



- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, December 15, 2016 with Chairman Donald P. Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Donald P. Fesko, Bill Joiner, Christopher Campbell, Milton Reed, Thomas Golab, and Phil Taillon. Six members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** *None*
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** M. Reed motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by T. Golab. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

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| a. <u>Minutes: Board Meeting of August 18, 2016:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| b. <u>Reports: Buy Indiana Quarterly Report (3rd QRT 2016)</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| c. <u>Reports: MWBE Quarterly Expenditure Compliance (3rd Quarter)</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| d. <u>Budget: 2017 Administrative Budget</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| e. <u>Procurement: Barnes & Thornburg, Market Analysis/Feasibility Study</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| f. <u>Procurement: NIRPC, Brownfield Program Support</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| g. <u>Policy/Resolution: Oversight and Administration of GUEA Proceeds</u> | <i>Approved</i> |

V. **Actions on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force:**

a. **Recommendations:**

- i. **Reports: Adoption of Comprehensive Strategic Plan Update:** B. Hanna reported to the Board that the Comprehensive Strategic Plan (CSP-U) was required by the General Assembly in the legislation that provides \$180M for the West Lake Corridor Extension. B. Hanna stated that the update provides a road map for rail expansion and transit-oriented planning and development that will make northwest Indiana the first choice in suburban Chicago for new and existing residents, the first choice for businesses to start or expand, and the first choice for access to jobs, both in the region and in Chicago.

B. Hanna asked the Board to approve and adopt the Comprehensive Strategic Plan Update as presented.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the plan as presented with a second by C. Campbell. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- ii. **Funding Applications: City of Valparaiso, Extension of Chicago Dash Commuter Project:** B. Hanna reported to the Board that improvements to the ChicaGo DASH commuter bus service (first RDA grant awarded in 2008) allow for better access and expanded commuter service and match funding for capital improvement projects (i.e. additional busses). B. Hanna stated a new transit center would be the focal point of the proposed bus expansion service and that the building would include a ticket office, waiting area, restrooms, convenience retail space, and a second floor operations office. In addition, site improvements would accompany the construction of the transit center specifically purposed for bus pick-up and drop-off, handicap parking spaces, sidewalks and necessary storm water drainage. B. Hanna stated that the match funding portion would only be drawn after appropriate documentation of Federal or State capital grant has been provided.

B. Hanna reported that the total project cost is \$6,847,000.00 and that the City is expected to provide funding for professional engineering and design services and land acquisition for new transit facility and relocation of current business activities. Project completion date is summer 2019.



B. Hanna asked the Board to accept and approve the City of Valparaiso’s funding application in the amount of \$6,847,000.00.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the funding application in the amount of \$6,847,000.00 with a second by C. Campbell. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- iii. **Funding Reallocations: TIGER Grant reallocation to City of Gary 12/20 Project:** B. Hanna reported that the City of Gary had previously pursued a TIGER Grant for a TOD area plan surrounding a NICTD Train Station known as “Miller Station” and that given the competitiveness of the TIGER grant program, the City of Gary was unsuccessful in obtaining a federal award for the TOD plan project. However, the elements of this project are meritorious and greatly relate to the themes in the RDA’s Comprehensive Strategic Plan Update.

B. Hanna also reported that the project will coincide with the double-tracking and modernization project in faster and more frequent commuter rail service between Chicago and Gary and ultimately TOD and economic revitalization for the City of Gary. Initial investments will be roadway reconstruction and pedestrian walkway enhancements to improve mobility and access to the station, local retail, and Lake Michigan recreational areas. Specific investments include the construction of wider sidewalks, reconfigured parking, multi-use pathways, dedicated pedestrian crosswalks, landscaped medians, green infrastructure, and a new intersection. The RDA’s originally Board-approved funding allocation for the TIGER grant was \$4.5M. This funding would leverage both local and state funding to complete this project.

B. Hanna asked the Board to approve the City of Gary’s funding reallocation in the amount of \$4.5M; contingent upon local and state funding materializing as presented.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the funding reallocation in the amount of \$4.5M; contingent upon local and state matching funds, with a second by T. Golab. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. Project Status Review:

a. Surface Transportation:

- i. **Update:** None

b. Shoreline Redevelopment:

- i. **Update:** None

c. Expansion of the Gary Airport:

- i. **Update:** None

d. Economic Development:

- i. **Update:** None

e. RDA Operations:

- i. **Update:** None



VII. **Unfinished Business:**

- i. **Update:** *None*

VIII. **New Business:**

- i. **Update:** *None*

IX. **2017 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

X. **General Public Comment:** *None*

XI. **Adjournment:** Without further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Amy L Jakubin