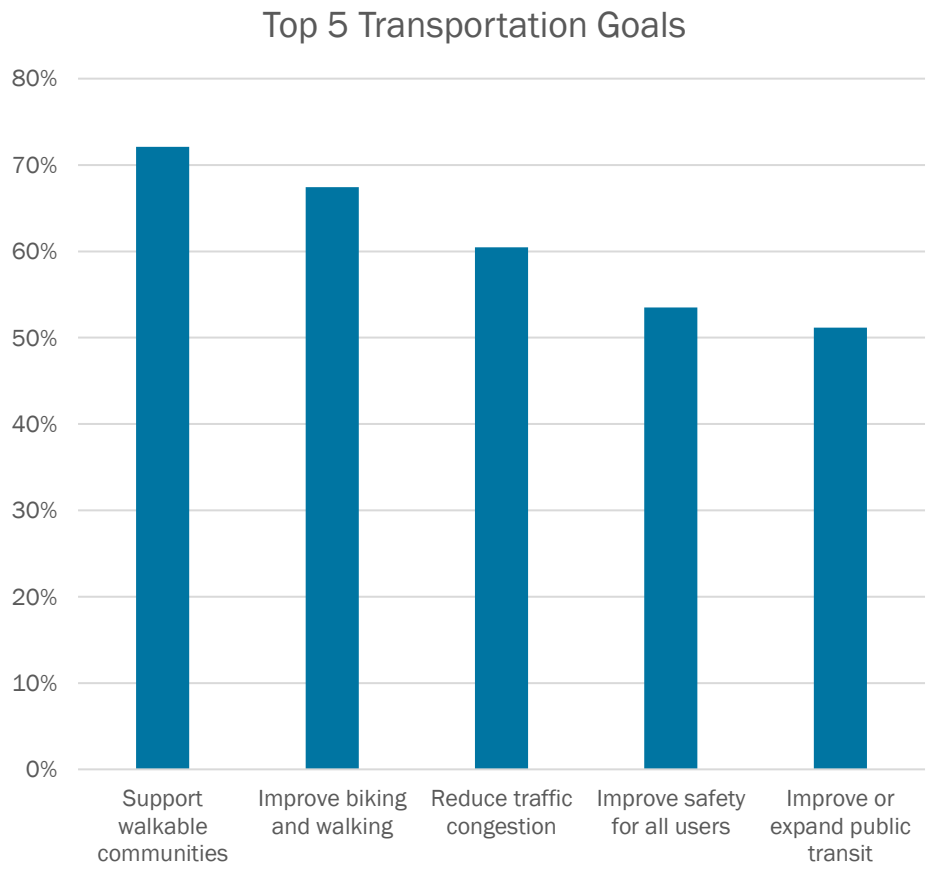

Task: Public Engagement

Online survey https://arcg.is/0neyq42

Rank	Transportation Funding Priorities (Top 5)
1	Add sidewalks and bike lanes
2	Repave and restripe streets, fix potholes, and repair curbs and sidewalks
3	Improve pedestrian crossings
4	Build new bike trails
5	Implement proven safety measures at high-crash locations

Task: Public Engagement

Online survey https://arcg.is/0neyq42

Rank	How to Address Environmental Issues (Top 4)
1	Connect local governments with technical assistance relating to issues of environmental concern
2	Assist local governments and communities to identify and obtain grants and other funding opportunities
3	Facilitate partnerships efforts across jurisdictions, public and private sector, and non-governmental organizations
4	Require strong environmental policies to be in place before awarding transportation funding for projects

Task: Public Engagement

Online survey https://arcg.is/0neyq42

Rank	How to Advance NIRPC's MTP (Top 4)
1	Planning assistance for local governments
2	Funding for major transportation projects
3	Grant writing and application assistance
4	Consensus-building around regional initiatives

Task: Public Engagement

Online survey https://arcg.is/0neyq42

Top 2 Recommendations for Each Planning Area	
Rank	Active Transportation
1	Build local connections to regional trails
2	Develop regional trails such as the Marquette Greenway
Rank	Environment
1	Water quality of lakes, streams, and wetlands
2	Protecting nature and biological diversity
Rank	Freight
1	Repair bridges in poor condition
2	Improve or separate at-grade rail crossings
Rank	Land Use & Housing
1	Housing affordability
2	Building and enhancing walkable districts and "town centers"
Rank	Transit
1	Expand fixed-route bus service to more communities and more destinations across the region
2	Provide better pedestrian connections to transit stations and stops

Task: Assessment and Analysis

- Land Use and Housing –
  - Working Group met on July 22, 2026, followed by one-on-one meetings
- Active Transportation
  - Working Group met on August 31, 2026
- Climate and Environment
  - Discussion at August 6, 2026, Environment Committee, Working Group being formed
- Freight
  - Invitations sent
- Roads
  - Invitations sent
- Transit
  - Still in development

NWI 2050+ Update- Land Use and Housing

NWI 2050+ Goals	Strategies	Performance Measures/ Action Items	Outcomes	Status	
		1		NIRPC	Local Gov.
		Population and Density			
• ***By 2050, Northwest Indiana will achieve a population of about 900,000. New growth will have a gross density of about 4-5 units per acre.***	▪ *Develop favorable planning and regulatory practices for middle- and high-density development in appropriate locations.*	▪ *Track middle housing development in the last 10 years* ▪ *Population increases towards the 2050+ goal.* ▪ *Housing increases towards the 2050+ goal.*	The yearly growth rate met the 0.55% goal in 2024. However, the average growth rate in the last five years is 0.23%. Porter County has a strong housing market, with a 6% growth rate that exceeds the *NWI 2050+* goal of 4%. Although more new housing units have been built in Lake County, the growth rate shows a moderate 3% increase on average between 2020 and 2024. The number of housing units in La Porte County has increased by about 2%.	○ Completed ○ Carry Over ○ Revise ○ Delete ○ New	○ Completed ○ In progress ○ Not addressed
	▪ *Support transportation infrastructure that supports the development of walkable districts and "town centers."*	▪ *Improved street network connectivity* ▪ *Employment in "Main Centers"* ▪ *Population in "Main Centers" & 15-minute walk*	NIRPC established the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program to provide funding for planning projects in Tier 2 that fund **walkable districts, Town Centers plans, and pedestrian plans.** The analysis shows an increase in population in the main and neighborhood centers of small- to medium-sized communities such as Winfield, Lake Station, South La Porte, and Munster. However, it was noted that some of the larger communities lost population to the main centers. Employment has increased significantly in South Hammond, Miller/Aetna, the Hessville neighborhood in Hammond, South La Porte, Lake Station, East Chicago, and Griffith. Conversely, downtown Valparaiso, the Old Munster Steel neighborhood, and downtown Whiting have experienced notable job losses.	○ Completed ○ Carry Over ○ Revise ○ Delete ○ New	○ Completed ○ In progress ○ Not addressed
	▪ *Continue supporting walkable areas by setting transportation funding criteria that encourage walkability.*	▪ *TOD-related criteria for TOD planning and implementation project applications*	TIP- NIRPC introduced new criteria to strengthen the economic base, boost transit ridership, improve placemaking and local identity, and remove obstacles to equity, affordable housing, and compact, mixed-use developments.	○ Completed ○ Carry Over ○ Revise ○ Delete ○ New	○ Completed ○ In progress ○ Not addressed
	▪ *Support and fund alternative transportation modes that encourage higher-density development.*	▪ *Development of mixed-use and higher-density districts in TOD and main centers.*	See 2nd row	○ Completed ○ Carry Over ○ Revise ○ Delete ○ New	○ Completed ○ In progress ○ Not addressed
		Housing Variety			
	▪ *Increase the production of medium-density housing in small lots and attached single-family, townhouses, and small-footprint apartment projects.*	▪ *Track new medium-density housing in detached small lots of houses and middle housing (2-5+ attached units)*	The chart shows housing permits in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties from 2013 to 2023. LaPorte County had the highest share of middle housing permits at 19%, compared with a regional average of 15%. According to NWI 2050+, middle housing should be at least 20%.	○ Completed ○ Carry Over ○ Revise ○ Delete ○ New	○ Completed ○ In progress ○ Not addressed

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Regional Profile and Performance

Assessment and Analysis

Plan Recommendations

Plan Preparation and Adoption

CONTINUE STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Regional Profile and Perforr
Existing Conditions and Perfor

DEVELOP TECHNICAL MEMO

OPEN NOFA AND SOLICIT FOR RSPs

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FOCUSED OUTREACH

Contact Name	Tom Vander Woude
Email	tvanderwoude@nirpc.org
Website	*www.nirpc.org*
Facebook	*facebook.com/nirpcmpo*
Instagram	*instagram.com/regionmpo*
LinkedIn	*linkedin.com/company/nirpc*
Twitter	*twitter.com/NIRPC*
YouTube	*youtube.com/NIRPCplanning*
Phone	*(219) 763-6060/Office*
Address	*6100 Southport Rd Portage, IN 46368*