



NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Together We Make The Difference

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NEWS FROM NIRPC

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Public Open Houses on Marquette Plan Update Agencies looking for public input on status of the Marquette Plan

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) and Indiana Landmarks would like to invite those interested to participate in a series of public open houses regarding current efforts to update the Marquette Plan, Northwest Indiana's Vision for Lakeshore Reinvestment. These open houses will be held as follows:

November 4th: 2:00 – 3:30 pm at Gary Public Library, Carter G. Woodson Branch, 501 South Lake Street, Gary IN 46403.

November 4th: 5:30 – 7 pm at Whiting Community Center, 1938 Clark Street Whiting IN 46394

November 12th: 5:30 – 7 pm at City Hall Operations Center, 100 E. Michigan Blvd #2, Michigan City, IN 46360

November 18th: 5:30 – 7 pm at Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission: 6100 South Port Road, Portage, IN 46368

Congressman Pete Visclosky, the creative force behind the Marquette Plan has said "Sweeping changes will not come overnight. Nor can they be dictated by one person or one governmental body. We in Northwest Indiana must sit together as a unified community and reach a consensus on our future". In 2005 Phase I, and again in 2008 for Phase II, the region did come together on a future for our Lake Michigan Shore. The Marquette Plan's strategic vision, common to both phases is to create a Livable Lakefront for the Region, where people can live, work, play & stay. The plan provides a framework for thinking and acting strategically to move toward environmental, economic, and social sustainability of our shoreline, with new and mixed uses, as well as increased public access to the vital Lake Michigan resource.

Since 2005 the Marquette Plan has not been a document that sits on the shelf. Many of our shorefront cities and towns have invested in projects and policies to implement the Marquette Plan, with the support of the Regional Development Authority, the Indiana DNR, and many other regional partners. For details on all the developments on the shoreline, visit the RDA's Marquette Plan page at www.rdatransformation.com

In 2012 the Regional Development Authority, in partnership with NIRPC and Indiana Landmarks submitted and was awarded a Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant to update the plan. “This update is important to maintain the Marquette Plan’s relevance as a proactive strategic document, “said Kathy Luther, Director of Environmental Programs for NIRPC. Updates to the plan will include progress reports from each of the subareas addressed in the original documents, integration of the two Phases into one Plan, enhanced digital mapping and web presence, and new strategies for building upon the historical and cultural landmarks and resources near the lakefront.

As part of 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan Implementation NIRPC is committed to planning for the long-term sustainable vitality of our region. The Marquette Plan is an important part of the region’s vision for its future.

NIRPC is a regional council of local governments serving the three counties of Northwest Indiana. The Northwest Indiana region is an integral part of the greater Chicago metropolitan area. NIRPC provides a forum that enables the residents of Northwest Indiana to address regional issues relating to transportation, the environment and community and economic development. NIRPC is the voice of regionalism in Northwestern Indiana, and a developer of consensus-backed solutions.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Kathy Luther, please call NIRPC at 219/763-6060 or e-mail nirpc@nirpc.org.