



2040 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

NIRPC LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE

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Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

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Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)

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Creating Livable Communities (CLC)

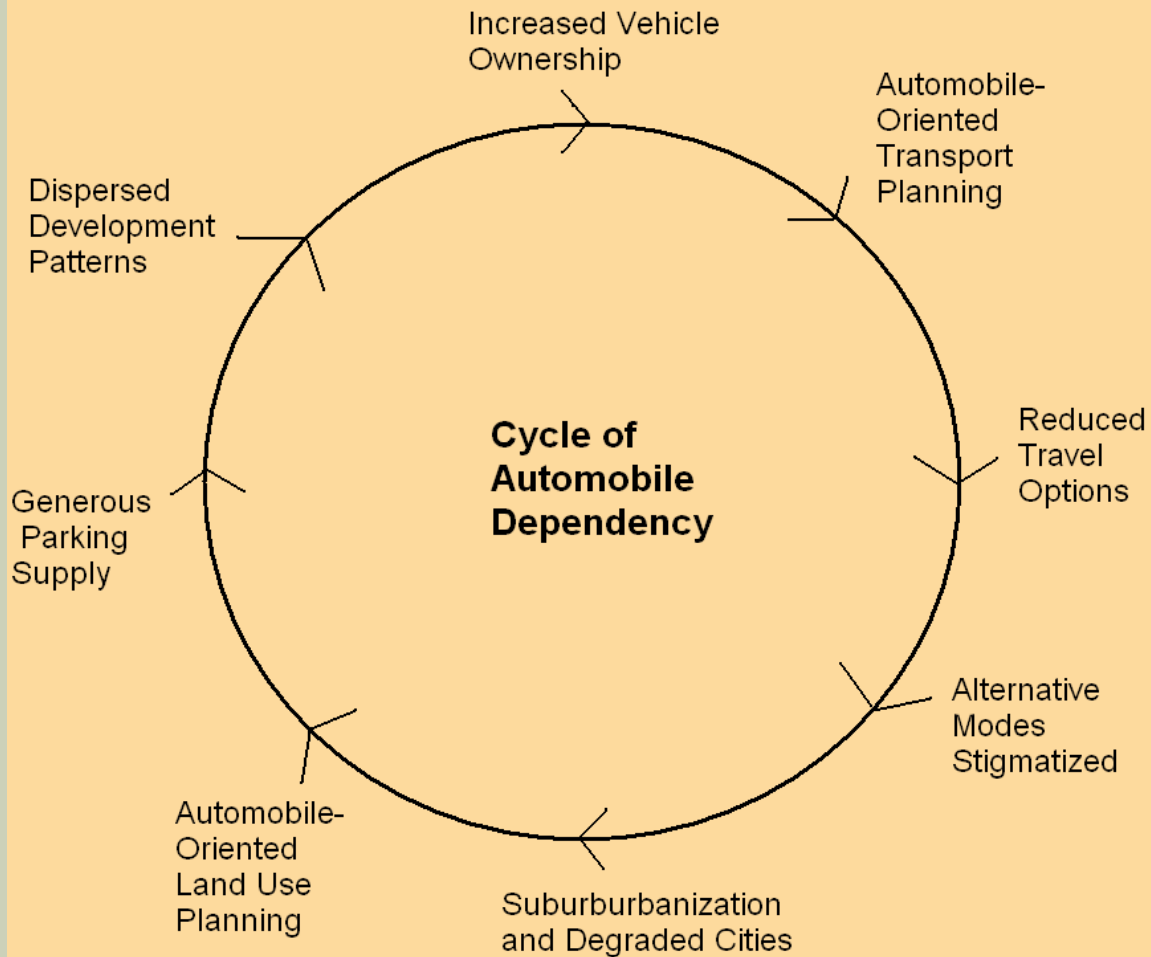
LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE

Overview

Livable Centers Initiative encourages local jurisdictions to plan and implement strategies that link transportation improvements with land use development strategies to create sustainable, livable communities consistent with regional development policies.

Livable Centers clustering many different land uses in a compact area gives people the opportunity to accomplish various activities without using a car.

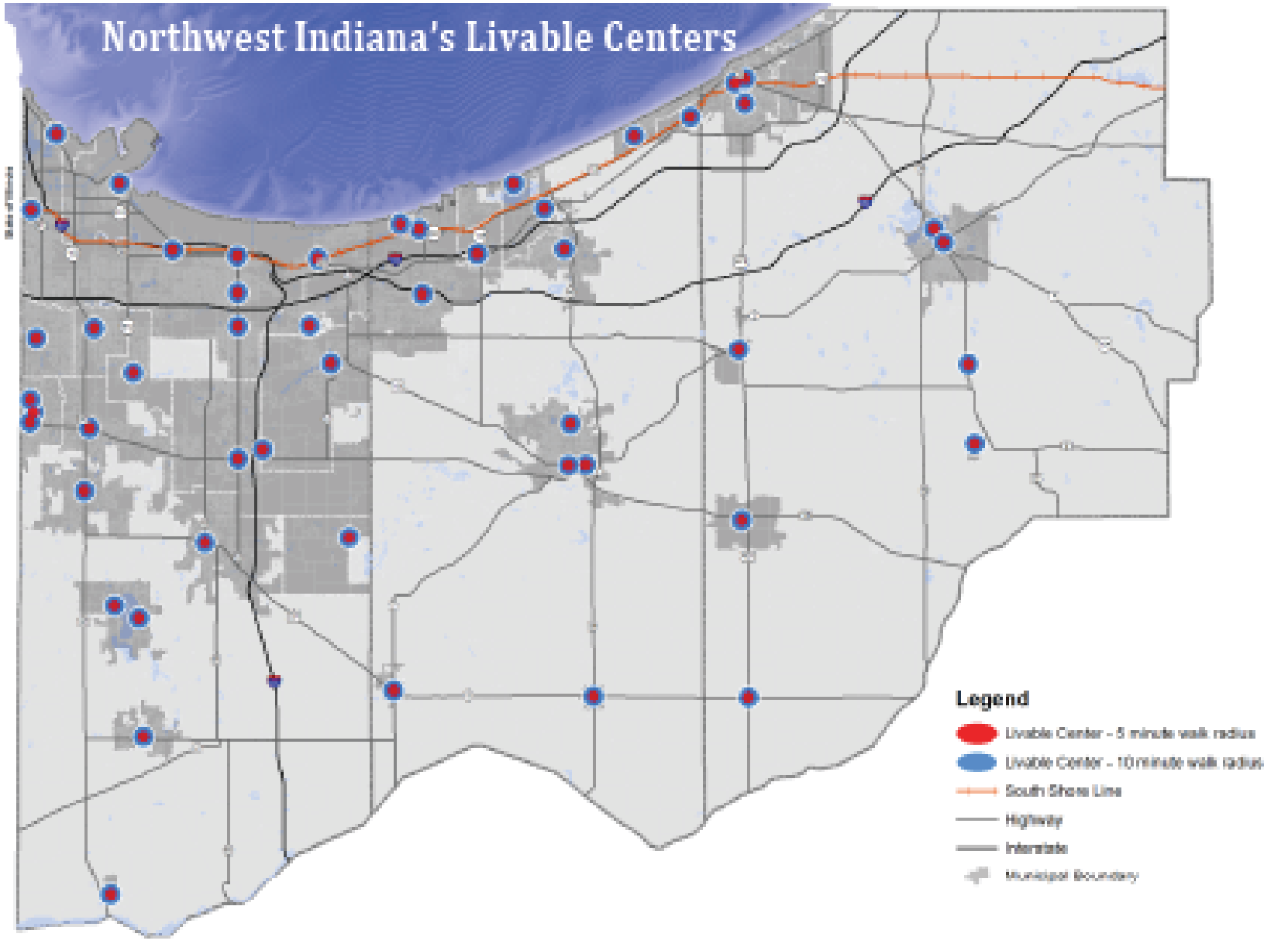
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING LAND USE IMPACTS



Cycle of Automobile Dependency and Sprawl

Source: Victoria Transport Policy Institute

Northwest Indiana's Livable Centers



2040 PLAN - BASIC ELEMENTS OF LIVABLE CENTERS

The 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan describes Livable Centers as dense, mixed-use and walkable areas with the following elements:

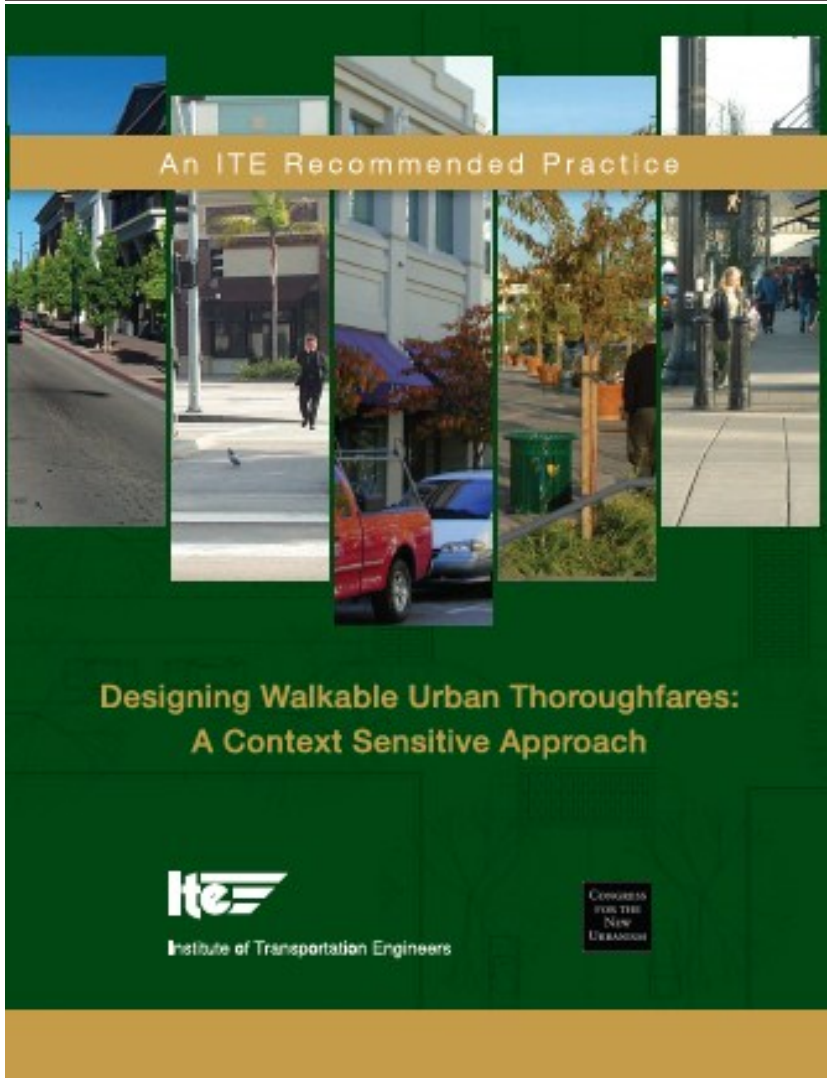
- Jobs and housing
- On-street, shared, structured or rear parking areas
- Transit stops and amenities
- Traditional street grid
- Access management
- Pedestrian-friendly speed limits
- Short block lengths
- Bicycle lanes
- Wide sidewalks
- Public spaces
- Minimal building setbacks
- Existing infrastructure



METHODOLOGY/ SCOPE

- **Step 1: GIS Analysis to identify preliminary livable centers areas**
 - **Criteria**
 - **Block size**
 - **Residential density**
 - **Employment density**
 - **Transit stations/stops**
 - **Land Use**
- **Step 2: Analysis of plans and codes to identify planned livable centers**
- **Step 3: Gather data and complete Livability Checklist for preliminary livable centers to the extent possible.**

METHODOLOGY



- **Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS):** Exercise flexibility and creativity to shape effective transportation solutions, while preserving and enhancing community and natural environments.
- **Establish Existing and Proposed Context Zone**
- **Inventory Thoroughfare Characteristics and Determine Thoroughfare Type**

This report has been developed in response to widespread interest for improving both mobility choices and community character through a commitment to creating and enhancing walkable communities.



CSS & Urban areas

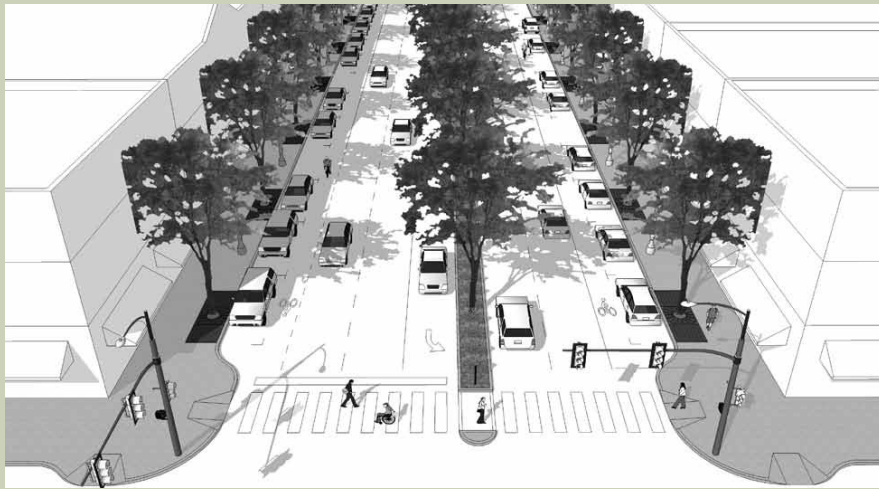


CSS & Suburban areas

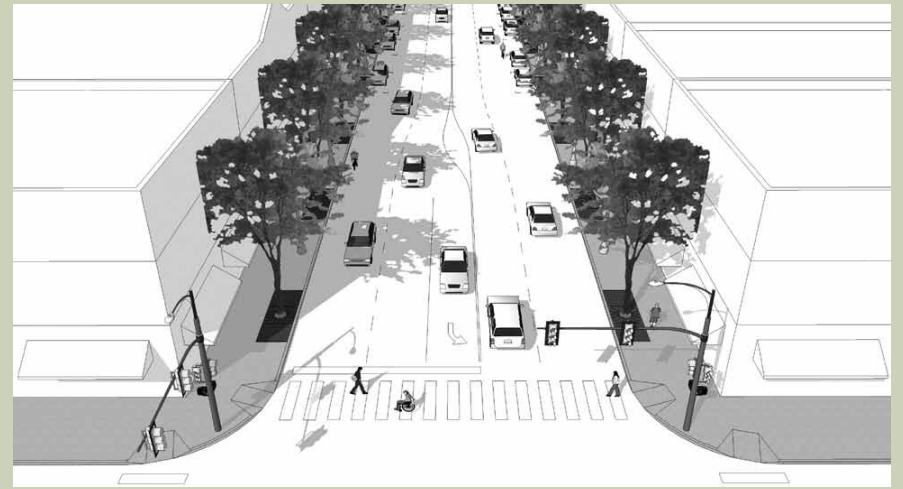


CSS & Rural Areas

THOROUGHFARE DESCRIPTIONS



Boulevard



Avenue



Street

GENERAL STANDARDS

Diversity of Use

- **Creating walkable neighborhoods by mixing land uses**
 - People might more easily work, shop and enjoy recreation close to where they live.
 - Mixing land uses makes walking more attractive and convenient (encouraging healthier lifestyles) and also protects the environment and conserves energy by reducing dependence on cars.

Density and Compactness

- **Encouraging higher density development and compact building patterns.**

Job Opportunities

- **Availability of job opportunities a city could offer and provide in sustaining better community**

GENERAL STANDARDS

Low Crime Rate

- This measures the way how the city action force takes response on emergency situations as many things may happen any time. Effective response would give a better and secured community.

Diversity of Housing

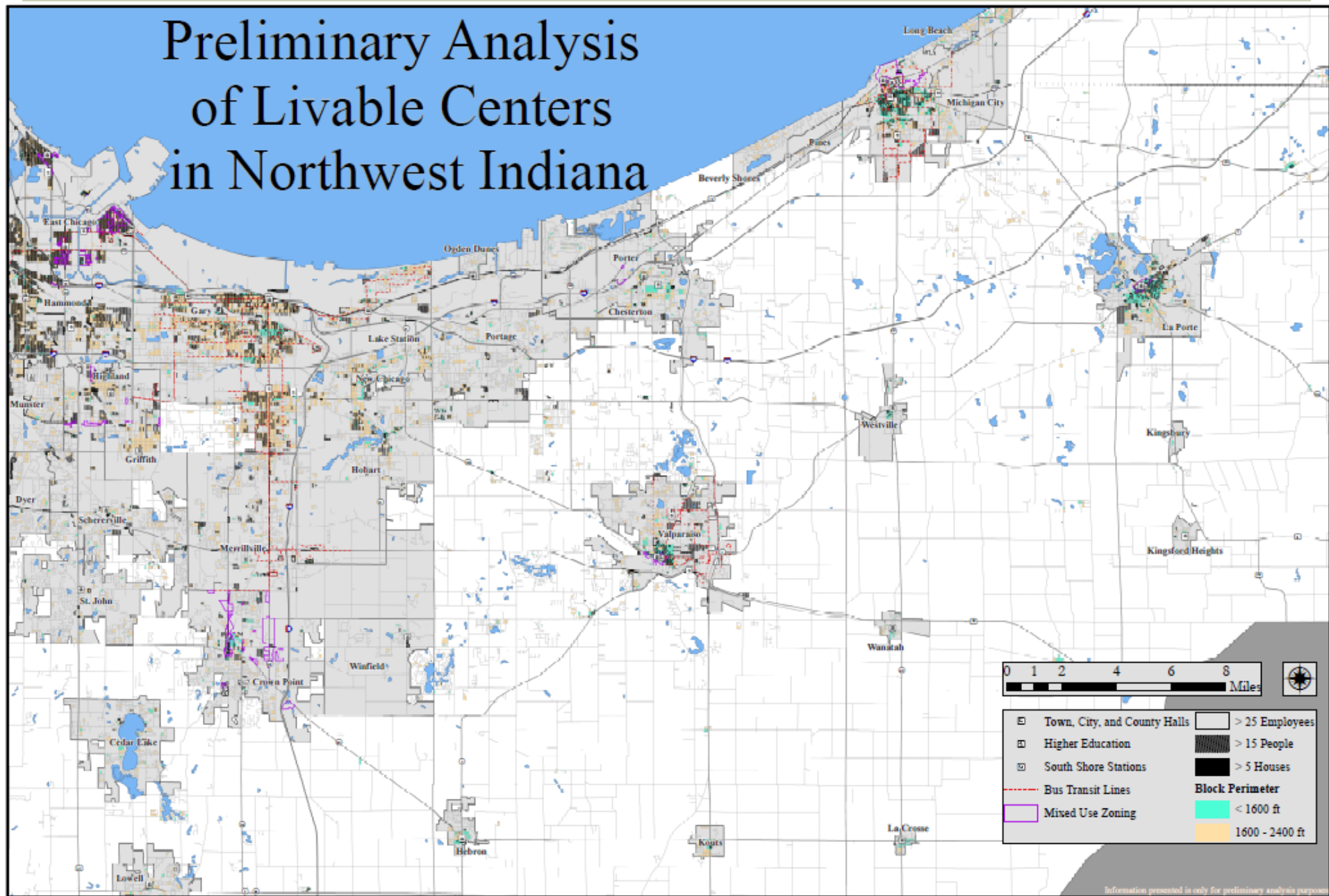
- Affordability and number of rental properties and home ownership. As a center hold dense number of population.
- Some singles prefer to rent small apartments, young couples need starter homes, empty nesters look for a condominium close to town and retirees need a caring community.

Accessibility/ Connectivity

- **Ease of access to basic necessities hold the top position.**
 - Super markets and convenient stores.
 - Educational and medical institutions.
 - Convenience from major workplace and the average time of commute.
 - Bars, shopping malls, leisure destinations and many more.
- **Providing a variety of transportation options.**
 - Public transportation, sidewalks, bike paths and walking trails.
- **Provide a traditional street grid** provides multiple, direct routes, reducing congestion and encouraging pedestrian access

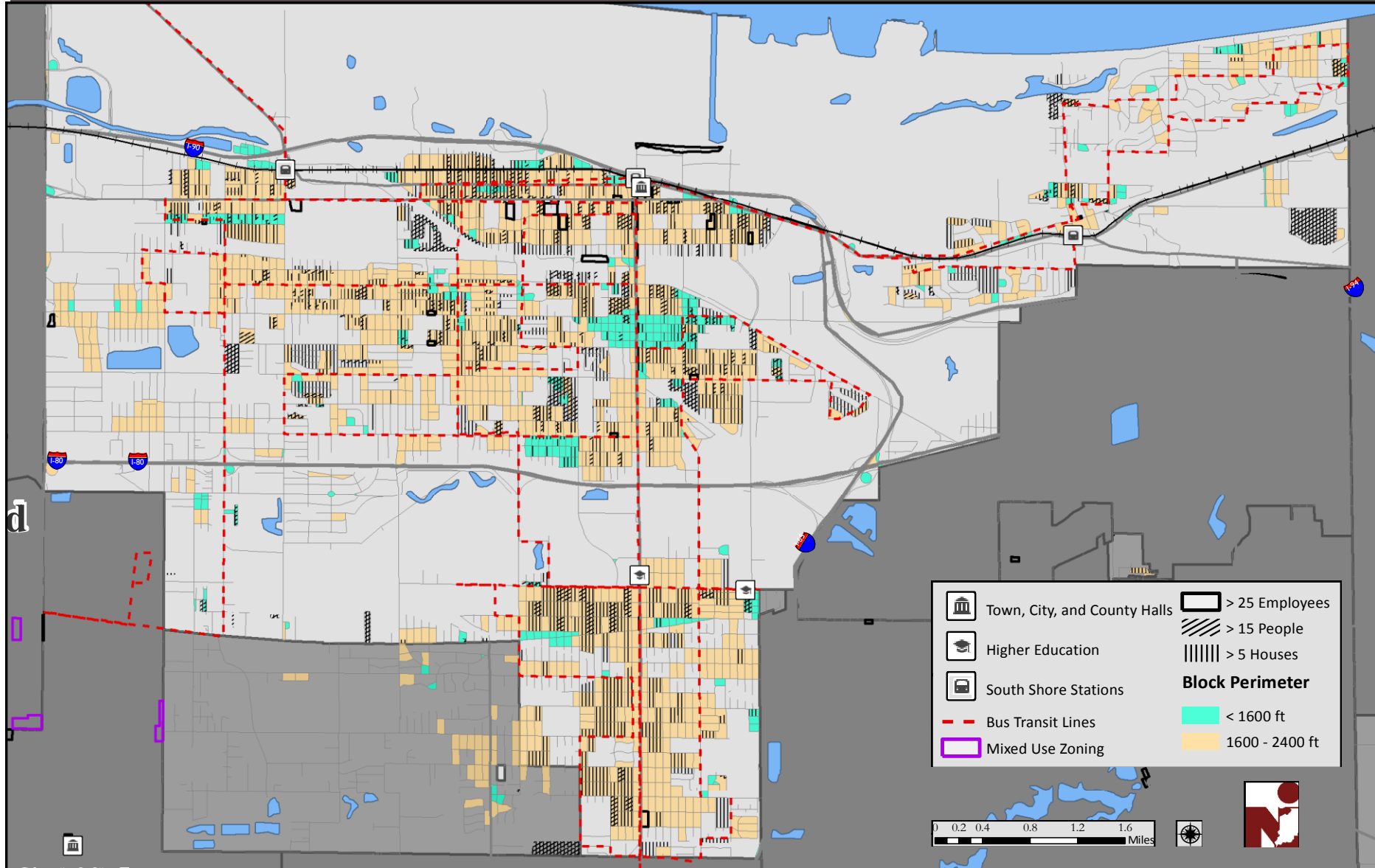


Preliminary Analysis of Livable Centers in Northwest Indiana



Information presented is only for preliminary analysis purposes

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF LIVABLE CENTERS IN GARY



NEXT STEPS

1. Review existing condition and data for current and proposed centers. 😊
2. Conduct meetings with elected officials and practitioners in the 41 communities, including the four urban core communities Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, and Michigan City to identify and define and map the geographic boundaries of the Livable Centers.
3. Determine the level of planning and regulations for each center. For example, it should be determined whether or not livability elements have been incorporated into existing centers or in current.
4. Based on the study of existing centers, develop a context-sensitive typology of Livable Centers in Northwest Indiana that includes

CLC



**CREATING LIVABLE
COMMUNITIES
PROGRAM**