



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368

From Anywhere (219) 763-6060
From Lake Co. (219) 766-6060
From LaPorte Co. (800) 709-6060
Fax Messages (219) 762-1653

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OPEN HOUSES YOU ARE INVITED!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD and PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES FOR THE FOLLOWING MAJOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIONS:

- ◆ DRAFT 2040 COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PLAN
- ◆ THE FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
- ◆ THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) will provide a 30-day public comment period and conduct public open houses related to the approval and adoption of the above listed regional transportation planning actions. **Subject to action by the NIRPC Board, the public comment period will begin April 28, 2011, with the release of the draft 2040 Plan, the Fiscal Year 2012-2015 TIP, and the Conformity Determination report. It will end on June 3, 2011. Written comments may be sent to NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, Indiana 46368, or by facsimile at (219) 762-1653, or via email to nirpc@nirpc.org.**

The Draft 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan is the first long-range comprehensive regional plan for Lake, Porter and La Porte Counties. The draft plan is based on a regional vision created through public participation that started with the regional forum on December 6, 2008 and continued through 2010 with a series of six workshops and numerous public meetings throughout Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. From this beginning a draft vision statement and draft goals and objectives were developed, followed by regional policies and strategies to achieve the vision and goals. The draft comprehensive regional plan addresses transportation, economic development, land use, the environment, and social equity. A complete draft of the 2040 plan may be viewed at www.nirpc.org beginning April 29. Requests for alternative formats may be made by contacting Mary Thorne at 219-763-6060, ext. 131 or email to mthorne@nirpc.org.

The Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a regional program of federally funded state and local highway and transit projects prioritized over a four-year period. Highway capacity-increasing projects in a TIP must come from a conforming long-range regional plan. Transportation projects will be selected for funding under the federal fund categories for highway, public transit, bridge inspection program, railroad crossings, congestion mitigation and air quality (CMAQ), local demonstration projects and Indiana Department of Transportation highway projects.

The Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination establishes the compatibility between the state air quality implementation plan and the proposed amended long-range regional transportation plan and the TIP. The conformity determination assures that the transportation projects in the TIP will not contribute to more air pollution.

The Adoption

The 2040 Plan, the TIP, and the air quality conformity determination will be finalized based upon public input and presented for adoption by NIRPC's Board of

Commissioners on June 23, 2011 at the 9:00 a.m. meeting at NIRPC. NIRPC meetings are open to the public and the agenda provides for public comments.

Listed below are the dates, times and locations of the planned public review meetings.

We look forward to seeing you on the date of your choice.

For more information contact Steve Strains, NIRPC Deputy Director and Director of Planning, at 219/763-6060, or email at sstrains@nirpc.org. TTY users may access the Relay Indiana Service by calling 711 or 1-800-743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

MEETING SCHEDULE

NIRPC Draft 2040, Plan, TIP & Air Quality Conformity Determination Public Review Meetings			
Dates	City/Town	Venue Location	Time
Wed. May 4 Thurs. May 5 Fri. May 6	City of LaPorte Schererville Hammond	Main Library Branch 904 Indiana Avenue Schererville Town Hall 10 E. Joliet Street Hammond Public Library 564 State Street	1pm-3pm 5pm-7pm 10am-12pm
Mon. May 9 Wed. May 11 Thurs. May 12 Fri. May 13	Hammond Hobart East Chicago Gary	Woodmar United Methodist Church 7320 Northcote Ave Hobart Chamber of Commerce 1001 Lillian Street Pastrick Public Library 1008 W. Chicago Ivy Tech Community College Northwest 1440 East 35th Ave	5pm-7pm 5pm-7pm 5pm-7pm 10am-12pm
Mon. May 16 Fri. May 20	Gary Kouts	Main Library 220 W. 5th Ave Kouts Library 101 E. Daumer Road	5pm-7pm 10am-12pm
Mon. May 23 Tues. May 24 Tues. May 24 Wed. May 25	Wanatah Valparaiso Valparaiso Portage	Town Hall 104 N. Main Street Valparaiso Public Library 103 Jefferson Street Valparaiso Public Library 103 Jefferson Street Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 6100 Southport Road Portage Indiana 46368	5pm-7pm 10am-12pm 4:30pm-6:30pm 5pm-7pm
Tues. May 31 Tues. May 31	Michigan City Michigan City	Michigan City Library 100 E. 4th Street Michigan City Library 100 E. 4th Street	10am-12am 5pm-7pm
Wed. June 1 Wed. June 1	Crown Point Crown Point	City Hall Council Chambers 101 N. East Street City Hall Council Chambers 101 N. East Street	10am-12pm 5pm-7pm

Requests for interpretive services or alternate formats for documents must be received 72 hours in advance of the open house which you plan to attend.

Public Transit Information to get to some meetings

EZGo Call Center: 877-532-7946

Indiana Relay 711 or 800-743-3333, TTY or DTT Users may call 800-743-3333