



# **NORTHWEST INDIANA PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN OF 2010**

*Prepared by*  
**NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

6100 Southport Road  
Portage, Indiana 46368  
(219) 763-6060  
[www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org)



---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

Purpose & Scope of Plan .....	1-2
Previous Studies .....	1-4
Demographics .....	1-7

## **CHAPTER 2: PED & BIKE ISSUES**

Federal, State & Local Initiatives .....	2-2
Need for Active Living .....	2-5
Benefits of Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly Culture .....	2-7
Overcoming Opposition .....	2-13
Education .....	2-16

## **CHAPTER 3: FACILITY DEVELOPMENT**

Facility Design/Best Practices .....	3-2
Financial Strategies .....	3-16
Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Links .....	3-21
Local Planning Direction .....	3-22

## **CHAPTER 4: REGIONAL INVENTORY**

NIRPC Routes .....	4-2
Interregional Facilities .....	4-11

## **CHAPTER 5: MOVING FORWARD**

Priority Corridor Selection .....	5-2
Goals, Objectives & Policies .....	5-10

## **APPENDIX A: TRAIL INVENTORY**

## **APPENDIX B: TRAIL COST ANALYSIS**

## **APPENDIX C: INTERNET LINKS**

## **APPENDIX D: MODEL ORDINANCES**

## **APPENDIX E: REFERENCES**



Telephone (219) 763-6060  
Fax Messages (219) 762-1653  
On the Internet www.nirpc.org  
E-mail Messages nirpc@nirpc.org

**RESOLUTION 11-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TO ADOPT THE 2010 PED & PEDAL REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Northwest Indiana require a safe, efficient and effective, resource-conserving regional transportation system to attain and maintain socially, economically and environmentally sound living conditions towards an improved 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 regional, cooperative and comprehensive planning program to develop the unified planning work program, long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program; to annually endorse the plans and programs; to facilitate federal transportation funding for the Indiana Department of Transportation, regional communities and transit operators, and to provide technical assistance and expertise to regional transportation interests; and

WHEREAS, the Commission performs the above mentioned activities to satisfy regional requirements under the Federal-Aid Highway Acts of 1962, 1970, 1973 and 1976, the Surface Transportation Assistance Acts of 1978, 1982 and 1987, the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 as amended in 1970, 1974 and 1982, the Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, the Clean Air Act of 1970 as amended in 1977 and 1990, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, the Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (1998), the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (2005) as well as other federal, state and local legislation mandating cooperative, comprehensive and continuing regional transportation planning activities; and

WHEREAS, Lake and Porter Counties are classified as severe non-attainment for ozone precursors and must follow the guidelines established in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA), including the reduction of single occupant automobile trips; and

WHEREAS, walking, jogging, rollerblading and bicycle riding represent a healthy form of commuting and recreation, and has been identified in the CAAA as a

transportation control measure (TCM) to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles (SOV's); and

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana has currently developed 80 miles of off-road trails, nearly 600 miles of signed, shared bike routes, with approximately 500 miles of planned off-road trails; and

WHEREAS, an abundance of available rights-of-way still remain suitable for the development of additional trail systems, and

WHEREAS, local emphasis on pedestrian access and safety needs to take a more prominent role in land use decision-making, and

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted their *Complete Streets Guidelines* in 2010 to address accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians on all regional roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has solicited public comment on the draft *2010 Ped and Pedal Plan*, reviewed and considered the comments received and recommended modifications to be effected to the draft *2010 Ped and Pedal Plan*.

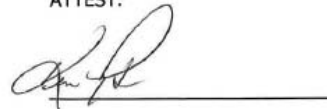
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission endorses and adopts the *2010 Ped and Pedal Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan*, as modified in response to the public comments received, to identify and prioritize regional trail corridors and encourage improved facilities for pedestrian and bicycle movements. This plan is subject to amendment, and will be incorporated into the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on this twenty-seventh day of January, two thousand and eleven.



Chairperson

ATTEST:



Secretary