2050 Plan

Results from engagement on vision + needs

Overview of engagement and revised vision statements + goals

Overview of engagement

External | public meetings

- Twelve public meetings focusing on draft goal statements
  - 7 in Lake County
  - 2 in Porter County
  - 3 in LaPorte County
  - 100 participants

External | survey

- Survey sent to entire email contact list focusing on draft goal statements
  - 211 of participants

Internal | technical input

- Internal workshop to review vision statements and draft goal statements

External | Facebook + email polls

- Polls that ask "what is most important to you" on plan focus areas and vision statements targeted through email contact list and Facebook events for each public meeting
- 10,313 Facebook impressions; 49 participants in Facebook polls on plan vision statements

Internal | NIRPC committees

- NIRPC committees provided feedback on draft goal statements at regularly scheduled meetings April through June

What is most important to you?

Plan focus areas *(as presented to public)*

Environment
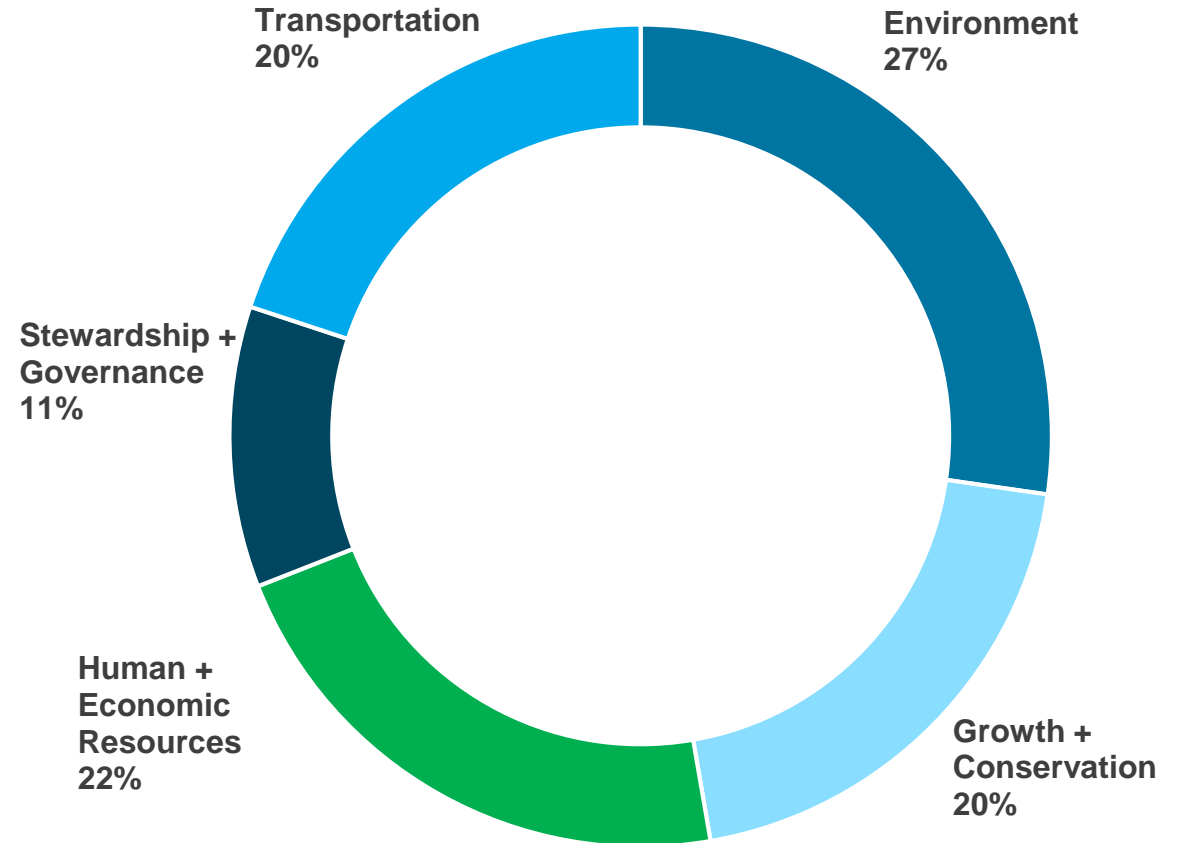
Growth + Conservation

Human + Economic Resources

Stewardship + Governance

Transportation

Engagement results

Transportation 20%

Environment 27%

Stewardship + Governance 11%

Growth + Conservation 20%

Human + Economic Resources 22%

What is most important to you?

Vision statements *(as presented to public)*

Accessible region
"Our people can safely reach each other and have equal accessible opportunities for working, playing, living and learning."

Revitalized region
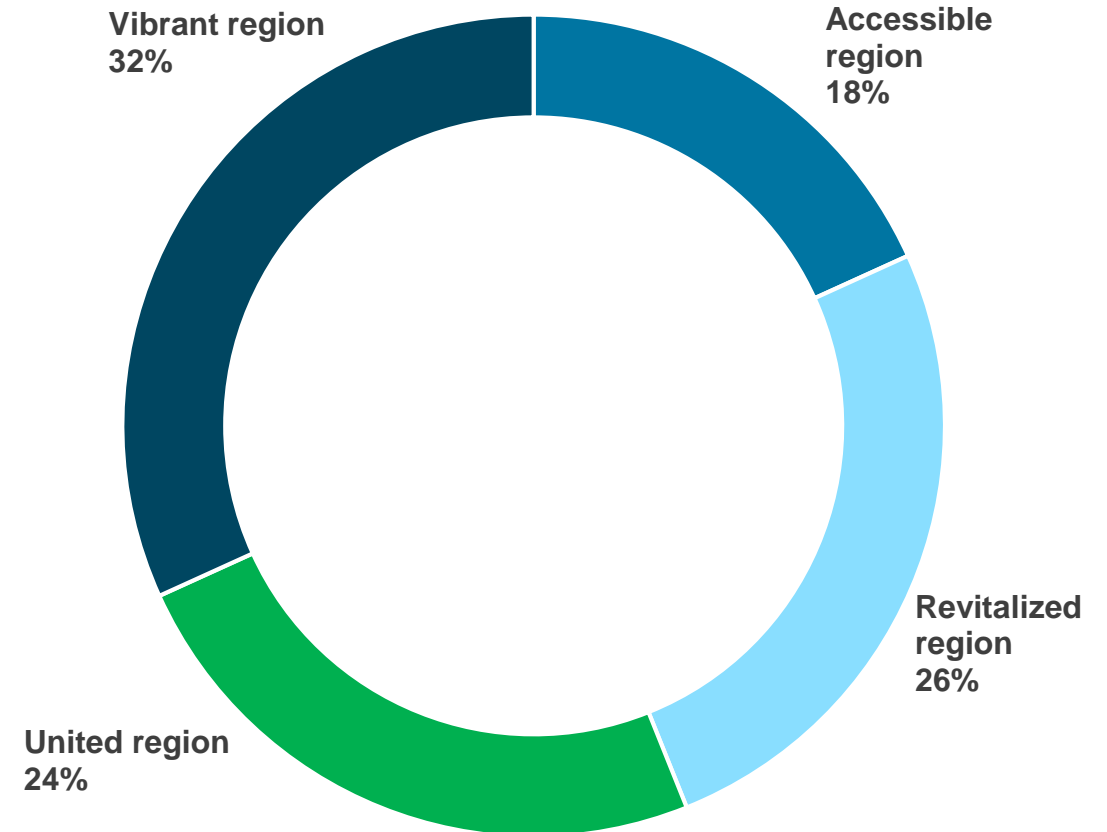"Urban and rural centers are energized and our environment is safe and healthy."

United region
"Celebrating our diversity, we work together as a community across racial, ethnic, political and cultural lines for the mutual benefit of the region."

Vibrant region
"Our economy is thriving, our people are well educated, growth is planned, and natural and agricultural areas are valued and protected."
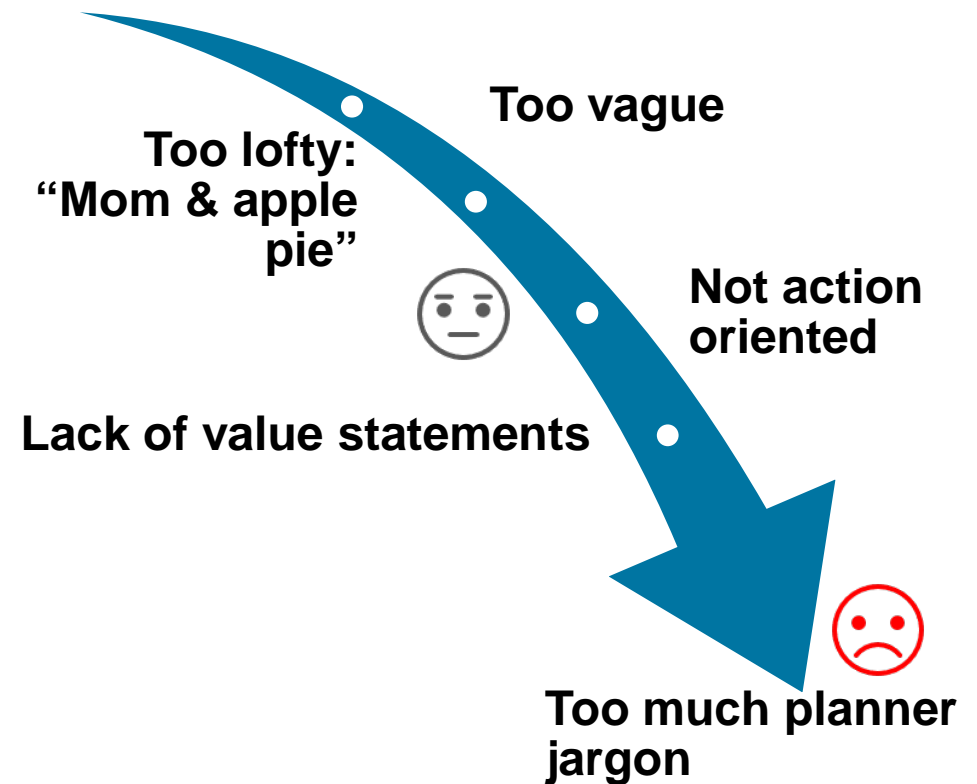
Engagement results

Vibrant region 32%

Accessible region 18%

Revitalized region 26%

United region 24%

Review of feedback

Summary: needed to revamp goals

- Though the public responded with general positivity to the draft goals with the voting exercise, when staff dove into the feedback, it became clear that there were significant issues with the draft goal statements.

- Essentially, the draft goal statements were not all that useful. They were restatements of the visions and did not at lend themselves to be measured for progress later.

- Staff proposes to replace "goals" with "critical paths," or key actions, that need to be undertaken to achieve the visions of the 2050 Plan.

Mostly positive reactions to goals, but…

Too vague

Too lofty: "Mom & apple pie"

Not action oriented

Lack of value statements

Too much planner jargon

Recommended vision statements and critical path statements

NWI 2050 vision statements

Northwestern Indiana
NIRPC
Regional Planning Commission
50 YEARS

Critical paths to achieving NWI's 2050 vision	**Connected NWI /** *NWI's people have accessible, safe, and equal opportunities for working, playing, living and learning.*	**Renewed NWI /** *NWI's urban and rural centers are places people want to come to and live in, and our environment is safe and healthy.*	**United NWI /** *NWI's diversity is celebrated, and we work together as a community across racial, ethnic, political and cultural lines for the mutual benefit of the region.*	**Vibrant NWI /** *NWI's economy is thriving, our people are well educated, growth is planned, and natural and agricultural areas are valued and protected.*
Economy + Place / *Focusing on NWI's economy and quality of place*	Update land development policies and strategies to emphasize accessibility between people and opportunities.	Maximize growth in existing centers to enhance civic and economic life and to protect natural areas and farmland.	Collaborate regionally to welcome a diversity of people and talent to achieve mixed and balanced growth.	Promote initiatives and policies to ensure healthy living, sustainability, quality of life, and prosperity.
Environment / *Focusing on NWI's environmental quality*	Connect fragmented natural areas and integrate links between people and green spaces to increase resiliency and health outcomes.	Clean and protect the air, land, water, and natural habitats to sustain and enhance the environment's safety and health for all.	Build region-wide coalitions to advance environmental sustainability for the benefit of future generations.	Endorse innovative energy and environmental strategies to achieve a balance that protects diverse and unique ecological treasures while fostering a sustainable economy.
Mobility / *Focusing on NWI's transportation choices*	Complete roadway, bicycle, sidewalk, and transit networks across municipal and county lines to enhance safe and efficient access to opportunities for all.	Improve roadway, bicycle, sidewalk, and transit networks to revitalize existing urban and rural centers and enhance equity.	Prioritize transformative investments to elevate the position of the region and to attract a diversity of residents and high-quality economic opportunities.	Adopt technological innovation that enhances the safe and fluid movement of people and goods to enable a flourishing economy.
People + Leaders / *Focusing on NWI's people and community leaders*	Commit to removing barriers and obstacles to guarantee equal and accessible opportunities.	Focus educational and workforce development initiatives on expanding skills that the modern economy requires.	Foster better communications, cooperation and coordination to bring people together across the lines that divide us.	Embrace a dynamic, diversified and sustainable economy that attracts and retains talent, enhances quality of life, and increases personal and household income.

NWI 2050 plan focus areas

What is next?

Create performance-based planning system for vision and critical paths

Go above and beyond federal requirements for performance-based planning and identify measures, data, analysis, and targets for each of the critical paths to measure progress on achieve the visions of the 2050 Plan.

Anticipated late summer 2018

Each step will involve NIRPC's topical committees, TPC, and the Commission

Connect vision and critical paths to programmatic investment decision-making

In conjunction with the scenario planning work on NWI's future, evaluate how federally eligible transportation investments advance the 2050 Plan visions and recommend future funding levels in the NOFA and for the 2050 Plan overall.

Anticipated early fall 2018

Connect to project evaluation and selection criteria for new NOFA

Revise project evaluation and selection criteria for the Transportation Improvement Program and 2050 Plan NOFA to ensure future transportation investments advance the 2050 Plan visions. In addition, improve the evaluation criteria so the application system is more transparent and customer focused.

Anticipated mid-fall 2018

Action needed

NIRPC staff seeks preliminary endorsement of the vision statements and critical paths so that we may continue building upon this work and the development of the 2050 Plan.

Details on public feedback + needs

Environment

Draft goal for 2050:

Accessible region: "Our environmental assets (parks, lakes, or rivers) are connected to residents and businesses to support active living."

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	😐	🙂

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Connected AND Accessible (x2)
- Quality o life is bettered through enhanced community
- Continued public involvement is necessary to ensure the Region is accessible
- Include "protection" as a part of the goal statement
- "Natural assets are important"
- Native biodiversity makes our Region unique
- Environmental assets should be valued
- Our assets should stimulate business
- "Parks, lakes, or rivers" is not inclusive of all environmental assets (x2)
  - Try *natural areas, public lands, greenways, green spaces, or recreational assets* instead
- Strong schools are connected to environmental assets
- Add *guests / visitors* to the statement

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Focus on Community and Business
  - Access to environmental assets at home and at work
- Uncertain of quality of existing parks
- Toxic problem – Marquette Plan? (generating stations)
- What does "connected" mean?
  - Connected physically?
- What cost does access have?
  - Can there be too much access?
- "Careful with language" (in statement)
- "Businesses" on public lands?
  - "Careful with privatization"
- Disconnected priorities of residents and businesses
  - Balance conflict; mutual benefit
- "Residents" is too exclusive
  - What about tourists?
- "Keep some people out!"
- Connectivity should be measurable
- Environmental assets should promote tourism industry

Summary of negative feedback:

- Air Quality is an environmental asset (x2)
  - Air Quality – conflict (West Beach Gary/Marquette Park)
- "Too vague"
- Poor effort as stewards of our region
- 80/94 is a barrier to environmental assets
- Lake health is at risk
- "Connected" is not specific enough
  - Too vague
- Natural areas are fragmented
  - Difficult to connect to people
- "Make it more broad and get rid of the parenthesis"
- Environmental assets encompass more than just parks, lakes, and rivers (x2)
- "Does this mean more infrastructure for connections?"
- Missing tourism aspect

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Multi-Modal Access to Lake Michigan (Lakefront) (x3)
  - Improvement & Expansion of Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure
- Steer attention toward Air Quality (x3)
  - Promote clean air throughout NWI
- Improved Transportation (x4)
- Expanded Public Transit service hours
- Rental recreational equipment at natural assets (x2)
- Enhanced design oversight
  - Include users in the design process
- Connectivity between all counties
  - Complete the Marquette Greenway Trail
- Connectivity between all communities (x2)
- Open dialogue
  - Led by people impacted
- Improved methods of analysis
- Focus on appearance of lakes & surroundings (beautification?)
- Open communication channels for the public to share input
- ADA Accessibility (x2)
- Little to No forgiveness in the community
  - Corporate Responsibility
- Alternative Transportation and/or Public Transit
- Compassion
  - Many do not care about social/environmental activities
- Addressing 80/94 as a barrier to access
- More Bike Paths / Lanes / Trails (x4)
  - Implementation of Marquette Plan and GW-BW 2020 Plan
- Environmental restoration/remediation projects in municipalities such as East Chicago and Gary
- NIPSCO to understand their position in the community
- Identify the problem / problem areas

- Define the problem
  - What are the consequences?
- Improved health of Lake Michigan
- Equitable Public Transit
- Reduced dependency on cars
  - Provide access for those w/o cars
- Partnerships (PPPs)
- Community Projects
- Education on the "treasures" / environmental assets of NWI (x4)
- Accessible Parks (x6)
  - Bus service (transit) to parks
  - (explore: pocket parks, parklets, rails to trails, etc.)
- Ensure safety for fisherman on linear water bodies
- 2040 Plan implementation activities
  - Action plans for short and long term implementation
- Address Little Calumet River flooding in Marshalltown in Gary (N of 65 – 80/94 interchange)
- Eco-tourism (x2)
- "tourism directed toward exotic, often threatened, natural environments, especially to support conservation efforts and observe wildlife"
- Emphasizes conservation, education, traveler responsibility and active community participation
- Conscientious, low-impact visitor behavior. Sensitivity towards, and appreciation of, local cultures and biodiversity.
- Funding (x4)
- Better access to environmental assets / natural areas
- Urban centers connected via transit and complete streets to promote travel choice (x2)
- Cooperation/collaboration amongst all levels of government (x3)
- Collaboration between communities, industries, and NGOs
- Cohesive plan to unite municipalities
- Collaboration between stakeholders

- Collaborative vision and planning
- Cooperation between environmentalists and industrialists
- Understanding the potential value/benefit of cooperation rather than competition
- Grant funding to support insufficient parks budgets
- More/access to green spaces (x2)
- Discourage car-centered life by incentivizing alternative forms of transportation (x2)
- Enhanced water quality and education of water conservation/protection
- Community educational programs supported by financial commitment
- Complete trail network
- Improve zoning alignments and expand conservation areas
- Maintenance of environmental assets (clean parks and water bodies)
- Sustainable transportation for schools and fleets
- Accessible and connected environmental assets (x4)
- Connections between people and environmental assets
- Develop and promote public access sites
- Focus on youth/young families
- Control sprawl while preserving natural areas
- Investment in education (x3)
- Awareness, education, and funding
- Conservation (mindful) Planning (x3)
- Conserve, expand, and utilize assets (natural areas)
- Support from the Federal Government
- Smart, sustainable, livable urban centers that preserve natural amenities (x2)
- Strengthen environmental regulation and hold corporate polluters responsible

- Support ecosystem services
- More parks
- Regional and state conservation plans which identify protected areas
- Public Transit / Transportation (x2)
- Complete Streets / Trails
- Regional Sustainability Plan
- Regional conversations and compromises
- Higher quantity of trash receptacles on trails
- Green spaces for native wildlife and human recreation
- Relieved traffic congestion
- Increased recycling/elimination of plastic bags
- Protection of assets from pollution/waste
- Preservation and restoration of woodlands and the dunes
- Interconnected communities; promote travel choices (complete streets)
- Utilization of resources to support QoL and the economy
- Controlled population density
- Activities/programs to activate parks, lakefront, etc.
- Transparency and communication between government and the public
- Community/Public Engagement
- Sustainable/equitable green infrastructure network which provides ecosystem services
- Stop and prevent privatization of green/natural spaces
- Public support of the natural environment
- Corporate support / dollars on large projects
- Collective Regional mindset/vision
- Funding for enhanced connectivity
- Trails and transit connections
- Provision of resources (capital) to protect environment
- Environmental cleanups and protections (x2)
- Cleanup of industrial toxins that harm vulnerable populations
- Protection of undeveloped natural areas; grow up, not out
- Land reclamation and biodiversity
- Bicycle trails

- well integrated, low-impact public transportation
- Sustainability
- Redevelopment/Re-Use instead of greenfield development
- Clean water, air, and land
- PPPs
- Address concerns with transportation and human resources
- Diverse Public Engagement
- Improved regional transportation
- Public sustainability education and incentives for green practices (rain barrels, solar, etc.)
- Quality transportation no matter of travel choice
- Regional cooperation, not competition
- Better employment opportunities; Steel Mills are outdated and dirty
- Enhanced and maintained transportation network (bike, ped, car, transit, etc.)
- More greenways and blueways
- Local networks of green linear corridors connecting to larger public lands
- Trail and transit systems which connect people to our environmental assets
- Local buy-in
- Quantification/Identification of assets
- Tackle water pollution at its source (x2)
- Removal of solid and chemical wastes from water
- Clean water for recreation (swim, fish, etc.)
- Complete Street connectivity between neighborhoods and recreational amenities
- Reduction of industrial developments' impact on nature
- Access to linear water bodies (x2)
- Public ownership of lands adjacent to water bodies
- Robust connections
- A plan for the connection and coordination of existing resources
- Encourage the public's use of green spaces rather than illegal drugs

- Environmental public education and policy regarding emissions, pollutants, etc.
- Hold corporate polluters responsible
- Green/electric transportation infrastructure and modernized industrial production
- Incentives
- Funding for "green" infrastructure
- Happy, healthy, natural areas
- Prevent social inequalities/divisions
- Civic Pride/Pride of our surroundings
- Environmental protections enforced at the State level
- Keep the shoreline free of development; conservation without interruption
- Jobs
- Ensure polluting companies are compliant with environmental regulations
- Prevent nepotism in local government
- Improved connectivity to SSL; additional SSL stops
- Protect water resources and natural habitats
- Conservation of assets through the limitation of sprawl and harmful development
- Focus on green energy resources
- Protection of Lake Michigan
- Valuable assets are in distressed areas; unsafe perception
- Business support

Environment

Draft goal for 2050:

Revitalized region: "Our environmental resources are restored where they are currently damaged."

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	😐	🙂	🙂	😐	😐	🙂	😐	🙂	🙂	😐	☹️	😐

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- "More than just nice to look at"
  - Useful/purposeful
- Will restoration efforts be prioritized?
  - If so, how?
- What about preservation? (x2)
  - Preventing future damage
  - "restored and preserved"
- "We need to prepare for a future of finite resources"
- Include language regarding the maintenance of our environmental resources
- Think about people
  - Restored for the people to use
- Use *improved* / *sustained* instead of "restored" (x2)
- "The Region is doing a good job correcting bad practices from our past"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Determining what *should & shouldn't* as well as what *can & cannot* be restored
  - Understanding the cost and scale of restoration
- What does "restored" mean? (x4)
  - Restored to what conditions?
- What does "environmental resources" mean? (x2)
- False dichotomy
- Some may oppose cleanup/improvements
- How will environmental resources be "restored?"
- How much will it cost to "restore" resources?
- Nervousness regarding the scale of damages
- "How is this measured?"
- Resources shouldn't have to be damaged to be enhanced
- Essential to perform ongoing assessments
- "Regain and maximize natural capital"
- Resources should be "restored" and managed
- "I don't know what the goal means!"

Summary of negative feedback:

- Eroded Shoreline needs significant attention
  - Major restoration effort
- Goal lacks specificity
- Too many roadblocks
  - Doubtful that goal can be achieved
  - "We'll be where we should be now in 30 years"
- Existing sewage dumping and overflow issues in the Grand Calumet River will be challenging to restore
- Misusage of environmental funding
- As people move / the Region sprawls, the amount of environmental damage increases
- Unfunded mandates
- "Not enough parking at Mt. Baldy"
- Weak statement
- "Damaged" is too subjective (x3)
  - Try *degraded* instead
- "Less involvement by the Trump Admin"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Funding sources (x12)
- Brownfield Remediation funding
- Funding for restoration
- Public Education (x6)
- Ecosystems, habitats, the "Rust Belt," Brownfields, contamination, restoration/remediation processes, etc.
- Improvement of Air Quality (cleaner air)
- Marketing Clean Air – "it is better than before"
- Multi-Modal Transportation
- Infrastructure needed to encourage travel via alternative modes of transportation
- Equitable allocation of resources (x2)
- Mechanisms to ensure fair distribution
- Focus on native wildlife (x2)
- Protecting plants and animals, promoting/installing bio swales
- Prevent greenfield development
- …while avoiding gentrification
- The work of the citizens and the government resources
- Put them on a priority list; how to get funded
- An "effective regional planning commission"
- Re-use manufacturing waste (pollutants) as business products
- Incubators
- Agree, identify problems as a Region
- Prioritize natural resources (x3)
- More / enhanced green spaces
- Conservation guidelines and efforts
- Require sustainable / "green" development
- Localized EPA
- Federal EPA is too weak for our damaged Region
- Specificity / Measures (x2)
- "An effective Regional Planning Commission"
- Promote area parks
- Not just Marquette Park
- "Promote art through transit system" (Gary Metro Center)

- "Merge parks and art" (Gary Metro Center)
- "Green" Infrastructure
- Connectivity / Access to natural assets / resources (x2)
- Especially access for youth to nature
- Protection of existing resources
- Placemaking / Placemarking (logos, signage, billboards, etc.)
- Commitment
- Political commitment and commitment of private land owners
- Cooperation / Collaboration (x3)
- "Think Regional"
- Cleanup of litter in the Region; prevent "visual pollution" (billboards)
- Continued effort to repair and renew damaged resources
- Realization that the environment CAN be restored
- Redevelopment of blight; prevent greenfield development
- Reduce air pollution and permitted water discharges; explore renewables
- Committed communities
- Commitment to restoring damaged areas
- Prevent pollution
- Completion of the Marquette Plan
- Enhance safety of arterial roadways
- Monetary support from big businesses
- Mitigate a century of industrial damage to the environment
- Restoration of water resources; protection of wetlands
- Expansion and maintenance of environmental resources
- Effective oversight of public officials
- Control/limit sprawl
- Enforcement of pollution regulations
- Community/Public Engagement/Support
- Support from federal government and industries
- Technical support
- Monetary reparations from Regional polluters
- Continued preservation of the dunes and Lake Michigan; suppress illegal dumping
- Focus on environmental resources
- Requiring wetland/woodland preservation and on-site storm

water management
- "A time machine"
- Safe bicycle routes in rural areas
- Encourage public interest and improve public involvement
- Heightened awareness of resources and the preservation of our natural habitats
- Cleanup contaminated resources
- Prevent flooding through green infrastructure
- Clean water, land, and air
- Help nature heal itself
- Increased regulations and measures which hold polluters accountable
- Increased public awareness of industry's impact on the environment
- Awareness
- Funding, planning, and collaboration
- Prioritize and protect areas with the highest ecological value (x3)
- Redevelopment and strengthened regulations on development requirements
- Responsible industrial entities
- Reduce dependency on coal energy
- Enhanced monitoring and enforcement of violations
- Reduce car dependency, eliminate plastic bags, and increase recycling
- Civic Engagement/Participation
- Consistent funding source(s) for natural resource stewardship
- Public support
- Volunteer programs for the cleanup of damaged resources
- Utilization of clean/green energy
- Cleanup, protection, and promotion of resources
- Fund management plans and action plans
- Land reclamation and biodiversity

16

- Environmental restoration
- Buy-in from communities (x2)
- Suppress the sources of pollution and address brownfields
- Ensure that all communities are healthy and safe
- More people and organizations involved in restoration efforts
- Restoration efforts that promote participation
- Support of Non-Profits involved in cleanup/restoration
- Environmental public education
- Elected officials training/education
- Prevent privatization which allows corporations to taint the water supply
- Dredge water bodies (Lake George) and prevent further pollution
- Unified effort of regional institutions and local organizations to cleanup our resources
- Encourage renewable energy growth and hold polluting parties responsible
- Hold corporate polluters responsible
- Address blight to improve school systems
- Policies that demand reparations from polluters
- Cleanup of East Chicago lead
- Prioritize damaged resources and prevent further damages
- More environmental cleanups
- Political commitment and funding
- Detailed, strategic, restoration plan for damaged resources (including cost estimates)
- Long-term funding/financial support
- Prevent future sprawl and reclaim lakefront/dunes
- Federal funding and continued support from local government sponsors
- Clean air and water
- Heighten awareness of Casinos/gain support
- Beachfront and clean air attract people
- Transition away from coal energy

Environment

Draft goal for 2050:

United region: "Our environment is protected by a shared effort throughout the region."

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🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	☹️	😐	😐	🙂	🙂	😐	😐	☹️	🙂

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Collaboration amongst communities (municipalities) is vital (x3)
- Workforce development – training would contribute to the shared, regional effort
- "I think we are doing a good job, but more needs to be done"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Communities (municipalities) must collaborate
  - "of course we want that" (shared effort)
- Threat of Climate Change
- What is being impacted?
- "Where is the meat of it though"
- "What does the accountability look like?"
- Can't feel the bright future of what has been
- Environment is valued more by others
  - Won't have action unless its brought to them
- Proactivity NOT reactivity
- Region needs better defined, shared goals
- What does "shared effort" mean? (x2)
- "How does this unite the environment?"
- Replace "effort" with *responsibility*
- "Is protecting enough?"
  - *Protected, enhanced, and managed*
- "Shared by whom?"
- People, businesses, visitors, etc.
- "Protected" from what?
- "Are communities committed to conservation?" (x2)

Summary of negative feedback:

- Shared effort cannot be achieved if communities are in competition (x2)
  - Competing for resources/development
- Lack of urgency/force
- Contaminated groundwater flowing South from the Little Calumet River is a challenge for communities
- Too vague
- Too broad
- "What is it that NIRPC actually does to help?"
- "Effort" is too weak; use *action*
- NIMBY
- Skepticism

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Collaboration (x11)
- Collaboration between County Govts. and Local Govts.
- Collective commitment to the goal / vision
- Leadership (x2)
- A powerful entity to steer municipalities toward the collective vision (NIRPC)
- Grassroots Organizations (x2)
- Collaboration with grassroots organizations at region and municipal scales
- Leverage resources and expertise of grassroots orgs.
- "Aspirational Vision to survive the next 100 years"
- A "Greener" Region (x2)
- Vision: green economy/sustainable
- NIRPC to call for 100% renewable energy
- South Shore (NICTD) Solar
- Public Education (x6)
- Environmental damages from human settlement (recount what has been done)
- Effect on the present public
- How to fix the problem (recycling, etc.)
- Education (x4)
- Educated youth/youth environmental programming
- Youth education on pollution and the environment
- Accountability measures (x2)
- Determine the parties responsible for damages
- Ensuring responsible parties address damages
- Trade Incubators (tradesmen; Union Training)
- Identification and prioritization of natural resources
- Survey on prioritization
- Connectivity to environmental resources
- Focus on Climate Change and water bodies
- Preserve the existing (untouched) environment (x2)
- Collaborative planning
- Innovation

- Improved Governance Structure (x2)
- Access for all
- Multi-Modal Transportation / Travel Choice
- Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, etc.
- "Explore the ADA Act at NIRPC"
- Ensure project compliance
- Action / the will to achieve the goal
- Consistency between agencies and municipalities
- Funding / $ (x3)
- Case Studies from outside the Region
- Look to Chicago / Great Lakes
- Man-power
- Shared resources
- Abide by EPA rules and regulations
- Action by public officials
- Action
- Enforcement of environmental regulations by EPA and IDEM
- Municipalities working together (The Watershed Approach)
- Communities and counties collaborating instead of competing (x3)
- Cooperative planning to preserve agricultural and undeveloped lands
- Cooperation between all levels of government (x5)
- Partnerships
- Creation of productive partnerships by IDEM
- PPPs (x3)
- Partnerships between government and local environmental groups
- Control sprawl
- Buy-in from all municipalities (x2)
- Connected and convenient access to the environment
- A grassroots consortium
- Designated leader/organization
- Control and/or channel growth
- Discussion between stakeholders (citizens, business, education, labor, govt., etc.)

- Awareness of the value of existing natural resources (x2)
- Engagement from communities and businesses
- Industry, Government, and Community support
- Communities that see the benefit of protecting our environment
- Legal protection of sensitive areas
- Business and community involvement
- Public understanding of our unique, local ecosystem and its impact on the economy
- Completed Marquette Plan
- Regulation
- Uniform monitoring and enforcement
- Ongoing and positive shared effort/contribution
- Community Participation
- Local ordinances that protect natural resources
- Maintenance of the environment
- Communication
- Support from Non-Profits
- Encourage municipalities to support the effort through legislation
- Cleaner technology and aggressive sustainability metrics (x2)
- Control over industrial and vehicular pollution
- Financial support from large companies with local affiliates
- Businesses and industries committed to sustainability
- Extensive outreach on behalf of environmental constituencies (efforts to reach youth) Instill the value of the environment in the public
- Coalition of conservation/environmental advocates/agencies/organizations (x2)
- Coalition of all stakeholders
- Understanding the value of the environment and its impact on the economy
- Cooperation and transparency between all agencies, groups, volunteers, etc.

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Clean communities helping polluted communities
- Eliminate social divisions/disparities
- "Protected from what?"
- Better educated elected officials
- Remove the barriers and competitive mindset
- Communities collaborating to keep our Region clean (x2)
- Enforcement of environmental regulations
- Common goal set by local organizations with public input and financial support (x2)
- Pact with goals and strategies agreed upon by localities
- Address legacy pollution in low income areas
- Strong regulations with support from businesses, law makers, the public, etc.
- Litigation against U.S. Steel
- Educational campaign that brings the Region together
- Harsh penalties for violators of environmental regulations
- Environmental protection support from local government and private businesses
- Instill the value of the environment in the public
- Coalition of conservation/environmental advocates/agencies/organizations (x2)
- Coalition of all stakeholders
- Understanding the value of the environment and its impact on the economy
- Cooperation and transparency between all agencies, groups, volunteers, etc.
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- Pact with goals and strategies agreed upon by localities
- Address legacy pollution in low income areas
- Strong regulations with support from businesses, law makers, the public, etc.
- Litigation against U.S. Steel
- Educational campaign that brings the Region together
- Harsh penalties for violators of environmental regulations
- Environmental protection support from local government and private businesses

Environment

Draft goal for 2050:

Vibrant region: "Our environmental assets (air, water, and land) are ~~embraced~~ *enjoyed* / *protected/cleaner* through ~~careful~~ *purposeful* / *careful planning and* implementation of best practices and protections."

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	😐	😐	🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	😐	😐	😐

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Issues are beyond local concern and demand the attention of state and federal officials
- Focus on Brownfield remediation
- Assets are also embraced through convenience
- People are more aware of the Earth (preservation)
- Try *resources* instead of "assets"
- "Continue to work on it. We are making progress, but more can be done"
- Use *cherished* instead of "embraced"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Unsure of which entity will encourage best practices
- Another "best practice" statement
- Existing goals have yet to be met, so how do we move forward
- Determining responsible/accountable party
- Focus is on job opportunities instead of existing environmental assets
  - Employers are not as green as they should be
- What does "best practices" mean? (x4)
- Who decides "best practices?" (x5)
- What about preservation?
- Change "embraced" to *improved / remediated*
- "What else works instead of best practices?"
- What does "environmental assets" mean?
- Try *creative solutions* instead of "best practices and protections"
- Change "embraced" to protected
- What are the current practices and protections?
- What is the EPA doing?
- "How do you embrace air and water with best practices?"

Summary of negative feedback:

- "Too fluffy"
- The environment should not be perceived as an asset to the economy
- Always will be cleanup – profit loss (future investments)
- Misaligned economic incentives
- Lofty goal
- Needs more, not enough
- Statement uses too much subjective language
  - Too vague
- Weak statement
- What does "implementation" mean?
  - How will it be done?
- "This is not happening"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Redefine the Region from being "resistant to change" to "progressive / open-minded"
- "Leave a positive footprint"; create positive environmental change in the Region
- Prioritize Brownfield Sites
- Prioritize Brownfields for remediation and subsequent development
- Promote Environmental Justice (x2)
- Uphold and enforce (NIRPC) environmental laws
- Enforce
- Tackle pollution at its source (x4)
- Commitment from industrial stakeholders
- Pollution from traffic congestion (freight on I-94 from Chesterton to Michigan)
- Hold corporate polluters responsible (x2)
- Honesty
- Understand the effects of intentionally withholding information
- Leadership / ACTION
- Quantify the damages (x2)
- Funding / incentives (x5)
- Brownfields to Brightfields (solar farms)
- Culture shift toward environmental consciousness
- Better re-use of waste (recycling)
- Pattern communities / economies after nature
- Long-term Engagement & Commitment
- Watershed Management
- Incentivize partnerships
- PPPs
- Understanding best practices/protections and the associated costs
- Prevent backsliding by keeping up with technological trends
- Environmental policing to control pollution/dumping
- Municipalities sharing/combining efforts for the best Regional results

- Strong leadership and collaborative efforts
- EPA and/or IDEM enforcement
- Cooperation from industries on lakefront
- Municipal collaboration
- Common goals
- Low-impact alternative modes of transportation
- Strong communication
- An administration that supports the environment
- Equitable governance
- Public awareness and adequate funding
- Public involvement/participation
- Community Participation
- Resist job growth that is harmful to our environment (no more mills)
- Collaborative, not competing communities
- Funding to implement BMPs
- Environmental protection agreements
- Stronger regulations and monitoring of air and water quality
- Address particulate matter in the air; poor air quality
- Uphold the Paris Agreement
- Less car-centric development
- Transparency
- Resources for the maintenance of assets
- Protection of resources
- Communication with comparable MPOs working towards similar goals
- Careful planning that considers impacts on future generations
- Pro-action instead of reaction
- Action
- Coalition of environmental entities, environmental asset plan, and citizen engagement
- Achieve a balance between industry and environment
- Consideration of environmental externalities in land use planning and economic development
- Federal restrictions and goals
- Safe and reliable infrastructure that connects assets to

everyone
- Protect the water supply and prevent sprawl
- Mirror environmental guidelines of comparable regions
- Regional/shared best practices and protections
- Strengthened local/regional policies
- Communicate measurable goals, acknowledge successes, encourage participation
- Strong state and federal governments
- Rigorous permitting and inspecting of new development/construction
- Enforcement
- A cleaner southern shore on Lake Michigan
- Adopt and tailor the practices of successful regions to best suit our Region
- Local funding and buy-in
- Crackdown on polluting industries
- Make Gary a destination: proximity to Obama library, toll road Oasis, Broadway Gondolas
- Respecting others' property
- Embracement of goal by Regional industries and businesses
- Education (x6)
- Training and education
- Incentives and education
- Educated officials that understand the importance of the environment
- Education on best practices
- Awareness of our Regional resources
- Accelerated awareness of best practices (x2)
- Publicize best practices and protections

Growth + Conservation ^{Sustainable Growth}

Growth + Conservation ~~Sustainable~~ Growth

Draft goal for 2050:

Accessible region: "Our growth of the built environment strengthens access to opportunities for all ~~individuals~~."

human land uses

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	😐	😐	☹️	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	☹️	🙂	🙂

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Mixed-Use neighborhoods can increase walkability
- Hard to communicate since we are in Chicago media market
- Cleaner demolitions in Gary
    - Deconstruction of homes (recycle homes)
- The environment and highways should be consistently monitored
- Remove "individuals" from statement
    - Access to opportunities for all
- Providing an example would help the public understand the goal statement (x2)
- Incorporate "infrastructure & investments" into statement

Summary of neutral feedback:

- What does "built environment" mean? (x10)
    - "Just say that – what he said"
- What does "opportunities" mean? (x2)
- Potential impacts of improvements
    - Good and/or Bad
- What does "access" mean?
- A lot of people don't have access
- "2nd shift and you're stuck, 3rd shift and you're out of luck"
- "No one willing to fund RBA"
- Difficult to achieve without communication and incentives to reach it
    - 1 idea takes a long time to implement; long time to evaluate effectiveness as well
- The Region's youth should step up and take action
- Gary / Chicago International Airport is underutilized
- Avoid the use of planning jargon in statements
- Use *re-growth* instead of "growth"
- Statement is too forward thinking
    - Need to look backwards to fix what is not accessible

Summary of negative feedback:

- Poor access for pedestrians and cyclists
- Sprawl (Suburbanization)
    - "focus on people, not cars"
- What is the value that is being added?
- Personalized transportation options available, however, not affordable for everyone
- No station/access to SSL in Merrillville
- Existing transit is unreliable
- Railroads hinder accessibility
- U.S. 30 bypass is too political, unrealistic
- "Growth will decrease opportunities"
    - The word 'growth' is problematic
- Issues like racism and the opioid crisis are barrier to growth and access
- "Doesn't roll off the tongue"
- "Statement makes me think of sprawl"
- What about disinvested communities?
- North Lake County loss of growth
- Language is lofty and unclear (x2)
- Growth should occur at all scales
- From neighborhood to regional

23

Summary of positive feedback continued:

Summary of neutral feedback continued:

- "Shouldn't the accessible goal focus on transportation?"
- "What does the goal mean?"
- "This is not always true"
- "How does growth of the built environment improve access?"
- Need reuse, not sprawl
- "Not sure I understand this one"

Summary of negative feedback continued:

- "Too much planner jargon"
- Historic lack of thoughtful, long-term planning throughout the Region

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Zoning (x2)
- Two forms of growth: (1) sprawl and (2) mixed-use development
- Regional Corridor/ROW Design Guidelines/Policies (x2)
- Complete Streets
- Build Walkable Communities/Neighborhoods (x3)
- Catering to the human scale, not the automobile
- Seek good case studies
- Vision of what a "good" Region would look like (x2)
- Transit Upgrade
- Extended / later hours of operation (service)
- Ease of access between counties
- Decision makers should be those impacted most
- Expand North/South roadways / connectivity
- People in Southern Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties have poor access (especially to lakefront)
- Retain the Region's youth / attract young professionals
- Remove vehicle / train conflicts
- Above/below grade crossings; rethink surface crossings
- Innovation in Gary
- Smarter demolitions in Gary (deconstruction of homes)
- Urban Agriculture
- Ethical Leadership (x2)
- Ethics training for public officials
- SSL TODs
- Increased utilization of Gary / Chicago International Airport
- Affordable Housing
- Mixed income developments
- Enforcement of ADA Accessibility
- Funding / Resources (x6)
- Digital Infrastructure
- Broad band access
- "Raise 21st Century Competency"
- Interurban connectivity
- Trigger Gentrification
- Trams / Streetcars

- Code Enforcement
- Strategic Plan on how to grow
- Regional strategic plan for all communities
- Improvement of policies / local ordinances
- Methods of controlling development / development patterns
- Targeted, regional growth
- Controlled growth
- Strong regional policies
- "Renewal of current resources"
- "Move people to the 'built environment'"
- Complete Streets (infrastructure) (x3)
- Do not limit connectivity
- Cooperation / Collaboration / Communication (x3)
- Collaboration and input from communities and stakeholders
- Connect population centers with job centers and educational institutions via transit
- Budgeting opportunities to strengthen the environment
- Affordable, dense, walkable communities
- Developed and connected trail system
- Redevelopment and restoration of brownfields
- Accessible transportation
- Infill development, redevelopment, reuse of brownfields
- Adaptive reuse and the restoration of urban centers; reduce suburban sprawl
- Strong tax base
- Access to alternative modes of transportation
- A built environment that respects nature and ensures accessibility
- Enhanced SSL connectivity to Chicago to attract jobs and industry to our Region
- Enhanced transit links to Chicago
- Rail access to U.S. 30
- Jobs, infrastructure, and clean energy
- Infrastructure investment
- Workforce development
- Policies that limit sprawl and further disinvestment of communities
- Environmentally conscious industries

- Encourage and provide environmentally friendly job opportunities
- Accessible, managed, and protected environmental assets
- Quality development; "not growth for the sake of growth"
- Redevelopment rather than greenfield development
- Disparities between communities north and south of I-80/94
- Less car-centric development
- Density management; control sprawl
- Thoughtful planning (x2)
- Forward-thinking industries/businesses
- Change in mindset / culture shift
- Creative thinking planners, designers, and engineers; universal design principles
- Realistic municipal goals and visions
- Extension of city utilities to meet demands of the influx of fringe development
- Environmental education
- Smart growth policies; redevelopment; improve infrastructure rather than expand it
- Heightened awareness
- Public involvement
- Equitable access to opportunities and resources
- A cohesive vision to prevent haphazard growth
- Tourism; Region museum showcasing our rich industrial, cultural, and natural history
- Region centers around Gary; Reinvest/redevelop Gary, capitalize on famous people
- Expansion of parks and recreational lands
- Equitable access throughout the built environment
- Education (x2)
- Educate Region youth on conservation
- Educate the public on the importance of growth (smart)
- Educate city councils & planning commissions
- Educational efforts to reach a comprehensive consensus on growth and conservation

Growth + Conservation

Northwestern Indiana
NIRPC
Regional Planning Commission
50 YEARS

Draft goal for 2050:

not all communities want to/will grow

Revitalized region: "Our ~~growth of urban and rural communities~~ features strong centers of civic and economic life."
preservation

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	😐	☹️	☹️	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	☹️	🙂

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Urban Spaces are inspiring human places
- Reconciliation of the communities will create even growth / development patterns
- "Union Mills needs a business center"
- "Cities should be livable"
- Add language to clarify for all individuals
    - Not just those creating the growth
- Instead of "urban and rural" use *all* or *established*
- "Quality of life is enhanced when people share a common good"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Support or lack thereof from local businesses
- Undefined values (too neutral)
    - If we don't define our values, the market will
- "Does civic life and economic life work together?"
- "Don't know who that is a goal for"
- Realistic conversation that this has never been a goal
    - Systemic and generational
- Elected officials are both barriers to growth and providers of growth
- "Too compartmentalized in our tax bases"
- Add "conservation" to statement
- "Fill the donut hole instead of making the donut bigger"
- Economic life exists; "why encourage more?"
- Examples/define "strong centers of civic and economic life"

Summary of negative feedback:
- Changing business climate
    - "going out of business"
    - decline of retail
- "Why do I have to drive to find a walkable neighborhood?"
- Vulnerable/low-income communities are at risk of gentrification
- "Growth at what cost?"
- "It's been to neglected for too long"
- No action based on this goal - lofty
    - "look at what it was 30 years ago"
- Unwillingness to embrace change
    - Only naysayers voice their opinions
- "Nothing developed south of Hwy 6"
    - Don't want congestion
- Brain Drain / high-educated population leaving
- LaPorte County is lagging behind its neighboring counties to the east and west
- "Growth" has harmed historic city centers, resulting in decline and disinvestment
- "Stop fooling us. You want to force people into urban areas when they want to move out"
- "NIRPC shouldn't promulgate achievements when it has ignored the City of Gary"

26

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Smart Development (x2)
- Setting higher standards for new development; tax revenue
- Selective, discouraging undesirable development
- Transit-oriented design
- Strengthen Community Life in the Region
- Revised Parking Requirements
- Revise off-street parking requirements to reduce amount of required parking
- "parking limits (minimum)"
- Define the Region's values
- "Who are we planning for? Whose interest?"
- Ensure Living Wages in the Region
- Transparency with Data
- "without data, it does not exist"
- Affordable Housing
- Retain Region youth by providing resources for job opportunities
- Training through high school or local/community college to stay in the area (ex: East Chicago)
- Political Integrity
- Address LaPorte County being lower in tax and assessment
- As compared to neighboring Lake, Porter, and St. Joe counties
- Prevent Brain Drain
- New thinking (getting out of the comfort zone)
- Redistricting
- Individuals feeling welcomed in the Regional community ("big problem")
- Expansion of English and Research programs at Regional / Satellite universities
- Economic Development (x3)
- "Jobs"
- Safe and Accessible Areas
- Trails, Streets, Sidewalks, Parking / Shuttles
- Sharing resources among communities
- End competition between municipalities

- Strong / Visionary Leadership (x2)
- Maintenance of civic spaces
- Prioritize / Channel / Target growth in the Region
- City Centers accessible via transit system(s)
- Preservation of urban centers (Gary's decaying CBD)
- PPPs
- Walkable Communities
- Commitment
- Urban growth boundary
- Carrot vs. Stick solutions
- Density / Infill Development (x2)
- Density bonuses (Transfer of Development Rights)
- Accessibility to all
- Money / Funding (x3)
- Cooperation / Communication / Coordination (x2)
- Control
- Smart business planning
- Focus development in areas with existing infrastructure
- Focus on community; professional in the role of events, planning, and engagement
- Common good
- Commitment to redevelop and end sprawl
- Prevent sprawl
- Community/event centers
- Identification of existing/planned centers of civic and economic life
- Heightened access to funding for rural communities
- Preservation of agricultural areas
- Ensure that both urban and rural areas are respect each others goals
- Protection and preserve sensitive areas; green and blue spaces zoned as public areas
- Ensure that growth does not negatively impact natural/historical/architectural assets
- Preservation of historic architecture and culture
- Growth; Lake and LaPorte Counties are suffering population loss
- Mixed-use development which fosters and sustains nodes of

civic life
- Promotion of community functions; higher quality job opportunities
- Job training for welfare recipients
- Diversify the Region's economic base
- Equitable distribution of resources, invest in underserved communities, social & environmental justice
- Participation
- Awareness
- Quality of Place; infill, mixed-use development in existing CBDs
- Revitalize/redevelop northern/lakefront communities; end generic sprawl
- Accessibility and affordability
- Realistic visioning
- Proper planning and citizen involvement in the design and development processes
- Asset identification to anchor hubs/centers
- Leaders that listen and respond to the public
- Vitality in dilapidated CBDs; accessible public transportation in rural and urban areas
- School funding to develop a more skilled workforce
- Contribution of our talents
- Healthy and safe neighborhoods
- "Less dollar stores and fast-food restaurants"
- Enhance and strengthen the Livable Centers concept
- Regional collaboration; strengthen through unity
- Planning that focuses on community anchors, not retail
- Contain growth within municipal boundaries; end habitat destruction from sprawl
- Concerted effort
- Residential and commercial activity in downtowns; mixed-use development

27

Growth + Conservation

Draft goal for 2050:

United region: "Our growth is coordinated across the region while respecting the need to protect agricultural and natural resources."

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
:)	:)	:|	:|	:)	:)	:)	:)	:)	:|	:)		:|

Summary: :)

Summary of positive feedback:

- Coordination is of utmost importance
  - Balkanized region
- Use *collaborated* instead of "coordinated"
- Growth should be coordinated *and integrated*
- Promote diversity and mixed incomes through zoning practices
- "Sounds good in theory, but difficult to implement"
- "Protect natural resources and not big agriculture"
- "…and promote redevelopment of existing urban centers"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- "This room doesn't represent everyone"
- "…respecting the need" is too weak
- Infill and brownfield development is important
- "Doesn't impact me as an individual"
  - "…but grocery prices?"
- Protect natural resources, NOT farms
- Challenge - Kankakee Valley River Basin
  - Natural wetlands vs. agriculture (drained)
  - Lively hood of farmers threatened by wetlands
- Constant fighting over encroachment
  - Farms vs. Towns
- Educate the public on growth decisions / plans
- Need to think of the Region as "one"
  - Ex: Indy is unified / united
- Add "and connected corridors" to the end of the statement
- "This is hard to respond too"
- "Take out 'agriculture,' its already babied! We need SUSTAINABLE agriculture"
- "Who and how will this be 'coordinated?'"

Summary of negative feedback:

- Contradictory
  - Agricultural pollutants
  - Growth & Conservation?
- Only "agricultural and natural resources?"
- Doubt that efforts will be coordinated
- The Kankakee & Yellow Rivers
  - Floods too often
  - Neglected
  - Flows too fast
- CAFOs are a threat to our natural resources
- Not respecting natural areas; pipelines, etc.
- "Chaotic use of land and resources. We need a plan"
- "Again with the agenda to force people into urban areas"
- "We do not have good regional planning now"
- "We still operate in silos"
- "Lack of coordination among the local land use (planning) agencies"
- "How can that be done when natural resources keep farmland free of chemical contaminants?"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Better Schools (x2)
- Educate youth on the importance of the Region's natural resources and agricultural heritage
- "Greener" Schools
- Smart Construction / Infrastructure
- "Green Buildings" / LEED Certification
- Reclaim the natural environments our ancestors built atop
- Address pollutants from the agricultural industry
- Representation from people throughout the Region
- Concerted Communication (x3)
- Protect / Manage the Kankakee River and the Yellow River
- Equitable action from the KRBC regarding natural wetlands vs. agriculture (drained)
- Optimism / Support from the Public and the Govt.
- Regional Land Use Plan
- Vibrant Communities Initiative (to give small communities a voice)
- Vision & focus
- Community input
- Non political
- "Give NIRPC more power!"
- Greater incentives
- Residential vs. Commercial
- Property taxes; assessed value
- Branding
- Who are we?
- Who do we want to be!
- Funding / Resources (x3)
- Ethical Governance / Leadership
- Eliminate political corruption
- Education / Information / Knowledge (x3)
- Educate the public of natural and agricultural resources
- Protect rural areas and wetlands

- Prevent greenfield development
- "Growth where people already are"
- "Regional mentality via regulation" (Hammond)
- Buy-in (Hammond)
- "A miracle"
- Communication / Cooperation / Coordination (x6)
- Commitment
- "Not just chasing developers"
- Collaboration, planning, ordinances, and incentives
- Educated board/commission/council members
- Coalitions of communities
- Regional Strategic Growth Plan
- New Leadership
- Decision makers that understand the goal
- Action that helps rural and urban communities work together
- Improved zoning practices; recreational use of the Kankakee River
- Controls that prevent harm to agricultural, natural, and architectural (historic) assets
- Positive change; educated decision makers
- Redevelopment instead of greenfield development
- Understanding of the importance of agricultural and natural (Lake Michigan) resources
- "Non-Zero-Sum Game" growth
- Long-term strategy for growth and preservation
- Controlled growth; less sprawl
- Coordinated communities; sustainable development
- Zoning restrictions based on the identification of natural resources
- Coordinated effort to balance agricultural resources and residential development
- Awareness
- Agroforestry
- Educate on the importance of respecting our resources

- A strong, comprehensive, regional plan to control growth
- Centralized growth through density and/or smart growth policies
- Less privatization of public goods
- Public understanding of the unique needs and challenges of all communities
- Buy-in from relevant stakeholders
- Prevent GMO farming, etc.
- Continued education
- Shared understanding of civic responsibility for everyone's well being
- Maximize existing land uses rather than encroaching on farmland
- Regional understanding of the cost-benefit analysis of sprawling development
- More options for community involvement/engagement; build excitement and consensus
- Balance; offset each new development with a new environmental conservation project
- Implementation of agricultural best practices to protect water resources

Growth + Conservation

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Draft goal for 2050:

Vibrant region: "Our growth [is strong throughout the region] and guided by land use best practices."

flip clauses

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
neutral	positive	negative	positive	neutral	positive	positive	neutral	positive	positive	negative		neutral

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:
- Cohesive communities can achieve the goal
- Should grow sustainably
  - "Sustainable growth"
- Healthy environmental resources should be conserved
  - Prevent further damages from development
- Our "growth" should offer quality places to live, work, and play
- Growth should be carefully managed / coordinated
- "Diversity is vibrancy"

Summary of neutral feedback:
- "Best practices, according to who?"
- Some interests may be prioritized over others
- Value Content (for who, and by what)
- What does "land use best practices" mean? (x5)
- Haphazard subdividing of land
  - Subdivisions are poorly located; often diverting linear water bodies
- Poor channeling of water
  - "too much asphalt going in Lake Michigan"
- 2040 Plan focused too much on the Lakefront, neglecting small LaPorte County communities
- Views change south of U.S. 30
- Use a "stronger" word than "strong"
- What does "strong" mean?
  - Grow up, NOT out
- "Continue to improve in this area"
- "Population growth does not equate to positive growth"
- "I don't know enough to comment on land-use"
- Unsure of how this can be achieved

Summary of negative feedback:
- Antiquated Zoning (Euclidian)
- Undesirable Development
  - "cheap growth"
- "Who says we want growth?"
- Not enough growth throughout the whole Region
- "You call it growth, I call it taking land" – farmer
- Poor storm water management
  - Runoff concerns / issues
- "Best practices? Look at MC developing on wetlands"
- Too lofty - goal can interpreted differently
- Statement is weak, utilize "visionary" language
- Define "strong growth," what does that mean?
- "Easy to establish best practices for your neighbor"
- "Regional growth is not what it can and should be"
- "Sounds like forced conditional use for someone's ground they own and are free to use in America"
- "I don't see it"
- "Is this greenwashing, or will you truly do something to support this?"
- Statements are confusing, should be reworded
  - Sound like "carefully crafted political statements"

30

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Bigger Vision for accomplishing goals (x2)
- Citywide Vision vs. Regional Vision
- "good luck!"
- Exercise the powers of the regional organization (NIRPC)
- Enforce zoning at the municipal scale
- Regional Planning (x2)
- Regional Land Use Plan
- Mixed Use Development (best practices)
- Encourage active transportation
- Less focus on growth
- Interfaith communication
- Quality, managed growth (x3)
- Standards and guidelines for development / Regional growth
- Quality, not quantity
- Public Education
- Respect for our land and guidance for future development
- An inventory of "best practices"
- Economic Viability
- Economic feasibility / financial support
- Collaboration / Coordination / Communication (x4)
- Livable communities
- Higher standards for new development
- Prevent cheap / undesirable development (liquor, XXX, fireworks, etc.)
- Balanced goals
- Identify examples of best practices in play in the Region
- "Simplified version of 2050 Plan that can be handed off to economic development folks"
- Better coordination between communities on growth plans
- Increased focus on land use to build a more attractive Region (less strip malls)
- Preventing large wealthy investors from steering the Region away from its goals

- Reuse/redevelopment and prevention of sprawl
- Improved efforts to attract new businesses/industry and retain existing
- Equitable access to funding sources
- Better planning; avoid what happened to Gary
- Halt municipal annexations; tighten land use zoning in unincorporated areas
- Address auto-centric culture of NWI through cultural interventions and PR
- Elected officials who care; better zoning practices; expansion of greenways/blueways
- Ensure the protection of natural areas through the use of best practices
- Redevelop abandoned/vacant properties before permitting greenfield development
- Mandated best practices
- Better Plan Commission members and elected officials
- Stronger environmental protections
- Residents that respect and appreciate those from other communities
- Sustainable use of resources
- Population growth throughout the Region
- Clean air through increased tree cover; renewed post-industrial lands; parks/gardens
- Bring people together and create healthier neighborhoods through land-use best practices
- Better planned/thoughtful development
- Awareness (x2)
- Understanding of best practices to potentially follow
- Better planned/thoughtful development
- Understanding of best practices to potentially follow
- Agreement on Regional land-use best practices by and for all 41 local jurisdictions
- Developers that react to market and govt. demands;

affordable housing opportunities
- Stronger regulations by county governments on runoff from rural subdivisions
- Responding to/acting on public comments/input
- Buy-in from stakeholders and political leaders
- Uplift/support impoverished areas of the Region
- Shared vision of best practices
- Education and leading by example; funding a number of Livable Centers infrastructure projects
- Confront bad actors in the Region, including industrial agriculture
- Local Planners understanding and adopting land-use best practices
- Development compliance inspections; ensure companies use best practices for business growth

Human + Economic Resources

Draft goal for 2050:

Accessible region: "Our economic opportunities in the region are open to all ~~residents and businesses~~ people."

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	😐	😐	☹️	☹️	🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	😐	🙂		😐

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Individuals move to NWI for the opportunities available
- NWI is inclusive of "all" people
- Goal statement is admirable
- Union Integration would increase opportunities for individuals
- "What is the alternative" (to this statement)?
  - Opportunities should be open to all in the public domain
- Skilled workforce would have access to opportunities
- Utilize more inclusive language in statement
- Should have access to economic *and educational* opportunities
  - Access to quality education
- Opportunities should be "open" *and equitably available* "to all…"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Standards are not high enough to attract businesses
- What are "economic opportunities?"
- What does it mean to "open to all?"
  - What about low income/low skill?
- Not all businesses care about all people
  - No sick time/leave
- What are the Region's economic needs?
  - Wages, employees, etc.
- "Our wonderful culture and community is dying with the closing of small businesses"
- Small businesses are closing in southern LaPorte County; only option is driving long distances to big box stores in Valparaiso
- If not at the Steel Mills, people go to Chicago for work
  - Not many opportunities in the Region
- There is a lack of resources to support all residents

Summary of negative feedback:

- Low standard attract undesirable development
  - Liquor, XXX, Fireworks, etc.
- Repetitive, vague language
- Do we want to be open to all businesses?
  - Mining Mt. Baldy
  - Paper Mills
- "Too lofty"
- Code restrictions hinder development
- "Every time you see a Dollar General, you know there's a problem"
- Loss of manufacturing opportunities is lowering average income and hurting small business
- Water & Septic issues in Hanna / Union Mills
- Not many manufacturing jobs in LaPorte County
- City of LaPorte lacks a vocational school
  - Example: A.K. Smith Area Career Center

Summary of positive feedback continued:

- Unemployment is roughly 4%, there are opportunities for anyone willing to work

Summary of neutral feedback continued:

- Our residents are not "equipped" with the skills to access economic opportunities
    - We need equipped people
- Define "Accessible region"
- "All" businesses? (x2)
    - Really?
- We need a robust transportation network to connect people to opportunities
- Residents of Gay, Hammond, East Chicago, and Lake Station have been left behind
- Unsure of what the region need to achieve this goal

Summary of negative feedback continued:

- Disparities and economic inequalities
- Rural area ridership will continue to decline
    - Aging in place – not dense enough to serve
- Difficult to achieve without adding to existing traffic issues
- Being inclusive of all businesses runs the risk of attracting cheap growth (U.S. 12 in Gary)
- Open for the region campaign, some identifying decal that promotes this in the establishments?

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- A Vision for the type of businesses/industries the Region seeks to attain
- Higher development standards (x2)
- Prevent haphazard subdivision development
- Education/Mentoring/Training Opportunities (x4)
- Classes/degrees/certifications in the skillsets needed for the Region's job market (skill training)
- Public Transportation / Transit (x2)
- Regional and/or State Marketing (x2)
- Equitable access to retail
- Marketing job and business growth to heighten public awareness of opportunities
- Well-developed tourism industry
- Preserve community feel / culture
- Equitable Housing Opportunities
- Understanding of our history / settlement
- 20 CFR 435 (Chicago)
- "Uniform administrative requirements for grants and agreements with institutions of higher education, hospitals, other non-profit organizations, and commercial organizations"
- Expedited Trains / Infrastructure
- Both to Chicago and within Region communities
- Better connections / access to SSL
- Increase and expand opportunities for all education and skills / trades (x5)
- Jobs & Apprenticeships & Skilled Craftsmen
- DWD "Skill Up" Grant
- Reduced dependency on cars
- Increased frequency of trips to Chicago via Dash (Valparaiso)
- Assess and clarify the needs of residents and businesses
- Connected communities (x2)
- Improved connectivity between housing, job opportunities, and educational facilities
- "Qualification of community standards for businesses"
- Branding

- Attract young and talented people / professionals
- Increased use of rideshare services (Lyft, Uber, etc.)
- Rural / sprawling areas; overnight service; fills on/off periods; individuals with disabilities
- Land use coordination
- Active (not vocal) residents
- Welcoming of all to live, work, play, and visit
- Thoughtful economic development; less strip malls and more access to opportunities
- Fair wage employment
- Understanding areas of growth to make transportation connections
- ADA compliance (x3)
- When community leaders don't take accessibility seriously, neither do businesses
- A large segment of population cannot fully participate
- Continued development of alternative fuel corridors and public buy-in
- Equitable education
- Prevention of development that threatens environmental health
- Heighten awareness of opportunities for residents and businesses
- Instill notion that helping other communities helps one's own community
- Support home-grown economic development; stop waiting for outside investors, instead invest in youth (education) to build their own opportunities
- Enhanced access to job opportunities
- Acceptance/tolerance of each others' differences
- Embrace qualified refugees to satisfy labor opportunities that Region residents avoid
- Raise the Region's economic viability
- Public awareness
- Better transit options to link people and opportunities
- Social and environmental justice
- Enhanced employment opportunities (x4)

- Wider range of career choices
- Dignified work opportunities; living/higher wages; thriving businesses
- Strong public schools, job training, and workforce development opportunities
- End employer biases
- Equity in the qualifications of residents to take advantage of opportunities
- Understanding of and commitment to culture, equity, and inclusion practices/policies
- Inclusivity and mindfulness of modes of access
- Realize that everyone and everything should be connected
- Support and funding of education
- Inclusive development; open opportunities for all
- Better outreach programs
- Increased access to transportation; travel choice
- Family friendliness; development that caters to youth; reduce crime/drug use for a family-friendly Region
- Address overt and covert prejudices
- Enhanced public transportation systems
- Elimination of barriers of race, gender, ethnicity, and class
- Commit to operating as a collective unit to drive economic opportunities across the Region
- Alliance between teachers and businesses that ensures students have the education/skills to enter the workforce
- Emphasize escape from poverty through investments in homes and financial savings
- Long-term employment opportunities; our Regional industries are dying
- Attract small businesses, light manufacturing, niche retail, and various residential options
- Retail-shed analysis

Human + Economic Resources

Draft goal for 2050:

Revitalized region: "Our economy is reinforced through expanded opportunities for ~~continuous~~ *sustainable* personal and ~~entrepreneurial~~ *business* growth."

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🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	☹️	🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂		😐

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Entrepreneurial growth can lead to personal growth
- Case studies may help the public understand the goal
- Opportunities should be expanded and *accessible*
- Change "expanded" to *diversified*
- Lifelong learning offers continuous personal growth
- Add "civic engagement" to the statement
- "WJOB and Purdue are doing good, cooperative things to reach this goal"
- "There are opportunities available and more people should take advantage of them"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Explore opportunities that assist small businesses
- Do we want to "reinforce" the existing economy?
  - "put the word 'diversify' in there"
- What part of "our economy?"
  - ~33% live in poverty
- Focus on an economy for everyone
- Goal requires a paradigm shift
  - "Pull yourself up" needs to change
- Local businesses are trying to grow, but cannot succeed
- Diverse set of counties / needs
- "Put where goats can eat it"
- What does "expanded" mean?
  - Business growth?
  - Incentives? Training?

Summary of negative feedback:

- "Brain Drain"
- Elitist language
- Big Box like Walmart and Meijer are creating food deserts and killing small businesses
- "Does this include healthcare?"
  - Sale of non-profit hospital has increased healthcare costs dramatically
  - Some LaPorte County residents go to Ft. Wayne for healthcare
- Difficult to understand
  - Needs breakdown / further definition
- Lacking currently; opportunities are limited
- Segregation gives rise to disparities
- Disinvestment of public education
- Vague; use stronger language
- None of our communities know how to redevelop
- "Continuous growth is not sustainable - there will be a reckoning and we won't be prepared"
- "Growth is only happening in affluent cities"
- "Not everyone will benefit"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Promote growth of existing businesses (x2)
- Small Business Growth
- NIRPC Grant Writing Opportunity
- Work with the Region's Universities
- Offer degrees/certificates in the fields/skills that Regional jobs demand
- Provide assistance to small businesses
- Encourage universities to invest more in on-campus housing (creating TIF districts)
- "16 schools and communities…" ????
- Living Wages (x2)
- "the economy people actually want to live in"
- Entrepreneurial Assistance
- Need access to loans, grants, credit, etc.
- An inclusive economy
- Venture Capital
- Opportunities for Disabled Individuals
- Training (career)
- Address Food Deserts
- Affordable Healthcare
- High-speed internet access for all
- Instill work ethic in the Region's youth (x2)
- Education / Job Training (x6)
- Trades (skilled)
- Address "Brain Drain"
- Attract & retain young professionals (x3)
- Innovation and more incubators (x2)
- Quantitative methods for understanding the Region's diverse range of needs
- Enhancement of Public Education (x2)
- Equal educational tools & quality in all Region schools
- "Feedback from business to 'direct' the personal growth"
- Diversity / Inclusion / Equity (social) (x2)

- Entrepreneurial Education
- Courses via HS or local colleges / universities
- Coordination of localities (x2)
- Recognition of harm
- Understanding of oppressed / impoverished groups
- "Pathways to resources"
- Diverse economic base
- Not relying on one sector
- Walkable Places
- Pedestrian access to employment and shopping
- Pullback from Big Box stores; "what's next?"
- Land Assembly
- "Bring shop class back to High Schools"
- Development in older communities with highway access
- Provide assistance to townships / unincorporated areas
- Transit connections to educational centers
- Incentives to attract more desirable businesses/employment opportunities
- Insure success of economy by keeping residents informed of new local businesses
- Understand and analyze areas where growth is likely to occur
- Work together
- Adequate funding
- Sustainable science/research parks
- Diverse economy and support for entrepreneurship & innovation
- Encouraging new businesses/industries
- Financial support of entrepreneurship and education (non-traditional classes that promote creativity)
- Prevent brain drain through investment in our public universities (campus housing, tech incubators, etc.)
- Small business development (x2)
- Small business loans/assistance/incentives
- Public awareness of opportunities

- Collaboration between government and businesses for benefit of all Regionites
- ARTS!
- Changes to be made with regard to policies and laws
- Less emphasis on a college education; more emphasis on vocational training
- Investment in education (x3)
- Lifelong learning
- Job training coupled with job creation
- Fewer taxes and restrictions on small business startups
- Culture shift - "turning our eyes away from Indy to our own future"
- Collaboration between educational and training institutions
- Diverse educational opportunities that provide students with more career choices

Human + Economic Resources

Draft goal for 2050:

potential (can't guarantee everyone will win)

United region: "Our economic growth strategy is coordinated ~~for the~~^benefit of all residents and businesses."

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🙂	🙂	😐	☹️	😐	🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂		😐

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback: 🙂

- Need businesses for a healthy economy
- Need empowered young people to grow our Region
- "Rural areas in southern LaPorte County need NIRPC's help"
  - "fighting tooth and nail to get water / sewer to Wanatah and La Crosse"
- Say "all" instead of "all residents and businesses" **(x2)**
  - More inclusive language
  - Amazon example
- Incorporate "mutual prosperity" in the statement
- Growth strategy should be "diverse and strategic"
- Continuous and affordable accessibility
- Benefits should be *long-term*
  - Revise statement to include this language
- "Not everyone can be the same thing, that's what makes our Region so great is that we are different"
- Everyone needs to benefit from the strategy
- Great goal

Summary of neutral feedback: 😐

- Remove "all" in goal statement
- People/locals are the center of the tourism economy
- Toll road is too expensive
  - Diverts traffic to 6, 12, 20
- "Coordinated" by who?
  - Govt.?
- Where do NWI Forum and RDA plans fit in?
- Replace "residents" with *people*
- Goal can't be achieved if development is decided in local/regional cliques, outside of public circles

Summary of negative feedback: ☹️

- South Shore Line
  - "communities aren't all on board"
- "Focus on the people who live here, not just bringing in business"
- "Be careful what you wish for!"
  - Growth on U.S. 30 was haphazard & w/o intention; resulted in bigger problems
- "The Region's ≠ Our"
  - "Our" sounds like NIRPC perspective
- Unrealistic. Someone will lose, not everyone will win
- It will be difficult to ensure that everyone will benefit
- "Without good education, we are destined for mediocrity at best"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Promote social equity (x3)
- Diversify the Region's economic base
- "don't put all the eggs in one basket"
- Exercise NIRPC's leadership role
- Education/Training/Mentoring/Coaching
- All ages and demographics
- "Continue to cultivate"
- Access roads on U.S. 30 and other major corridors
- Subsidies to develop communication technology in rural areas
- Broad-Band access in rural areas south, along 80/94
- Smart growth on U.S. 30 and other major corridors
- More access roads on U.S. 30
- Retain and Empower the Region's youth
- Youth that takes pride in their community; make change happen
- NIRPC to play a larger role in rural areas
- Water / sewer infrastructure
- Communications technology
- Support of small / disadvantaged business (x2)
- Buy local; reduced sales tax for local purchases
- Assistance for small businesses
- Connections to transit options
- PPPs
- Leadership
- Revenue Sharing
- Continued Education
- Open-mindedness
- Stand back and look at the bigger picture
- Feedback from businesses
- Enforceable collective bargaining across communities
- One job database
- Employers & employees

- Healthcare access and education
- Development of regional impact
- Measures to help determine tax incentives
- "Qualification of community standards for businesses"
- Senior housing in rural areas
- Affordability
- Encouragement/legislation for the inclusion of all groups (x2)
- Economic development along the SSL
- Living Wages
- Enhanced access
- Education (x2)
- Enhanced and inclusive education system
- Ensure the compliance with environmental protection laws
- Cooperation between all communities
- Eliminate competition between communities
- Ensure municipalities participate in regional planning efforts
- Attract businesses that are beneficial to our local economy
- Evidence that everyone will benefit
- Intergovernmental coordination to achieve local economic development planning
- Regional economic development, redevelopment, and community development
- ARTS!
- Address hypocrisy and racism in our Region
- Legislation that ensures businesses meet the needs of all
- Strategies that must pass the "all inclusive sniff test," or at least strive to
- Education and job training for residents to take advantage of new economic opportunities
- Focus on proximity/access to Chicago to attract high-paying, environmentally clean jobs
- Hotels, Metro Center Lodges on the lakefront, ferry service to Chicago, etc.
- Equitable distribution of resources to residents

- Reduction of competition between municipalities and the zero-sum game mentality
- Reduction of large tax breaks, no improvements seen in our poorest neighborhoods
- Focus on quality of place to draw in consumers, workers, and businesses

Human + Economic Resources

Northwestern Indiana NRPC Regional Planning Commission

Draft goal for 2050:

Vibrant region: "Our economy is robust, diversified, and ~~connected~~ to sustain our quality of life and place."
interconnected

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🙂	🙂	😐	😐	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂		😐

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- The environment is essential to quality of life and place
- Tourism would increase spending and strengthen our economy
- "Great goal!"

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Improved Quality of Life, not "sustained" (x2)
  - REVISE
- Need good healthcare to have a higher Quality of life
- What does "Quality of Life" mean?
- "Diversified" how?
- What does "quality of place" mean?
- "The only thing the Region likes to do is work, what do they do for fun?"
- What are we "connected" to? (x2)
- Uncertain whether goal refers to present or future
- "Certain communities are performing well, other not so much"

Summary of negative feedback:

- A robust economy is "unrealistic"
- In terms of quality, public schools are unequitable
  - "School quality is divided"
- "Quality of place? Look at poor road conditions!"
- "Sustained" is not a good word
  - *Robust, regenerative, enhanced*
- What does "connected" mean?
  - "I don't like that word"
- "For some but not for all"
- A lot packed into statement - will take a lot of effort to achieve this

39

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Living Wages (x2)
- $12/hr is a livable wage for one person
- Benefits from businesses for part-time work
- Equal Economic Opportunities
- Expanded healthcare network in LaPorte County
- Focus on the environment
- Tourism
- Higher quality public schools
- Collaboration amongst counties & municipalities (x2)
- Prevent "Brain Drain"
- Understanding of various community cultures
- Different backgrounds
- Promote and enforce sustainable practices
- Recognizing and understanding the impacts of small businesses on communities
- "Removal of things that cause decay"
- "Get rid of the 900 lb. Gorilla"
- Create vibrant, revitalized areas
- Make it attractive and tie it to amenities
- Increased cultural diversity
- Trustworthy Leadership (x2)
- Community Interest
- Implementation of ADA transition plans at the local level (ADA compliance)
- Lifelong Learning
- Amenities around job centers
- Fun things to do; not exclusively work
- Entertainment, restaurants, night-life, recreation etc.
- Funding (x2)
- Communication / Cooperation / Coordination (x2)
- Proactive Marketing (x2)
- Sustainable energy use and stricter environmental protections for air and water

- Enhanced education and access to opportunities   energy
- Fair/living wages
- Long-term thinking/forecasting/planning
- Diverse businesses that thrive without the steel industry
- A strong plan
- Cooperation and funding sources
- Thriving businesses
- Shift in our values/beliefs
- Environmental sustainability
- Continued support of manufacturing jobs
- SSL extension to Valparaiso and double track between Gary and Michigan City
- Creative thinking and environmentally conscious businesses
- Promote quality of life to spur economic development
- Methods to measure/quantify robustness, diversity, and connectedness of the economy
- Transit; educational opportunities; reduction in crime and poverty
- Stronger public education system (x2)
- ARTS!
- Design communities that provide opportunities to live, work, play and happily age in place
- Leadership that achieves what needs to be done
- Diverse economic opportunities; selective economic development (avoiding eggs all in one basket)
- Reduce dependency on manufacturing; embrace shifting economy through education and training
- New leaders; less favoritism/nepotism among public officials
- Build on our Regional strengths, providing more opportunities to more people/communities
- Attract new sectors that focus on sustainable operation and providing entry level job opportunities
- Tourism industry providing management and service jobs
- Shift from manufacturing and toward technology/renewable

Stewardship + Governance

Draft goal for 2050:

Accessible region: "Our ~~leadership in the~~ region focuses on ensuring access to opportunities by removing ^and overcoming barriers and obstacles."

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🙂	🙂	☹️	🙂	😐	🙂	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂		

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Younger leadership is welcomed and encouraged
- Dependent on who is in office at the time
  - "it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission"
- Sometimes barriers and obstacles make us better
- Include citizens
  - "Our leadership and citizens in the region…"
- Everyone should be included in the goal
  - Access for everyone
- Goal can be achieved if citizens are engaged
- The phrase "by removing barriers and obstacles" should precede the word "opportunities" in the statement
  - Need emphasis on "opportunities"
- "I like it."
- Add *equitable* to the statement

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Who are opportunities accessible to? (x2)
- Lacking a bus system is a void, not a barrier
- An example of the thinking behind the goal statement would be beneficial
- "This is happening already with low/no taxes and low/no regulation"
- Leadership is often territorial and imposes barriers
  - Municipalities vs. Counties
- What do "barrier and obstacles" mean? (x3)
  - (physical, social, etc.)
- "Whose perspective?"
- Overly general statement
- Which "opportunities?"
- We can do more / build new opportunities to be more accessible
- "Do we have the capability to carry this goal out?"
- Show proof, cite examples
- Specify barriers & obstacles
- Need definition and understanding of what "ensured access" really means for the community

Summary of negative feedback:

- Obstacles / barriers to access opportunities
  - Should be easier to get things done
- What does "stewardship" mean?
- "Obstacles" sounds too negative
- "Don't want this future"
- Food deserts are a big issue
- Latent demand in areas where there is no other infrastructure like sewer and water
  - ex: septics in Union Township
- Not just "remove," but provide some "on-ramps" to success
- Obstacles have been removed in some areas and still no progress.
- "They rank a D- in recognizing and addressing barriers and obstacles to citizens with disabilities"
- This is a wishy washy goal
- "The government is the biggest obstacle to development in this area; little kingdoms of administration and NIRPC is leading the charge"
- "Nope, I don't see it"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Identify barriers
- Remove obstacles/barriers to opportunity access (x3)
- Transportation, education, changing mindset, location, etc.
- Transparency in Local Governments
- Access to municipalities/governments
- Equitable resource allocation
- Establish job training programs
- Be proactive, not reactive
- Work with state and federal government
- Issues are not local/regional alone
- Coordinated leadership (x3)
- Better communication between all levels of Govt.
- More "town hall" / public meetings with elected officials
- Seamless interaction between urban and rural spaces / places
- Increased engagement / awareness / education (x4)
- Public Transit
- Alternative transportation (travel choice)
- Bike share
- Good Stewardship
- Civility – Civics – Good Citizenship (training)
- Empathy
- How to address NIMBYs
- Strong / Professional Leadership (x2)
- Universal design guidelines / best practices
- Local government assistance from NIRPC
- Dedicated staff member to help with grant writing
- Access to / upgraded infrastructure
- Water, waste water, etc.
- "worried about hitting a limit on growth with IDEM"
- Create opportunities
- Smart growth
- Breakdown walls

- More sidewalks and transit
- Forward thinking leadership
- Collaboration between politicians
- New opportunities for smaller communities to coordinate with larger communities
- Work with school communities, particularly in underserved and low-income areas
- Unigov
- Additional Cooperation
- Collaboration between communities
- Corruption free local government
- Provide equal opportunities in education (e.g. schools and teachers)
- Bipartisanship and transparency
- Job opportunities with higher/livable wages
- Ethical training and practices
- More governmental structures that organize around functions, at the regional level
- Elected officials and appointed officials to be educated on their duties
- Understanding what these barriers and obstacles are and who is in charge of removing them
- Listen to people not just those wanting to capitalize on recourses
- Leadership to reach out to residents facing the most barriers when deciding what is needed to ensure greater access
- Leaders willing to do something larger than themselves
- Leaders with vision and goals to improve the quality of life
- Implement a term limit based on merit
- New leaders
- Remove corrupt leaders
- Clear understanding of the needs of underserved communities, cooperation in follow through of meeting those needs

- Remove corrupt leaders and those who cause balkanization
- Passionate community leaders become regional leaders and regional best practices
- New leadership that focuses on creating a thriving region in the 21st century, social and economic
- The Promise Program in Michigan City is a good start

Stewardship + Governance

Draft goal for 2050:

Revitalized region: "Our leadership across the region strives [leaders strive] to collaborate on efforts to stimulate [energize] our region [communities]."

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🙂	🙂	😐	😐	☹️	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂		

Summary:

🙂 **Summary of positive feedback:**

- Success of United Way of LaPorte County
  - Banks coming together
- "Who are we collaborating with?"
- Leadership should *continuously collaborate*
- *Reinvent / reinvest* our region; rather than "stimulate"
- Change statement to read: "Our leadership across the region *collaborates* on efforts to stimulate our region"
  - Fewer words makes for better language

😐 **Summary of neutral feedback:**

- Collaboration is important, however, a leader should be identified
  - Regional organization shall lead
- Try "our citizens embrace collaboration" instead
  - Wiggle word
- Townships are obsolete
- The Region lacks a "hub city"
  - No core / center
- Competition between communities over resources
- Stimulate our region in what way?
  - Economically? Personal growth?
- …stimulate *entire* region
- What are we "stimulating?" (x3)
  - Growth? QoL?
- "We still need work on this one. Our 'region' I feel is still separated in NWI"
- 41 different cities and towns. Is this a strength or weakness?

☹️ **Summary of negative feedback:**

- Who will lead? How will leadership be conducted?
- "Not happening fast enough"
- '…across the region' "ruffled feathers" with Westville residents
- LaPorte Co. leadership not likely to replicate Porter and Lake Co. practices
  - Lake & Porter "too aggressive"
- Statement is too broad, needs to be better defined
- "Strives" sounds like a 'work in progress' more than a goal
- Charles is not motivated by this statement
- Remove the second reference to "region"
- "Stimulate? More like desperation grasping at straws with old tired ideas; open your eyes and see the great world before us"
- "Nope. Developers are too greedy and parochial"
- Meaningless statement
- Money from the region being wasted on other areas of the state while our infrastructure crumbles
- "Rarely."
- "Self centered in their area, otherwise Gary wouldn't be the way it is. Sports Authority in Indianapolis where pacers and Colts are located should share some of their tax revenue with Gary, I don't think so. But Gary has to disburse casino revenue to other areas and as a result not have tax revenue for to fund school system. To attract investors jobs"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Collaboration between business and government (x2)
- Even and equitable growth / development
- Centralized development; discourage sprawl
- Bring various entities together
- Look to United Way as case study
- Increased role of the Art Community in the Region
- "Less bickering / dickering"
- Regional vision / consensus
- Non Political Leadership
- Faith-based, govt., civic, etc.
- Youth Engagement
- Education (x2)
- Ethics
- Strong Leadership (x2)
- Collaboration / communication between communities (x6)
- Community forums to discuss regional improvements
- Cultivate leaders and have them teach others and age diversity
- Leadership that truly believe that what helps one area should not hurt the surrounding areas
- Euphemism for sprawl
- Attract young families
- Ensure that these efforts are sound and not destructive of the region's assets
- Reduce number of local government units
- People who can see the big picture
- Collaboration and compromise
- Build on the positives and eliminate the competition between communities
- Embrace solar, wind, and other non-polluting energy projects
- Leaders need to consider our unique environment; do not repeat the past environmental destruction
- NIRPC leading collaboration; strong leadership

- Public awareness
- Strong positive interaction between communities
- "Promote a political culture that rewards leaders who think regionally; A public finance system that works with more win-wins"
- An action plan and shared verbal and written commitment from leaders
- Open discussions and less division in the government
- "More children activities, recreational programs; Educate communities on pressing issues and how it effects communities (i.e. lead - EPA involvement)"
- Diverse group of people at the table
- Leaders willing to do something larger than themselves
- Remove political rivalries / reduce competition between municipalities (zero-sum game mentality)

Stewardship + Governance

Draft goal for 2050:

United region: "Our ~~leadership across the region promotes~~ inclusivity ~~through good regional planning and strategic investments.~~"

leaders promote

and ethics.

inclusiveness and collaboration

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	😐	🙂	😐	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	😐	😐		

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback: 🙂

- NWI Forum does a good job spreading opportunities across the Region
- Leadership should work towards inclusivity, NOT just "promote" it
  - Use "enforce" instead
- Statement should be inclusive of religious leaders and stakeholders
- The people should have their voices heard

Summary of neutral feedback: 😐

- What is "good" regional planning? (x2)
  - Who defines "good?"
- Who is making the plans?
- "Picture three white guys in a room"
- "So many gaps"
- "Not sure any part of the Region is willing to give up a piece of the pie to make the whole region viable"
  - Everyone is trying to hoard the pie
- What does "strategic investments" mean?
- Explain "inclusivity" – subjective term, too broad
  - World Views; "give it structure"
- Amazon example (Chesterton)
- Better use of tax dollars
  - "41 versions of the same thing"
- Use *inclusiveness* instead of "inclusivity"
- Cite examples; evidence / proof

Summary of negative feedback: ☹️

- Inclusivity can be promoted by more than good planning and strategic investments (incomplete statement)
  - Statement is "flat"
- "Bring it down to the level of human beings"
- Commission doesn't represent the southern half of counties well enough
- Badly worded statement
- "They should be doing that anyway"
- "Our strategic planning is advisory at best and does not have the powers of suasion that it should have to allow a truly regional, strategic plan and investment scheme"
- "We all know its inside ball all the time; get what you can get for yourself and the others can go pound sand"
- The people have spoken, you just aren't listening

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Require leaders to attend NIRPC meetings
- Establish a more accommodating transit network
- Leverage Chicago, without depending on it
- Public Participation from community members
- Exercise our local labor force on regional projects
- Union and minority labor resources; apprenticeship programs
- Better representation of communities in southern half of Region
- Representatives from southern communities on NIRPC board
- Low interest loans
- Investment in the Marquette Plan
- Human inclusivity
- Work together with unified voice
- Elected officials ethics training
- Merged municipalities ("41 is too many")
- "41 is too many!" (ex: Pottawatomie Park merger w/ Michigan City)
- Shared services
- Transit, utilities, etc.
- Professional Leadership
- Investigate the potential of a unigov
- Tools to merge different boards and services (territories)
- Regional and local outreach
- Job / Skill Training
- LaPorte County has high unemployment
- Agreement on what strategic investment means
- Corporate financial assistance or programs to educate the underemployed
- NWI to take responsibility for our economy and not ask the rest of the state for financial assistance
- New and existing is accessible to all
- Engaging those most directly impacted by the decisions they make

- Improved education and outreach
- Collaborate on reducing cost within transportation
- Improve diversity initiatives and remove obstacles where identified
- Efforts honest and non-deceptive
- Better trained elected and appointed officials and planning staff
- Cooperation
- Invest in the best PUBLIC education systems possible
- Balanced distribution of appropriations to all socio-economic levels with a goal of bringing them up
- Strong leadership, common goals, and visionary planners
- Understanding of culture, equity, and inclusion
- Actual planning across the region and not just the urban centers
- Region culture /mentality shift; change of perception
- To define what inclusivity means and at what stages are people being included
- Leaders willing to do something larger than themselves
- Unigov
- Collaboration
- More voices at the table and improved communication
- Comprehensive, inter-jurisdictional transit planning that offers modes of transportation that work for all segments of the Region's population, and is accessible for all.

Stewardship + Governance

Draft goal for 2050:

Vibrant region: "Our leadership across the region champions ~~efficient~~ uses of resources for maximum benefit to all ~~residents and businesses.~~"

efficient and effective?

Innovative?

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
☺	☺	☹	☺	😐	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		

Summary: ☺

Summary of positive feedback:

- Broaden definition of resources
  - Time, talent, and treasure (Steel City Academy)
- Use *equitable allocation of resources* instead of "efficient uses"
  - Equity is important; fair use of resources
- "I like it."
- Good goal
- Valparaiso has been a shining example

Summary of neutral feedback:

- NIRPC should take credit for positive accomplishments
  - "not all doom and gloom"
- LaPorte Co. never knows what is going on in the other counties
- What does "resources" mean? (x2)
- What does "efficient uses" mean?
  - Who decides?
- What does "maximum benefit" mean?
  - Equity?
- Show proof, cite examples
- Some areas are really good at this. Others are really bad.

Summary of negative feedback:

- "We won't have quality of life if we don't focus on people"
- LaPorte County not getting its fair share
- Too much red tape
- "The casino (Blue Chip) has helped pay for things, but only in Michigan City"
- Loss of the Star Plaza Theater will hurt the Region's economy
- Is efficiency a good thing?
  - Tech – eliminating jobs
- Statement sounds like it "should be the united region's goal"
- No such thing as maximum benefit to all
  - Some will be excluded
- 41 different cities and towns with different tax structures, duplicative resources, and redundancies

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Share best practices amongst communities
- NIRPC should take credit for Regional improvements
- Public Education
- The Role of NIRPC in our communities
- Exercise our local labor force on regional projects
- Union and minority labor resources; apprenticeship programs
- Equitable distribution of resources amongst the Region's counties
- Build on Regional successes
- SSL Double Track – example of Regional collaboration
- Cost benefit analysis
- "…benefit to all"
- Mutual prosperity of residents and business (Chesterton)
- Leadership with Integrity (x2)
- Focused / Realistic / Prioritized resources
- Maintain and manage
- Coordination (x2)
- Innovative thinking (outside of the box)
- Regional bus service
- More should be done to ensure that transportation projects are solid choices that will help
- Include residents and businesses in the decision making process
- Stop duplication of resources across the region
- Continued development
- Strong leaders who believe in making things better for future generations
- Hire an economist to do the algorithms that show for each decision a cost and benefit to better inform the decisions made
- Equality
- Identify resources throughout the region and how they can be leverage

- Listen to the people, not just the ones with the money
- Leaders willing to do something larger than themselves
- Providing a means for "people and businesses" to interact and listen to each others' concerns, and promote understanding of mutual goals and benefits
- Transparent governance and accountability to the regions citizens

48

Draft goal for 2050:

Accessible region: "Our transportation networks are ~~modernized~~ to provide access ~~for all users no matter of ability or travel choice.~~"

unified

modernized and maintained

mobility, and travel choice for all users

for all no matter of ability, income, or travel choice

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	😐	😐	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂		

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- Travel choices increase accessibility (x2)
- "all users…travel choice"
  - Great!
  - But don't get crazy: parachute example (Chesterton)
- Access for all is more inclusive language
  - Remove "users" from statement
- Transit is perceived as a non-earning expense to governments, but actually better transit opportunities and connectivity promote good economic development

Summary of neutral feedback:

- "Modernized" reads as wider roads
- Need for a public transit focus
  - Highways are sufficient
- No toll roads
- "Those who have, must help those who have not"
- Other than Michigan City, Hudson Lake may be the only LaPorte Co. community to benefit from SSL double track
- What does "modernized" mean? (x2)
- No matter of ability… "to pay or ADA"
  - Expand on ability
- Medicaid transportation
- "Why are buses empty?"
- Our transportation networks are not interconnected
- "We don't have the resources" ($)
- Statement sounds disingenuous

Summary of negative feedback:

- AVs
- Half BRT
- No land-use aspect
- Comments/complaints from the public are often discarded/overlooked
- Goal does not include the southern part of the counties at all; no buses, etc. – just cars
- Uber, and other vehicle sharing, could work in rural communities, however most lack the capabilities
  - Poor internet access / speeds; not everyone has smartphones
- Prohibitively expensive
- "Issues with brokerages and breaking down the opportunities to coordinate services in the Region"
- No connectivity to southern communities
  - Anything south of U.S. 30

Summary of positive feedback continued:

Summary of neutral feedback continued:

- Need to focus on accessibility, not just mobility
  - Connectivity should be increased
- "With the economic downturn came the collapse of funding for roads and bridges. The main thoroughfares need help. Thank the General Assembly for changing"
- What does this involve?
- "Many blind and poor-vision individuals have the need for proper public transportation. The Blind Social Center of Gary will be submitting a comprehensive plan for your review in the near future. Contact Ms. Blair"
- I wouldn't consider the region modernized in transportation. Keeping up.
- The Obama Library is coming, take advantage of proximity to Chicago with a state of the art transportation center. Instead of making a spur in Dyer to bypass Gary, build Gary up first
- Infrastructure around the region was not properly developed for most public transit. The largest benefit I could see is improved ways to get in and out of Chicago. Allowing for more people to move to Indiana allowing a greater source of income.

Summary of negative feedback continued:

- Not just access, *efficiency* too
- "Goal doesn't tell me anything about improvements that will make that happen or the status of current service that lead to the formation of that goal"
- "Modernized" is too dated of a word
- "Northwest Indiana has the worst public transit I have seen in my 70 years of living in different cities. The exception is the good South Shore commuter train to Chicago. I have always been partially sighted and i have never been able to drive. I have very little hope for bus transit in Northwest Indiana because people cannot cooperate here"
- "Not for lower / working classes"
- We all know autonomous is coming shortly and we are focusing on trains, really?
- Statement is vague
- We are completely behind the times when it comes to commute options into the city. Although we have a train it is very limited. We need more express options to make that commute more realistic to travel into work on time. We also need additional time options as the times offered are EXTREMELY limited!
- The region is currently too focused on highways and drivability. Many areas are completely unwalkable.

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Updated/Modernized Transportation Network (x4)
- Cater toward vehicle sharing transportation
- More electric charging stations
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
- Public Transportation (x4)
- High ridership
- Affordable fares (based on wages/earnings)
- Transportation networks with SSL connections
- AM, PM, and late-PM service
- Dedicated travel lanes
- HOV and Bike lanes
- Honest transparency / dialogue
- Access to Public Transportation (x2)
- Travel choice for communities in the southern half of the counties
- Communication / Cooperation (x3)
- Reduced dependency on cars
- Rails to Trails
- Increased / enhanced bus transit service (x2)
- Connections between public transit and employment opportunities
- Provide roundtrip transit opportunities
- Compromise efficiency to achieve access to all
- Establish connections for all
- Electric vehicles and infrastructure (charging stations)
- Shared roads
- Curitiba, Brazil (Chesterton)
- Enhancement of existing transportation infrastructure
- Innovative Transportation
- Decreased operating and energy costs
- Youth education on energy and electricity
- Encourage alternative methods of transportation
- Balance of future (Steel City Academy)
- New / innovative technology (x2)
- Continuous / Integrated / Unified Transit
- Transit that operates across municipal boundaries
- Dense centers of activity

- ADA accessible transportation
- A more unified approach to transportation
- Provide financial assistance to Great Lakes Basin Transportation projects
- "Fall out of love with cars" (x3)
- Culture-shift in travel choice
- Improve light rail for commuter transit to urban centers
- Focus on public transportation and walkability
- Anticipate driverless vehicles / a massive disruption in the trucking industry
- Municipal cooperation and an agreed comprehensive plan to govern all communities
- More sidewalks and transit
- Double track South Shore
- Funding (x13)
- Provide new technology in route service connecting trip planning
- Stay on top of everything that is available when purchasing new accessible vehicles for the region
- Public transportation to reduce road use and congestion
- Divert to alternative fuels in order to mitigate this problem
- Several types of tri-county interconnect
- Create more 4-lane arterials like Ridge Rd, Grant St, Broadway, Willowcreek Rd, etc.
- Increase in bus services throughout the region
- Encourage safe bicycling to bus and train stations from anywhere in the area—urban or rural
- Expand public transit options, particularly in Porter County
- Green vehicles available to all
- Less automobile-centric development
- Partnerships
- Support for developing a modern transportation network
- Keep up existing infrastructure, not overdevelop systems for capacity, instead employ new movement sciences
- Joint/expanded transit routes that make it easy for passengers to cross over county lines to get where they need to go

- resources
- Infrastructure development
- Improve the policies and restrictions that limit transportation for all
- More sidewalks and bike paths, and smarter roads
- Offer accessible, affordable systems of transportation, without need to call 24-48 hours in advance. The infrastructure is equitable, can be used by all with no degree of separation
- Access for all users
- Cross community collaboration to improve connectivity and updated facilities
- Invest in bus service
- Input from residents of all abilities
- More transportation option / travel choice
- Redo Gary Metro Center and develop Highway Oasis over the Indiana Toll Road
- Better access to trains to Chicago from Rt. 30
- Secure funding commitments through federal and/or state grants for regionally significant arterial improvements identified by NIRPC
- More bike lanes
- Continued support for the maintenance and improvement of existing infrastructure
- A sustainable financing plan that all communities throughout NWI can embrace and support
- Prioritize the maintenance of the existing network over network expansion. Duplicative or redundant bus transit services should be combined. NIRPC should undertake comprehensive analysis of transit needs, including people with disabilities
- Keep construction to a minimum to allow people to travel efficiently
- Effective use of existing assets and continuing proper maintenance
- TOD and other sustainable approaches to transportation at the forefront of every community

51

Transportation

Draft goal for 2050:

Revitalized region: "Our transportation networks are maintained and managed to ~~perform~~ *enhanced* to best practices and standards."

implement

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
🙂	🙂	😐	☹️	😐	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	🙂	😐		

Summary: 🙂

Summary of positive feedback:

- We should have "diverse" transportation networks
- Networks should be maintained and managed to *encourage use* and *safety*
- Insert "modernized" into statement
  - "maintained, managed, and modernized"
- Its always good to look to neighbors and examples
  - But don't be afraid of innovation
- "Best practices is a consensus based on experiences and needs"
- Different areas/types of transit are unique. Best practices don't always apply across the board
- Make this a priority
- Our roads to the south need help with the expansion of housing

Summary of neutral feedback:

- What does "best practices + standards" mean? (x2)
- In response to 'maintained' – "go ahead!"
- Existing public transit already abides by a set of standards
  - "Step it up!" Contradicts goal statement
- What does "transportation networks" mean?
- Who sets "best practices and standards?" (x3)
  - AASHTO? NACTO?
- Our current transportation services have excluded the Blind and disable communities. Current services cater to sighted individuals only. Forums are the best way to pull people together. The citizens in our cities have great ideas to solutions of these types of issues. Listening is KEY!
- Seems that people are being taxed to pay for infrastructure and no improvements have been forthcoming. On the plus side, the Governor's infrastructure budget will hopefully fix some of the major problems.
- "Moderate at best"
- Look to Chicago's South Shore Metra Center on Randolph so you can get an Idea of where to start

Summary of negative feedback:

- "If people would work together, we wouldn't have to have these goals"
- Trapped by construction and RR crossings
- Too optimistic
  - "some places are so old, has to be rebuilt"
- Replace "perform" with a different word
- Doesn't seem proactive
- "Lake county is well interconnected, but neither Porter or LaPorte counties are. Valpo has over 18 miles of pathways, but doesn't connect to any other community. We have to start thinking outside the box and get ourselves connected"
- Not even close
- "This should be a given-doesn't need to be a goal"
- "These goals are devoid of any assessment of the current status of the transportation network."

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Funding (x14)
- Road/Gas Taxation
- Today's taxes may not work tomorrow
- Remove barriers of legislation
- Infrastructure maintenance funding
- Infrastructure Investment (x5)
- Alternative methods of sustaining infrastructure
- School Transportation
- Funding (2050 Plan)
- Complete Streets; designing roadways as if "kids live there" (mph, bike, walk, etc.)
- Increased access for low-income individuals
- Vision to guide the Region
- Not just the best version of what exists, where we want to be
- Connected Regional Transportation Network
- Increased rail safety – SSL
- Higher standards for Public Transit
- Meticulously maintained SSL (x2)
- Keeping up on upgrades to electric trains (SSL)
- Regular and uniform maintenance of systems (x2)
- Compliance
- Construction / Road "Time Share"
- Coordinated efforts across counties
- Multi-Modal networks / Complete Streets
- Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, etc.
- Diverse & balanced transportation networks
- Overpasses to control congestion
- Education
- ADA accessible transportation
- Public Outreach
- Informing public and public officials of how transportation projects are funded
- Cooperation and sharing resources between municipalities
- Regional bus from Chesterton to South Shore Station
- Funding (x3)

- Maintenance
- Proper oversight
- Assist regions in connecting transit services
- Fewer trucks, raise money to better maintain existing roads
- Rail, bus and streetcar transportation
- Transparent process that really includes actual people/users of the service for evaluation and feedback
- Lower maintenance and fuel costs
- Connectivity within and between counties
- No additional roads should be built
- Spell-out the best practices and standards
- Hire the most qualified people
- Listen to the citizens ideas/solutions and make revisions to best practices and standards
- Continue to support NIRPC congestion management initiatives
- Study other regional transportation success stories
- Support
- Expanded financial support to transit operators
- Articulated best practices and standards
- Be more purposeful in our intent when it comes to planning and constructing our connections and networks throughout all cities and communities in our Region.
- Invest in local transportation
- Federal and/or state funding commitments
- NIRPC staff should first become knowledgeable of these best practices/standards
- Better ways to maintain highways without closing lanes and creating unsafe driving conditions
- "Adding the electronic traffic information signs has been really helpful especially for white out conditions in the winter, fog or accident situations."

Transportation

Draft goal for 2050:

United region: "Our transportation system serves to enhance equity and shares benefits and burdens equally."

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
😐	🙂	😐	🙁	🙁	😐	🙂	😐	🙂	😐	😐		

Summary: 😐

Summary of positive feedback: 🙂

- "How do you ensure equity?"
  - Reference Title VI & Executive Order
- Include language "integrated & connected" for our transportation system
- "The definition of environmental justice!"
- "I think we do a pretty good job at this"
- The transportation systems in our Northern parts of the region are robust and the region seniors/disabled are well served.
- The south shore expansion project can do a lot to improve access to jobs in Chicago and more relocation to NWI
- Good goal

Summary of neutral feedback: 😐

- What does "equity" mean? (x2)
  - To what, of what?
- Who is the target?
- Expand statement
- Necessity of Car Ownership is Unequitable
- Increased capacity on 80/94 may alleviate congestion
  - Increasing capacity damages the environment
- "What about rural farmers?"
  - Feel neglected / "forgotten"
- Stuck in a "Catch 22"
- Try *strives* instead of "serves"
  - *by sharing* instead of "shares"
- "Equitably, not equally"
- How are you going to achieve enhancement and sharing?
- Enhance equity?

Summary of negative feedback: 🙁

- Shared benefits are unrealistic
- Must own a car to get to the station to ride the train to Chicago
- Title VI enforcement
  - "Communities are worse off today"
- Most transit systems only serve their respective municipalities
  - "we don't have a system in our area"
- Goal statement is confusing
- SSL double tracking location is not fair
  - Displacement and gentrification
- Trains are disrespectful to other modes of travel
  - Blocking interchanges and polluting
- Sharing burdens equally?
  - Heavy truck traffic in NWI
- Diversions from tolls will not be shared equally

Summary of positive feedback continued:

Summary of neutral feedback continued:

- Access to transit can substantially enhance the lives of those in the region. Access is paramount. It should not be impossible to access the South Shore without a car if I live in Griffith, for example
- "I would really like to see more buses to pass by local businesses such as Strack's, banks, clinics to/from Harbor (police station, DMV, Hospital or a regular route to Main Street, CVS). Even promote bikes to ride to and from school. Another form of exercise"
- Not equally, we still have work here for every community
- Should be a given/requirement
- Don't know enough about shared burdens and benefits
- Dune Park train station seems awfully nice compared to the many other South Shores stations especially in the heart of Michigan City - Dune Park serves Chesterton and Portage seems a bit like the South Shore hasn't served to enhance equity yet

Summary of negative feedback continued:

- Doesn't ring true – haven't seen this happen in the NWI Region
- "I'm sorry. You have me stumped here. I don't agree, but I don't know what to do about our transportation systems. Some transportation systems are unknown to many of the underprivileged who currently need to utilize them."
- "To be honest, the Northwest Region does not share benefits and burdens equally. Valparaiso In constituents does not pay for public services, as which Gary constituents does. Members who serve on the Board of transportation systems should ride them and learn"
- Hopeless
- "Dump this goal"
- "Nope, the well off pay for the outdated outmoded transportation so the poor can keep struggling in squalor just enough to keep them happy and we can fool ourselves we are helping them"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Improve and Create ADA access
- Higher Taxes = Higher Quality of life
- Avoid burden on low-income residents
- Expansion of areas served by public transportation (x2)
- Demand Responsive Transit
- N/S connections
- Cline Ave as a bad example
- Equity
- Our "fair share" from INDOT
- EIS requirement for development
- West Lake Corridor Project equity
- Balance of impacts and costs
- Equally shares benefits
- Great Leadership & Followers
- Money / Funding (x3)
- ADA accessible transportation
- Money for education
- Teach the importance of transportation (public)
- More sidewalks and transit
- Citizen input when making decisions
- Increase emphasis on senior transportation for shopping and rail access
- Continual improvement
- Cooperation (x3)
- Assist all area providers to strive to provide the best transit they can
- Transportation infrastructure to be proportional in access and conditions across the region
- Tri-County Corridor
- Acceptance / Integration
- Outline specifics
- Good management / leadership
- All transportation systems should be designed to serve ALL constituents the same
- More public transportation options in areas such as South Haven
- Access
- Commitment
- Joint/expanded transit operation(s) (x2)
- Improvement for all classes
- To not allow wealth or history of disinvestment in a neighborhood or community to be a barrier to accessing good, safe transportation that allows access to the promises of the surrounding economy
- Remove the burdens and the divides people have
- Large vehicles that consume large amounts of gas need to pay more to use our roads and those funds should help incentivize smaller cars and higher mileage
- Provide local transportation that is affordable
- To consider that the people who need public transportation the most are likely the people who can least afford it
- Willingness to stand for equality, even if not politically popular/in one's community
- Economic equity
- Improve measuring & documenting impacts of individual local & state projects instead of just an overall network analysis
- For all to participate in the transportation system before equity can be achieved
- Infrastructure to be continuously improved

56

Transportation

Draft goal for 2050:

Vibrant region: "Our transportation ~~choices~~ are ~~increased~~ throughout the region ~~and support active living and better connections to economic opportunities.~~"

optimized

opportunities

to provide active living and economic opportunities

Survey	Crown Point	Michigan City	Merrillville (day)	Westville	East Chicago	Merrillville (night)	La Porte	Valparaiso	Chesterton	Gary (Steel City)	Gary (Metro Ctr)	Hammond
☺	☺	☺	☹	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺		

Summary: ☺

Summary of positive feedback:

- Be more explicit
- "We are getting better"
- Add "…and better QoL" to end of goal statement
- Statement should include language regarding QoL
  - QoL amenities, higher quality of place, etc.
- We are certainly on our way there. In order to complete this objective, more investment needs to be taken in Cedar Lake, Crown Point, and southern region town/cities
- Good goal – follow through is critical
- Clarify "transportation choices"
- The Double Track project would help elevate this goal by providing more dependable and efficient access to Chicago

Summary of neutral feedback:

- Use "quality" living instead of "active" living
- Instead of "economic opportunities," use "jobs and educations"
- Incorporate "efficient movement" into the statement
- "Our population is growing older. We need to find ways to assist local government in keeping residents in their homes where family and friends can be enjoyed"
- Currently there is limited services to outside communities. More people should have access to transportation, for opportunities to jobs outside of their community
- This needs to happen because it is not happening currently
- Good money spent after bad over and over again if it doesn't return on the investment shut it down

Summary of negative feedback:

- Too vague
- Existing public transportation choices are unreliable
- SSL commute from Michigan City to Chicago is too long
- Suburban sprawl divides up the tax base
- "Increased" is not a strong enough word
- This is currently not the case. Many of the smaller communities have no public transportation systems at all. Having a car (a tremendous expense) has become a necessity in Northwest Indiana
- The people in this region cannot work together much of the time
- Statement is concerning
- Expanding rail service only kills the northern cities and any chance they have to redevelop
- "How?"

Regional needs to accomplish goal:

- Improve Greenway Connectivity (x4)
- Establish greenways to transit options (Chicago)
- Reliable Transportation
- Water taxi from NWI to Chicago / St. Joe
- Encourage mixed-use development
- Livable Wages
- Increased Transit and/or Transportation Options (x4)
- Strategic and targeted options
- Socio-Economic Integration
- Shared Vision
- Inclusivity
- TOD
- Better connectivity
- Complete Streets
- Safe & Secure Transportation
- Coordination / Cooperation (x2)
- ADA accessible transportation
- Money / Funding (x7)
- Remove politicians from the process, let planners/engineers call the shots
- Demand based transit service
- Increased VPM
- More public transit, coordination between transit entities, and marketing to change NWI residents' perceptions
- Connected signalization
- Expansion of transportation options
- Funding to maintain and expand transit services
- Hard work
- Interconnected counties and communities
- More 4-lane roads and no round-about intersection
- Limit new road construction
- A transportation network to everywhere
- Focus on commuter rail development
- To plan for more jobs and trails and parks which would bring more people to the area to live and play

- Recognize the value that will come from it
- Progress faster in transportation service
- Focus more on high speed trains, less cars on the terrible roads
- Multi-modal transportation
- Completion of the improvements to the NICTD system
- Emphasis on walk, bike, transit urbanism
- Connectivity is key, greenways should be completed to access transit lines and nodes of urbanity
- Partnerships
- Support active living
- Reduced use of fossil fuels
- Better connections / connectivity
- Map all transportation corridor space that will be needed by 2050
- Joint expanded transit operations
- Emphasize quality of place programs
- Transportation investment that allows connectivity to the metropolitan area (x2)
- Expand rail connections to Chicago
- Stop sprawling development
- Travel choice (x3)
- Public transit that connects the whole region and transit service on Sundays
- More sidewalks and bike paths
- Understanding of each community's constraints
- Understanding of targeted audience and how these systems impact them
- Connected transportation options
- Prioritize the construction of bike/ped trails that connect neighborhoods with employment/shopping centers
- Undertake a bus transit needs analysis to identify potential connections
- Offer development and tax incentives around train stations at Miller Beach and in Michigan City (TOD)
- Use federal construction funds to address historically ignored

assets (i.e. sidewalks)

Thank You!

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