

XIII. Use of the ITS Architecture:

A Concept of Use for the Northwest Indiana Regional ITS Architecture is necessary in order for the architecture to be more than just a document about *what* ITS resources Northwest Indiana has, and rather a document about *how* stakeholders in Northwest Indiana can use the architecture to improve the quality of the transportation system. Just as NIRPC conducts a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process, the architecture is expected to be usable in the same manner. The following is a Concept of Use for the architecture to explain how stakeholders could use the architecture to best see improved results in the operation of the transportation system.

Concept of Use for the Northwest Indiana

The architecture will be used to ensure that all proposed, planned, and programmed ITS projects are consistent with the architecture and additional integration opportunities are considered, leading to more efficient implementations. To achieve this goal:

- The architecture will clearly explain the Systems Engineering Analysis required to be met for all projects NIRPC plans or programs (See Section III).
- Project solicitation forms that NIRPC sends out will have a checklist to help applicants determine whether a project has ITS components.
- NIRPC will review all projects before inserting them into a fiscally constrained Long Range Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program to account for any possible ITS components, and if found, engage the appropriate stakeholders.
- NIRPC will periodically convene stakeholder workshops about reviewing the progress in implementing the ITS Architecture and when anticipating imminent updates.