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RDA Partners With Gary, NICTD on TIGER Grant

RDA Board of Directors also accepts Buffington Harbor Access Road project for review, elects officers for 2015 and formally welcomes new Porter County appointee Chris Campbell.

Crown Point, IN (May 21, 2015) – The Board of Directors of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) today agreed to join with the City of Gary and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) in applying for a federal grant to fund transit-oriented development (TOD) at and around the South Shore station in Gary’s Miller neighborhood.

Gary is applying for a \$21.05 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Transit Investment Generating Economic Recovery, or TIGER, competitive grant program. Gary, NICTD and the RDA are pooling resources to provide the necessary local match for the grant application. NICTD is providing \$860,000, Gary \$1 million and the RDA \$4.26 million.

If awarded the grant, the funds will be used for improvements at the Miller station, including the new high-level boarding platform called for in the NICTD 20-Year Strategic Business Plan jointly developed by the railroad and the RDA.

At today’s RDA Board meeting, the Board also accepted for review a request from Gary for a \$7.5 million RDA grant to improve the access road at Buffington Harbor. If the grant is approved, these funds would be combined with investments from the City of Gary, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to complete

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the \$14 million project. The project would separate industrial and casino traffic at Buffington Harbor and provide increased access to industrial sites near the newly expanded Gary/Chicago International Airport.

Finally, the Board directed the RDA's fiscal task force to oversee the closing out of the RDA's No-Interest Securitized Forgivable Loan Program (formerly known as the Deal-Closing Fund). Changes made to the RDA's enabling legislation in the last session of the General Assembly removed the authorization for this form of economic development from the RDA's mission. The new law takes effect July 1, and the No-Interest Securitized Forgivable Loan Program will sunset at that point.

In housekeeping details, the Board held its annual election of new officers. State of Indiana appointee Don Fesko was re-elected as Chairman; State of Indiana appointee Harley Snyder was re-elected as Vice-Chairman; and Gary appointee Bill Joiner was re-elected as Treasurer. New Porter County appointee Chris Campbell was also formally sworn in.

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including former Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Years of successful results have made it a trusted and tested partner for growth in Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.rdatransformation.com or www.in.gov/rda