



**NORTHWESTERN INDIANA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Together We Make The Difference

**6100 Southport Road Portage, Indiana 46368**

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**Resolution 13-29**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

December 12, 2013

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Indiana's citizens require a safe, efficient, effective, resource conserving 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 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the council of governments for the Lake, Porter and La Porte County area, has established a comprehensive, cooperative and continuing (3-C) transportation planning and programming process to develop the unified planning work program, a transportation plan, and a transportation program to facilitate federal funding for communities, counties and transit operators and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Development Authority (hereinafter referred to as "The RDA", was established in September 2005 under Governing Statute IC36-7.5; and

**WHEREAS**, The RDA was supported by bipartisan majorities in both houses of the Indiana General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, The RDA was uniquely designed to focused specifically on needs and opportunities that have the potential of facilitating improvements in the economy, environment and quality of life in this region; and

**WHEREAS**, The RDA has successfully brought a return on investment to the northwest Indiana region of \$5.11 for every dollar spent for a total of more than \$1.1 billion by 2015;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission supports the reauthorization of the Regional Development Authority in at least its current form with at least at its current levels of support and with at least its current participants.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 12th day of December, 2013.

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David Uran  
Chairperson

ATTEST;

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James G. Ton  
Secretary



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**RESOLUTION 13-30**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED INVESTMENT IN COMMUTER RAIL  
CONNECTING CHICAGO TO NORTHWEST INDIANA AND THE EXPANSION OF THE  
WEST LAKE CORRIDOR**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Indiana require a safe, efficient and effective transportation system that maintains and enhances mobility and contributes to improving the quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, hereafter referred to as "The Commission", being designated the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Lake, Porter and LaPorte County region, has established a region-wide, cooperative, comprehensive and continuing planning process to develop the unified planning work program, long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program; and

**WHEREAS**, The Commission enacts the plans and programs to facilitate federal, state and local funding for surface transportation improvements carried out by the Indiana Department of Transportation, the region's communities, counties and transit operators, and provides technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

**WHEREAS**, The Commission as a regional policy body and as staff is strongly committed to the successful implementation of a commuter rail project in Northwest Indiana, one of the key economic development and quality of life initiatives for the region, one which will drive the future of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, The Commission sees itself as a partner with NICTD; and

**WHEREAS**, access to a world-class economy is economically beneficial to the State of Indiana;

**WHEREAS**, more than 50,000 residents of Lake and Porter Counties commute to Illinois for employment annually;

**WHEREAS**, access to Chicago doubles the job base of Lake & Porter counties to 513,000 vs. 244,600;

**WHEREAS**, the average annual household income of \$82,000 for a South Shore commuter equates to approximately \$369 million;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission hereby endorses increased investment in commuter rail connecting the Chicago market to northwest Indiana in general. The Commission also specifically endorses any opportunity for the development of the West Lake Corridor expansion.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this 12th day of December, 2013.

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David Uran  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

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James G. Ton  
Secretary