

# Why Plan for Freight?

NIRPC is incorporating a **Freight Plan Element** in the **Metropolitan Transportation Plan** currently under development to emphasize:

1. preserving the existing transportation systems,
2. planning for the safety of all transportation system users,
3. providing the freight industry with access to workforce,
4. efficiently moving freight to support the economy of the region, and
5. ensuring equity in allocating federal, state, and local transportation dollars to benefit all users.



# Why Plan for Freight?

Freight transportation system includes roadways, railroads, ports and harbors, as well as pipelines and airports. Together, these multimodal elements enable the businesses and residents of the Northwest Indiana region to ship and receive goods that are critical to their operations and day-to-day lives.



It is essential that NIRPC and its local and regional partners have **access to recent and relevant information and tools** that provide insights into how the freight system is operating. This information enables NIRPC and its partners to provide a system that:



attracts new businesses

helps existing businesses to maintain and grow their presence in the region



mitigates impacts on residents' safety and quality of life.

# What is the Approach?

**Phase 1: Finding Meaning**  
 Understanding the varied transportation system assets and operations that support the movement of freight to, from and through NWI region.  
**Key Question: What are the existing conditions, needs, and issues related to goods movement in the NWI region?**

**Phase 2: Creating Purpose**  
 Building consensus around the vision for freight transportation in NWI region and measures that should be tracked by NIRPC to benchmark goods movement performance.  
**Key Question: What is the vision for improving freight transportation in the NWI region?**

**Phase 3: Purpose Driven Planning**  
 Identifying freight transportation projects or project concepts can strategically address the freight needs and challenges.  
**Key Question: Which projects align with the region's vision for freight, improve goods movement performance, and address the needs and issues identified?**

**NWI Region's Multimodal Freight System**



## Your Input Is Important to us!

Help us gain insights into the region's transportation needs and issues and the significance of enhanced transportation in your daily life. Scan the QR code to provide your inputs!



# What is the Role of Stakeholders?

**Stakeholder engagement is infused through the work** conducted for the 2050 MTP Freight Plan Element to:

- ☑ Solicit input on freight-related needs, issues, and opportunities;
- ☑ Inform the development of the Regional Freight Vision, and its associated goals, objectives, and performance measures;
- ☑ Support adoption and implementation of project, policy, and partnership recommendations.

## How Will the Stakeholders be Engaged?

Major Tasks	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	
Project team meetings & communication	[Yellow bar spanning all months]									
Existing freight conditions & needs	▲ 👥	▲ ?	★							
Freight vision, goals & objectives and performance measures					★					
Freight project recommendation & prioritization							★	👥		

★ Freight Steering Committee meetings  
 ▲ One-on-one consultations with key public and private stakeholders  
 👥 Public Session  
 ? Online Survey