

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

FOR THE FFY 2016-2019 TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FOR FTA SECTION 5307 URBANIZED AREA FUNDS, SECTION 5339 BUS AND BUS FACILITIES FUNDS, AND SECTION 5337 STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

FOR LAKE AND PORTER COUNTIES

February 11, 2015

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission is conducting a solicitation for public transit projects to receive federal funds under the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307, Section 5339 and Section 5337. This solicitation is targeted to existing public transit operators in Lake and Porter Counties. The Section 5337 solicitation is targeted to the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, the only commuter rail operator eligible in the Lake and Porter urbanized area. The solicitation is limited to new projects for FY 2018 and 2019.

NOTE: New providers, or potential new providers, must contact NIRPC to determine eligibility, financial feasibility and sustainability. Approving new providers and services is a long-term process. Early contact with NIRPC is required.

Applications are due at NIRPC by Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

An application form (Attachment 1) must be completed for each proposed new project.

Contact: Please submit your project application(s) to Belinda Petroskey at bpetroskey@nirpc.org, mail to NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, In. 46368.

Eligible activities include operating, capital and planning projects designed to support, maintain, and improve the Lake and Porter Counties' public transit systems, including fixed route bus, complementary paratransit, demand response transit, commuter bus, and commuter rail.

Project Selection

Transit projects will be selected using the **Project Selection Criteria** developed in conjunction with the adopted 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan for Northwest Indiana (CRP). **The Plan's Goals and Objectives are included as Attachment 2.**

Applicants will self-score projects using the methodologies identified in the Project Selection Criteria. Support documentation as noted on the Project Application must be submitted with the application(s). Staff will review and confirm scores. Discrepancies will be resolved by the Transit Operators' Round Table.

[CLICK HERE FOR PROJECT CRITERIA](#)

Federal Financial Projections

For TIP financial constraint purposes, the following projections will be used:

Base amount – FY 2015=\$ (actual apportionment not available yet)

Projected Annual Increase – 0%

FFY 2016 - \$12,000,000

FFY 2017 - \$12,000,000

FFY 2018 - \$12,000,000

FFY 2019 - \$12,000,000

Solicitation Calendar

TRANSIT PROJECT SELECTION CALENDAR FOR THE FFY 2016-2019 TIP

Release of Solicitation Application:	Feb, 11, 2015
Project Submission Deadline:	Feb. 25, 2015
Public Transit Operators Review	Feb, 27, 2015
Public Comment Period	March 2 –April 3, 2015
TPC Recommends TIP to NIRPC Board	May 12, 2015
NIRPC Board Approves TIP	May 21, 2015

ATTACHMENT 1

NORTHWEST INDIANA SECTION 5307/5339 TIP APPLICATION

Federal Fiscal Year 2016-2019 TIP

PART I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Public Transit Operator:

Contact Name:

Contact Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

Federal Fiscal Year:

Project Description: Attach separate sheet as needed.

For vehicle replacements, include schedule of replacements

For all others, include sufficient detail to inform “general public reader”.

List Criteria Project Addresses and Score:

PART III. PROJECT BUDGET

FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL
\$	\$	\$	\$

Source of Local Match:

NOTE: FOR EACH PROJECT PLEASE IDENTIFY BY YEAR THE AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF ALL NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.

Project Start and End Dates:

ATTACHMENT 2



2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan

2040 CRP Vision Statement / Goals & Objectives

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

2040 CRP Vision Statement

Stretching from the treasured shores of Lake Michigan to the historic banks of the Kankakee River and committed to an ethic of sustainability:

A vibrant region – Our economy is thriving, our people are well educated, growth is planned and natural and rural areas are valued and protected;

A revitalized region – Urban areas are renewed and our environment is clean;

An accessible region – Our people are connected to each other and to equal opportunities for working, playing, living, and learning;

A united region – Celebrating our diversity, we work together as a community across racial, ethnic, political, and cultural lines for the good of the region.

2040 CRP Goals

Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region – thriving economy*

Goal: **A globally competitive, diversified economy that protects and enhances our natural environment**

Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region – well-educated people*

Goal: **Expanded access to knowledge and educational opportunities**

Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region – protected natural and rural areas*

Goal: **Managed growth that protects farmland, environmentally sensitive areas and important ecosystems**

*** Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region – planned growth***

Goal: Livable urban, suburban and rural centers

*** Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – renewed urban areas***

Goal: Revitalized urban core cities

*** Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – clean environment***

Goal: Improved air quality

Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – clean environment*

Goal: **Reduced flooding and improved water quality**

Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – clean environment*

Goal: **Clean land**

*** Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities***

Goal: A safe and secure transportation system

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Goal: A safe and secure transportation system

*** Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities***

Goal: Adequate transportation funding and efficient use of resources

*** Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities***

Goal: A transportation system that supports the health of all people and places

Vision Theme: *United Region – working together, good of the region*

Goal: **Environmental justice: shared benefits and burdens**

Vision Theme: *United Region – working together, good of the region*

Goal: **Efficient and coordinated local government**

*** Indicates transit-supportive policy**

2040 CRP Goals and Objectives:

Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region – thriving economy*

Goal: **A globally competitive, diversified economy that protects and enhances our natural environment**

Objectives:

- Maximize technology, productivity and efficiency of existing core industries
- Create diverse, emerging and sustainable industries
- Strengthen public/private partnerships resulting in increased regional investment
- Redevelop urban core areas
- Utilization/expansion of transportation and other infrastructure advantages
- Promote growth that protects and enhances the environmental assets of Northwest Indiana
- Improve the workforce of the Region to accommodate growth in emerging industries
- Improve overall quality of life to attract businesses and residents

Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region – well-educated people*

Goal: **Expanded access to knowledge and educational opportunities**

* Objectives:

- *Develop a transportation system that provides safe and reliable access to educational facilities
- Maintain strategic partnerships with educational institutions
- * Provide critical information to the public to enable meaningful public participation
- Educate leaders about best practices in urban and regional planning and public policy
- *Improve infrastructure connectivity and access to the technology that supports distance education

Objectives:

- Promote the development and preservation of regional greenways and blueways (water trails) and establish linkages between them
- Encourage the concentration of development around existing infrastructure
- Encourage redevelopment of infill sites within established centers
- *Promote compact development and smart growth through techniques such as transit-oriented development, traditional neighborhood development and conservation design
- Foster the development of local food systems and a local food economy
- Preserve prime agricultural land and rural landscapes
- Encourage and plan for the protection and responsible use of shoreline areas
- Improve access to major regional parks and preserved open lands, including the Indiana Dunes

Vision Theme: *Vibrant Region: – planned growth*

Goal: **Livable urban, suburban and rural centers**

Objectives:

- Encourage the compact mixing of uses
- Encourage a diverse mix of housing types and affordability levels near job centers and transit routes
- Facilitate the remediation and redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized land including brownfields and grey fields

- Promote a safe and accessible pedestrian and bicycle environment
- *Expand access to public transit and promote transit-supportive land use patterns
- Promote community green infrastructure and access to public open space
- Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources
- Promote the integration of Context Sensitive Solutions into transportation planning and projects

Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – renewed urban areas*

Goal: **Revitalized urban core**

Objectives:

- *Rebuild and improve existing infrastructure systems including public transportation
- Improve the connectivity of and provide access to high tech infrastructure, including broadband, fiber and other technologies, to promote innovation and investment
- Foster the development of livable, mixed use downtowns
- Promote adaptive reuse, infill development and the remediation and reuse of underutilized properties, particularly brownfields
- Facilitate the rehabilitation of neighborhoods and maintenance of high quality and affordable housing
- Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources
- Expand visual and physical access to Lake Michigan and other open space
- Partner to protect threatened natural remnants
- Enhance community design and aesthetics

Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – clean environment*

Goal: **Improved air quality**

Objectives:

- Achieve national ambient air quality standards for all pollutants, including carbon monoxide, ozone and particulates
- Reduce air toxics, greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions
- Improve the aesthetics – noise, odor, discoloration – of air
- Reduce the disproportionate impact of industrial and transportation emissions on environmental justice populations
- *Coordinate land use and transportation policies to reduce motor vehicle trips

Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – clean environment*

Goal: **Reduced flooding risks and improved water quality**

Objectives:

- Achieve water quality standards and designated uses of our lakes and streams
- Complete, improve, and implement watershed management plans
- Promote stormwater best management practices including the development of green infrastructure and the reduction of impervious surfaces
- Facilitate regional planning for adequate collection and treatment of wastewater and the elimination of the inappropriate use of septic systems
- Promote the upgrading of aging water infrastructure
- Facilitate the development of a regional stormwater strategy
- Facilitate regional planning for water supply and demand

- Preserve flood plain and wetlands

Vision Theme: *Revitalized Region – clean environment*

Goal: **Clean land**

Objectives:

- Maximize the number of brownfields returned to productive use
- Facilitate a regional solid waste and landfill strategy
- Promote the acquisition and protection of greenspace
- Mitigate transportation and land use impacts

Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities*

Goal: **A safe and secure transportation system**

Objectives:

- Reduce the number and severity of motor vehicle collisions
- Improve the safety of non-motorized transportation through education, enforcement, engineering, design and construction
- Reduce flooding of roadways
- Reduce emergency response times
- Support the development of regional preparedness and evacuation planning
- *Improve the safety and security of transit facilities including stations, stops and vehicles
- Utilize technology, including Intelligent Transportation Systems and other strategies, to improve transportation safety

Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities*

Goal: **Increased mobility, accessibility and transportation options for people and freight**

Objectives:

- Integrate local, regional and national transportation systems to facilitate movement of people and freight between modes
- Improve freight facilities connecting the region to national and global markets
- Reduce congestion on major freight and passenger routes
- *Improve the internal connectivity of the transportation network
- *Enhance connectivity between housing, jobs, services, and educational facilities
- *Improve system accessibility for people with special transportation needs including persons with disabilities, the elderly, the young and low-income populations
- *Increase access to and improve the reliability of public mass transit
- *Improve the non-motorized transportation network by building Complete Streets that accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and transit users
- Enhance navigability through improved wayfinding and signage
- *Encourage land use policy that supports access for disabled persons, efficient mass transit, and non-motorized travel.

Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities*

Goal: **Adequate transportation funding and efficient use of resources**

Objectives:

- *Increase the level of federal and state funding flowing into the region and improve the ability to provide local matching funds
- *Protect previous investments through maintenance and improvements to existing transportation infrastructure, operations and services
- *Devote sufficient resources to address reconstruction and maintenance needs
- *Utilize the Congestion Management Process to optimize the efficiency of the existing system
- *Prioritize transportation investments that support land use and economic development goals
- *Encourage investments that consider long range impacts of changing transportation systems and anticipate future technologies

Vision Theme: *Accessible Region – connected people and opportunities*

Goal: **A transportation system that supports the health of all people and places**

Objectives:

- Improve the integration of environmental planning activities into transportation planning
- Reduce the levels and impacts of pollution (including air, noise, and vibration) caused by transportation, particularly freight, especially in environmental justice communities
- Improve the non-motorized transportation network by building Complete Streets that accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and transit users
- Expand environmental mitigation efforts
- *Conduct outreach to determine the negative impacts of transportation investments and to ensure environmental justice
- Promote energy efficiency and alternative energy

Vision Theme: *United Region – working together, good of the region*

Goal: **Environmental justice: shared benefits and burdens**

Objectives:

- *Increase outreach in environmental justice communities and improve the public involvement process to eliminate barriers and engage minority, disabled, elderly, and low-income populations in regional decision-making
- Improve capacity to identify residential, employment, and transportation patterns of low-income and minority populations so that their needs may be identified and addressed, and the impacts of transportation can be fairly distributed
- Avoid disproportionately high and/or adverse impacts on minority, disabled, elderly and/or low-income populations.
- Minimize and/or mitigate unavoidable impacts on low-income and/or minority populations by providing offsetting initiatives and enhancement measures to benefit affected communities and neighborhoods
- Increase awareness and understanding of environmental justice issues among decision makers
- Mitigate displacement of local residents and the loss of property investments when redeveloping the urban core

Vision Theme: *United Region – working together, good of the region*

Goal: Efficient and coordinated local government

Objectives:

- Facilitate the consolidation of redundant local government services
- Promote coordination of land use and corridor planning across jurisdictional boundaries
- Foster better communication, cooperation, and coordination to better leverage resources
- Promote the sharing of benefits, burdens and costs among governments