



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368

Telephone (219) 763-6060
Fax Messages (219) 762-1653

On the Internet www.nlrpc.org
E-mail Messages nlrpc@nlrpc.org

RESOLUTION 11-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING THE AMENDED 2040 COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PLAN FOR NORTHWESTERN INDIANA

WHEREAS, the residents of Northwest Indiana require a safe, efficient and effective regional transportation system that maintains and enhances regional mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life in northwest Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as "The Commission", being designated the Council of Governments, representing all local governments in the region has established a comprehensive planning process including the three domains of environmental, economic development and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County Region, has established a regional, cooperative and comprehensive planning program to develop the unified planning work program, long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program; to annually endorse the plans and programs; to facilitate federal transportation funding for the Indiana Department of Transportation, regional communities and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above mentioned activities to satisfy regional requirements under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU, 2005) as well as other federal, state and local legislation mandating cooperative, comprehensive and continuing regional transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has conducted a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive process in an open and participatory manner, including extensive participation involving numerous people, with a specific effort to engage low income populations and minority populations and soliciting public comment at various points in the process, including requesting public comment on the draft 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan; and the Commission has reviewed and considered the comments received; and

WHEREAS, integrating land use and transportation planning with economic development, environmental and social equity considerations, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan provides a framework for how the three-county region can develop in the next generation, and is a tool to guide our actions and direct our resources to achieve our vision of a vibrant, revitalized, accessible, and united region; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has analyzed the benefits and burdens of the implementation of transportation expansion projects in the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan and has found that there are no unfair burdens, nor unfair lack of benefits for low income populations and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, The City of Hammond has secured funding for the development of the added travel lanes project on the former Route 312 between the Illinois State Line and Calumet Avenue (US-41) and the Town of Schererville has secured funding for the earlier implementation of the added travel lanes project on Kennedy Avenue between Main Street and US-30; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has developed a working Congestion Management Process to consider multi-modal solutions to traffic congestion problems; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan identifies the convergence of an ecosystem approach, green infrastructure network, and the urban revitalization and livable communities strategies, and encourages protection of natural, rural and agricultural assets; and

WHEREAS, reinvestment in our historic urban centers is a key principle, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan promotes livability, walkable street networks, improving local and regional infrastructure, and providing employment and multimodal access; and

WHEREAS, the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan fosters a globally competitive, diversified economy and expanded access to knowledge and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that the draft 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan conforms to the State Implementation Plan for Air Quality; and

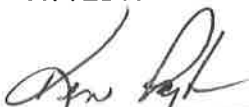
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission adopts the amendment of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan and supports and promotes its implementation.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this eighth day of December, two thousand eleven.



Thomas McDermott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Ken Layton, Secretary

Capacity Expansion Projects

The following is a list of the capacity expansion projects that have been selected for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan. The projects in Table II.11 and shown in Figure II.11 include some carry-

Projects Complete by 2016	
45th Avenue	Lake County
61st Avenue	Hobart
Mississippi Street	Merrillville
Gary Marina Access Phase 2a segment 3	Gary
Vale Park East	Valparaiso
Main Street Extension	Munster/Cook County, IL
SR-2 at I-65	INDOT
US-421 from SR-2 to SR-2	INDOT
SR-49 at CR-400N	INDOT
US-20 Center Turn Lane	INDOT
Kennedy Avenue from Junction to US-30	Schererville
SR-912 over Indiana Harbor Canal	INDOT
Projects Complete by 2020	
Gary Marina Access Phase 3	Gary
Springland Avenue	Michigan City
Gostlin/Sheffield/Chicago (former SR-312)	Hammond
Kennedy Avenue from Main to Junction	Schererville
101st Avenue	Merrillville
Projects Complete by 2030	
Willowcreek Extension	Porter County
Projects Complete by 2040	
Boyd Boulevard Expansion	LaPorte
Division Road	Valparaiso
Economic Development Corridor NE	LaPorte
Illustrative List of Projects	
Projects that are not included in the fiscally-constrained conforming plan:	
Broadway Rapid Transit	GPTC/Sierra Club
Westlake Commuter Lines	NICTD
Illiana Expressway	INDOT

Table II.1 List of the capacity expansion projects

over projects from the Connections 2030 Plan that have had significant expenditures of public dollars, plus new projects that were recommended by the Congestion Management Process. The projects were segmented into groups representing the milestone years of implementation for air quality conformity analysis purposes. Table II.10 and Figure II.11 also include an illustrative list of projects that are beyond

the means of the region to implement, given currently identified resources. Finally, the table includes significant projects in Northeastern Illinois that would have impacts on travel within Northwestern Indiana and that have been included in the air quality conformity analysis.

Preferred route for SR-912 has not been identified as the NEPA process is not yet complete. INDOT is reviewing two solutions for Cline Ave: the ground route alternative utilizing Riley and Dickey roads, and a four-lane bridge alternative.

Figure II.11 illustrates this list of projects and their generally expected completion dates.

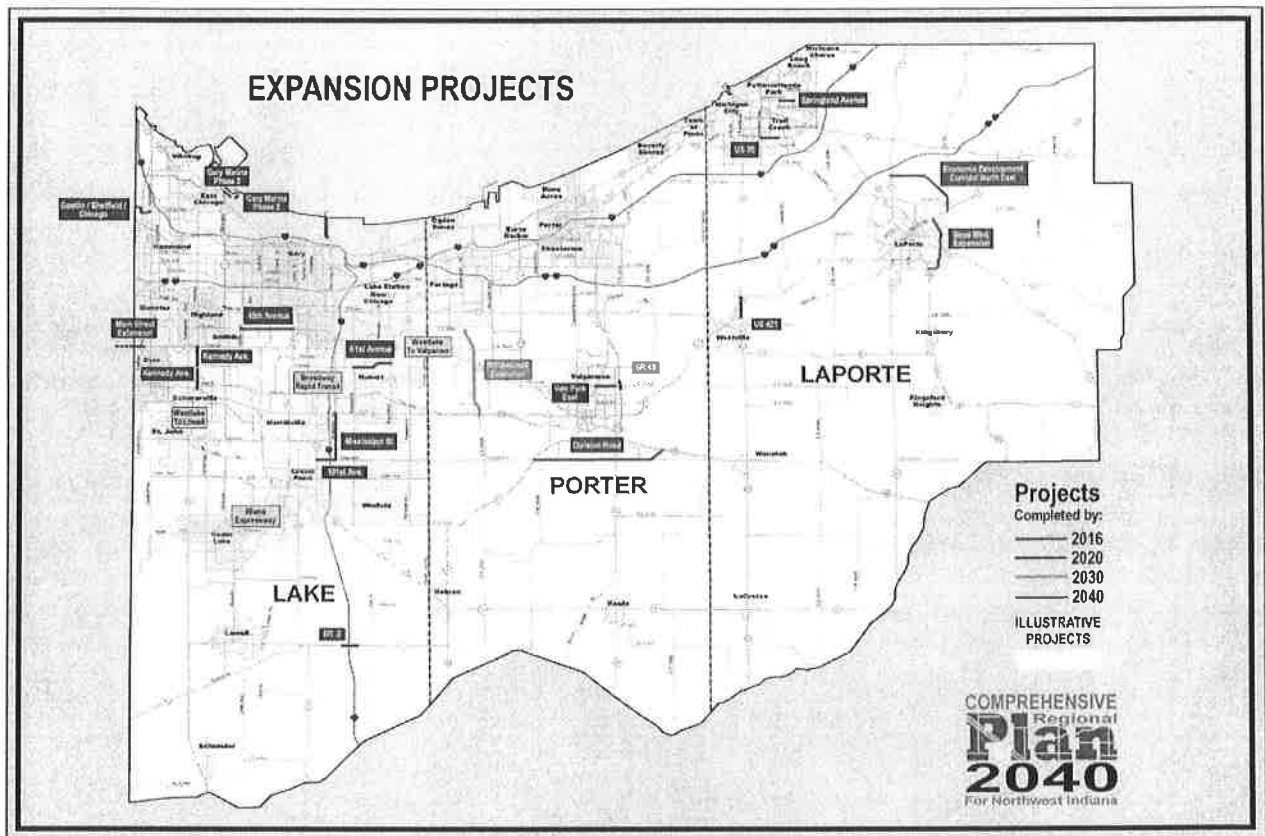


Figure II.1 Location Map of the capacity expansion projects

Amendment 1 of the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan would add the project in Hammond that includes added travel lanes on the former SR-312, including Gostlin Street, Sheffield Street and Chicago Street from the Illinois State Line to Calumet Avenue (US-41) for implementation between 2016 and 2020. The amendment would also accelerate the implementation of the project in Schererville that includes added travel lanes from Main Street to US-30 for implementation between 2011 and 2020.