



Courthouse in Valparaiso  
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# Chapter V : **Stewardship & Governance**

## **Stewardship & Governance**

The breadth of the 2040 CRP is significant in scope. To accomplish the recommendations of the plan, an entire chapter was devoted to identifying the key stakeholders and committees that would assist in this process. Goals were set, challenges recognized and leadership assigned towards the robust mission of implementing the best practices as touted throughout the CRP.

Since the adoption of the CRP, those committees and stakeholders have held in place, and have carried through several important proposals from the CRP. The Update Companion identified these achievements in previous sections of this document.

One group that did come together was borne out of the steering committee for the CRP. The Pathway to 2040 – Implementation Committee began soon after the adoption of the CRP, and currently meets quarterly. This chapter will focus entirely on the role of this important group of regional decision makers.

### **The Pathway to 2040 – Implementation Committee**

The purpose of the Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) implementation committee (the Committee) is to concentrate on the implementation of regional planning that is predicated on a growing concern of regional sustainability by stakeholders and the need to focus on development from a regional perspective. The Committee facilitates implementation processes and partnerships, building links between jurisdictional boundaries. The Committee serves as a conduit to the region in helping to identify, organize, prioritize, target and support specific actions and recommendations of the CRP. The committee does not function in a policy role, but rather a technical role in the implementation and monitoring of progress.

#### *Roles and Responsibilities*

The roles and responsibilities to the Committee are to provide advisory input to the NIRPC Board local governments, and other committees on the implementation of the CRP by:

- Encouraging local jurisdictions to understand the CRP and that their planning practices and decisions should be viewed in a broader framework that may have consequences influencing and affecting the region. To accomplish this goal, NIRPC staff with committee members should develop an outreach approach to meet with local government elected officials to present the plan vision and recommendations. Plan recommendations should be tailored per community size and type (urban-suburban-rural).
- Participating in facilitating and organizing a meaningful launch of the plan event.
- Formulating Core Communities subcommittee of the Implementation Committee. This group will be formed by representative interests to include, at a minimum, Gary, Hammond, East Chicago and Michigan City. The Core Communities subcommittee will focus on

advancing those recommendations of the CRP intended to realize revitalization of the region's historic central cities. It will also provide technical support and assist in securing resources from federal and other external sources.

- Facilitating increased understanding and meaningful discussion of social justice issues, in particular as they relate to the relationship between land use, transportation and environmental planning efforts specifically in the core communities.
- Promoting an educational process that emphasize the importance and interdependency of regional issues related to the successful integration of land use and transportation planning such as environment, economic development, open space, water, public health, education, etc.
- Mobilizing the Northwest Indiana region through coordinated leadership and common implementation strategies.
- Focusing on special projects with tangible outcomes.
- Reviewing the CRP sets of implementation recommendations and action items then prioritizes its recommendations. The degree of complexity, difficulty, time frame and cost of implementation of these actions vary significantly.
- Developing a five- and 10-year implementation plan that prioritizes actions within a constrained funding plan. NIRPC staff will be working closely with the implementation committee to accomplish this task. This approach is necessary to realistically assess and identify the commitments NIRPC and its partners can make toward implementation of the plan.
- Instituting new recommendations as needed. It is expected that the number, type and priority of implementation actions identified in the CRP will change and evolve over time.
- Identifying legislative initiatives relative to creating authorities and funding mechanisms for implementation.
- Identifying local assistance needs and best practices that support enhanced local planning.
- Monitor the progress toward achieving the recommendations.

### **Outlook**

NIRPC has built solid partnerships through the CRP development process, and has continued to foster these relationships since the CRP adoption. NIRPC intends to continue work with regional stakeholders on advancing the goals and recommendation of the CRP.