



RESOLUTION 15-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015-2016

January 15, 2015

WHEREAS, the preparation of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a necessary and required part of the metropolitan area transportation planning process as specified in 23 CFR 450.314; and by its State statutory authority, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is charged with planning responsibility in three domains; and

WHEREAS, the work tasks described within NIRPC's UPWP for the three-county northwestern Indiana region are in conjunction with the programs of the Federal Transit Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and significant planning projects in the region by other agencies; and

WHEREAS, this program will be funded through the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, foundations, and NIRPC's local funds from each member county;

WHEREAS, all regional transportation and other significant planning projects in the three-county region should be included in the UPWP;

WHEREAS, the City of Portage is to conduct a Public Transit Feasibility Study;

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study will include interviews, public meetings, community surveys, transit demand estimation, demographics analysis, and cost analysis and Five-Year Financial Plan;

WHEREAS, federal funding of \$120,000 by Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and a local match of \$30,000 by City of Portage were identified for the City of Portage Transit Feasibility Study for a total of \$150,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission adopts this Fiscal Years 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program amendment.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this fifteenth day of January, 2015.

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Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Secretary

UPWP 2015-2016
City of Portage Transit Feasibility Study

Objective:

Conduct a feasibility study on the potential for public transit in the City of Portage. This project will involve the procurement of professional services.

Past Work/Basis:

Portage is currently without regular fixed route public transit. The Township Trustee operates several small buses for all senior citizens in Portage Township. It is restricted in use and priority is given to seniors who use the township meal facilities. The service does not receive federal transit assistance.

Portage is the largest city in Porter County and a recognized job center. What is not easy is getting around to the jobs, as there are multiple job centers developing. A new student center, a growing downtown, and well established commercial and employment centers make Portage a natural candidate for a new public transit system in Porter County.

Expanding public transit to areas currently unserved or underserved is supported in the 2040 CRP. This project also supports the CRP's call for a coordinated, regional transportation system as the City has expressed interest in exploring the potential for a partnership with an existing transit operator. The feasibility of a partnership as a service delivery mechanism will also be explored in the proposed study.

FY2015-2016 Work Elements/Methodology:

This project involves conducting a Transit Feasibility Study using interviews, public meetings, community surveys, transit demand estimation, demographics analysis, origin-destination data, cost analysis and Five-Year Financial Plan. This project will be completed through a professional services contract.

The procurement process for the RFP will be overseen by the NIRPC oversight staff. Transit planning staff will facilitate development of the scope of work, review of proposals, and selection of consultant. These activities will be accomplished with an advisory committee appointed by the Mayor of Hobart.

FY2016 End Products:

1. Summary of interviews with persons and organizations interested in transit.
2. Summaries of public meetings with people interested in public transit.
3. Analysis of community surveys/demographics analysis/and transit demand estimation.
4. Recommendations for service types appropriate for the City of Portage
5. Cost analysis of service types and potential Five-Year Financial Plan

Funding Sources:

Federal FTA (5307): \$120,000

Other Agency: City of Portage: \$30,000