

The Marquette Plan

Process

The planning process for Phase II was initiated in May 2007 with the establishment of a Project Working Group, Stakeholder Group and development of a Consultant Management Plan.

The preparation of the Phase II Plan has included study area reconnaissance, review of existing documents, meetings with project stakeholders, elected officials, town/city/county council briefings, and Project Working Group and Steering Group meetings. Over the duration of the project, NIRPC and the consultant team have conducted extensive public involvement initiatives. Various planning tools and techniques, such as, visual preferencing, one-on-one dialogue with the residents/stakeholders, large group format presentations and public open-house were utilized. Over a period of ten months, the process included 10 public meetings, monthly meetings with Project Working Group, and regular meetings with project stakeholders.

The purpose of the inclusionary, interactive and transparent process for Phase II was to gather input from all stakeholders in the study area, address the issues and concerns that the communities and the region face, and work together to develop a

consensus-based vision and actionable implementation recommendations. The planning process included the following:

- Extensive field analysis; analysis of demographics, commuting patterns, economy, land use and environmental data; and review of available background data to gain a thorough understanding of the study area. Information gathered during this phase was documented and used for area-wide analysis, identification of issues and opportunities that were presented during the visioning phase.
- Five public meetings during the visioning phase of the project at different locations throughout the study area to have maximum representation. Information gathered during this phase was documented and used to establish goals and objectives, and development of concept alternatives that were presented during the concept alternatives phase.
- Two public meetings were held during the concept alternatives phase where three varying concepts were presented at different locations to have maximum representation. Information gathered during this phase was documented and through a process of public input and refinement a draft plan was developed that was presented during the draft plan phase.
- Two public open houses were held during the draft plan phase at different locations to have maximum representation. The comments received during these meetings were used to refine the draft plan into a final plan and recommendations.
- Stakeholder input forums were held with over 100 stakeholders being interviewed. The stakeholders were placed into topic groups including: transportation, environment, education, civic/citizen, government, and economic development/private industry. Both, one-on-one interviews and focus group formats, were used to gather input.
- One stakeholder open house was held during the draft plan stage. The information gathered and comments received during this meeting were used to refine the draft plan and recommendations.
- During the different phases, over fifteen meetings were held with elected officials in each community from Ogden Dunes to Michiana Shores to gather community level input and identify locally "supportable" catalytic projects.
- Presentation of the draft recommendations and final recommendations to NIRPC's Board of Directors, Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), and Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC) were made during the process.



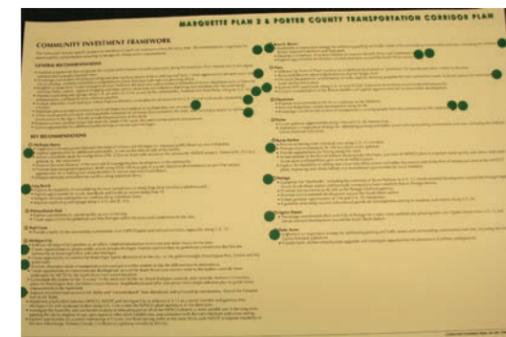
Consultant Team Charrette



Resident Open House: Draft Plan Phase



Resident Meeting: Visioning Phase



Resident input during Open House: Draft Plan Phase



Resident Open House: Draft Plan Phase



Resident Meeting: Visioning Phase



Resident Meeting: Concept Alternatives Phase



Resident Meeting: Concept Alternatives Phase



Stakeholder Open House: Draft Plan Phase