



## Public Comment Report

### Adoption of the 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

#### Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

#### Transportation Committee

May 6, 2025

The draft FY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program was released for a 30-day public comment period that began on March 22, 2025, and ended April 21, 2025. The draft TIP, including the list of projects submitted, was made available at [www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org) and in press releases, and links were posted on several social media sites. In addition, three public meetings were held, one in each county. The dates and locations for the public meetings were:

- 4/10/2025 – Porter County Government Center; 155 Indiana Ave. Valparaiso, IN; 2:00 – 4:30pm
- 4/15/2025 – Lake County Public Library (Merrillville Branch); 1919 81<sup>st</sup> Ave Merrillville, IN 2:00 – 4:30 PM; INDOT also attended with their State Transportation Improvement Program – STIP)
- 4/16/2025 – Michigan City Public Library; 100 E 4<sup>th</sup> St, Michigan City, IN; 1:30 – 4:00pm

Seven people attended these three meeting events (five people attended on 4/10; Zero people attended on 4/15; and two people attended on 4/16). General questions were asked, and no comments were left. Upon completion of the Public Comment period, no comments from the public were received online or through the mail.

NIRPC submitted the draft TIP to INDOT and USDOT (FHWA & FTA). FHWA responded with 6 comments. Those comments and NIRPC's responses are:

- Remove any/all references to BIL and replace with IIJA. – (NIRPC) Removed the one reference to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- How will the RTIP be used to demonstrate fiscal constraint for the TIP? Page 35 “Fiscal Constraint” section – RTIP does have a Fiscal constraint module that NIRPC uses. We will add this information to the ‘Fiscal Constraint’ section.
- Project list does not include sufficient descriptive material (i.e. type of work, termini, and length) to identify project or project phase (23 CFR 450.326 (g)(1)) – NIRPC verified that the description in all of the projects includes this information. In some cases, additional information was added to the description to clarify.
- Confirm that all regionally significant projects in short term (FY26-30) have been included in TIP – To our knowledge all regional significant transportation projects for Lake Porter and La Porte Counties have been identified and included in NIRPC's 2026-2030 draft TIP, regardless of the funding source.

- Are estimated revenues and costs for operation/maintenance (for roadways) included? (23 CFR 450.326 (j)) – To our knowledge all estimated revenues and costs are included.
- Does the MPO intend to include project groupings or grouped projects? If so, how will those be identified in the TIP? – At this time NIRPC does not include project grouping or grouped projects in its TIP.

INDOT also asked for an updated copy of changes to their projects made in Amendment 24-04 and 24-05 because there might be an issue with fiscal constraint on their part. A list was provided to them. It is NIRPC's understanding that INDOT was asking for this information from all MPOs, and they were planning to rebalance their budget if needed. No other comments from USDOT or INDOT were received.

Additionally, NIRPC staff have made technical corrections to the transit section of the TIP, which are listed below:

- NIRPC2700586 was carried over with the 5307 from the Chicago Urban Area. This has been corrected to 5307 from the Valparaiso-Shorewood Forest Urban Area
- Transit Project Identification Numbers that have been assigned should be reflected in the TIP in the place of the NIRPC temporary numbers they replace.
- Since the public comment draft of the TIP was released NIRPC, GPTC, and NICTD, as the direct recipients of FTA funds in the Chicago Urban Area, reached agreement on the 5307 funding split. The federal 5307 funds for the following projects were reduced to reflect the agreed-upon split as shown below. The overall project cost for each project has not changed:
  - NIR-25-010 from \$2,100,000 to \$865,200
  - NIR-25-008 from \$3,605,748 to \$1,485,568
  - NIR-25-007 from \$80,000 to \$32,960
  - NIR-25-006 from \$670,979 to \$276,443
  - NIR-25-004 from \$531,761 to \$219,086
  - NIR-25-005 from \$762,358 to \$314,091
  - NIRPC2700538 from \$84,000 to 34,608
  - NIRPC2700637 from \$3,300,547 to \$1,805,399 in 2027 and from \$3,383,061 to \$1,640,785 in 2028
  - NIRPC2700648 from \$664,204 to \$363,320 in 2027 and from \$680,809 to \$330,192 in 2028
  - NIRPC2700646 from \$584,590 to \$319,771 in 2027 and from \$599,205 to \$290,614 in 2028
  - NIRPC2700645 from \$586,744 to \$320,949 in 2027 and from \$601,412 to \$291,685 in 2028
  - GPTC27PT from \$666,541 to \$364,598 in 2027 and from \$816,748 to \$396,123
  - NIRPC2700649 from \$100,000 to \$54,700 in 2027 and from \$100,000 to \$48,500 in 2028
  - NIRPC2700650 from \$480,000 to \$232,800
  - NIRPC2700620 from \$9,042,337 to \$6,935,472
  - NIRPC2700617 from \$9,223,184 to \$6,935,834
- The federal 5310 funds in the following projects were reduced to meet fiscal constraint as shown below. The total project cost for each project has not changed:
  - OE27VR from \$204,450 to \$192,183 in 2028

- PC27ADA from \$153,903 to \$144,669 in 2028
  - LCCS27ADA from \$332,000 to 312,080 in 2028
- The federal 5307 funds in the Michigan City-La Porte Urban Area in the following projects were reduced to meet fiscal constraint as shown below. The total project cost for each project has not changed:
  - MCT290A from \$921,313 to 909,344
  - NICTD29MOMC from \$1,350,722 to \$1,333,176
  - LPT290A from \$444,914 to \$439,133
- The federal 5307 funds in the Valparaiso-Shorewood Forest Urban Area were reduced to meet fiscal constraint as shown below. The total project cost for each project has not changed:
  - NIR-25-045 from \$373,000 to \$363,675
  - NIR-25-044 from \$637,450 to \$621,514
  - VL27CGD from \$556,711 to \$546,690
  - VL27VL from \$446,915 to \$438,871
  - VL28VL from \$438,173 to \$422,399
  - VL28CGD from \$583,518 to \$562,511
  - VL29VR from \$266,528 to \$252,402
  - VL29CGD from \$418,014 to \$395,859
  - VL29VL from \$313,894 to \$297,258
  - VL29CT from \$41,645 to \$39,438
  - NIRPC2700586 removed as South Shore Connect has been stopped