

Transportation Policy Committee
NIRPC/Forum Auditorium
6100 Southport Road, Portage, IN
November 12, 2013 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order by Chairman, Opening and Announcements

- a) Pledge of Allegiance; Introductions
- b) Meeting Participation Survey
- c) **Action** on the minutes of the October 8 meeting

2. Presentation: A Livable Broadway (*David Wright, GPTC*)

3. Proposed Illiana Expressway

- a) Plan Amendment Schedule (*Mitch Barloga*)
- b) **Action** to Recommend the Congestion Management Process as it pertains to the Illiana and I-65 Added Travel Lanes (*Kevin Garcia*)
- c) Report on the Environmental Justice Analysis (*Kevin Garcia*)
- d) Staff White Paper (*Mitch Barloga*)

4. Planning

Public Participation Plan (*Ty Warner*)

4. Programming

Quarterly TIP Project Tracking (*Amanda Pollard*)

5. Indiana Department of Transportation

Project Lettings Report (*Chris Reynolds*)

6. Transit Operator Reports

- a) Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District
- b) Gary Public Transportation Corporation
- c) Other Operators

7. Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration

8. Planning Neighbors

- a) Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
- b) South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- c) Southwestern Michigan Commission

9. Other Business, Public Comment, Staff Announcements and Upcoming Meetings

- a) Other Business
- b) Public Comment
- c) Staff Announcements
- d) Meetings at NIRPC unless otherwise indicated:
 - Marquette Plan Update Open House – Michigan City, City Hall Operations Center, 100 E. Michigan Blvd. November 12 at 5:30 p.m.
 - Illiana Public Meeting – November 13 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at NIRPC.
 - Marquette Plan Update Open House – NIRPC, 6100 Southport Road, Portage, November 18 at 5:30 p.m.
 - Illiana Public Meeting – November 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Michigan City City Hall, 100 East Michigan Blvd.
 - Land Use Committee Meeting - November 20 10:00 a.m.
 - Ped, Pedal and Paddle Committee – November 21 1:30 p.m.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at Woodland Park.

The next meeting of the NIRPC Commission will be at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 12, 2013 at Woodland Park.

Requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

NIRPC Auditorium

October 8, 2013

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present

Shawn Pettit, Joyce Newland, Jerry Halperin John Bayler, Art Biciunas, Mitch Bishop, Jim Mandon, Dave Decker, Stan Dobosz, Phil Gralik, Bruce Lindner, James Mandon, Mark O'Dell, Joe Crnkovich, Tyler Kent, Claudia Taylor, David Wright, Don Parker, Francisco Rosado, Jr., Mike Yacullo, Rob Strader, Jeff Huet, Dwayne Williams and Christopher Meyers.

Guests

Philip Roth, Keith Benman, Ed Linden, Sandy Linden, Ted Gross, R. Mark Pittman, Sedrick Green, Ron Shimizu, Matt Mikus, Christopher Murphy, Jim Pinkerton, Michele Bollinger, Jim Wiseman, Doug Robinson, Michael Jabo, Glen Campbell, Rebecca Williams, Dawn Biela, Janet Cypra and Craig Hendrix.

NIRPC Staff

Ty Warner, Steve Strains, Mitch Barloga, Mary Thorne, Eman Ibrahim, Gary Evers, Jack Eskin, Kevin Garcia, Amanda Pollard, Stephen Sostaric, Scott Weber.

1. Call to Order, Opening and Announcements

- a) Chairman Shawn Pettit, NIRPC Commissioner and Merrillville Town Councilman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.
- b) The INDOT voluntary participation survey was available on the table.
- c) Joe Crnkovich asked that the NICTD report in the minutes be amended to read "The north doors of the station will be closed until the completion of the work on the station." On a motion by Bruce Lindner; second by Don Parker, the minutes of the September 10 meeting were approved as amended.

2. Illiana Expressway

- a) Illiana Plan Amendment Schedule: Mitch Barloga referenced the timeline for the Illiana & I-65 widening for the Comprehensive Regional Plan (CRP) and TIP amendment schedule of meetings and actions. The public comment period will begin on October 14 and end on November 20. A series of reports including the environmental justice analysis, conformity determination for the TIP and Comprehensive Regional Plan proposed amendments will be ready before or during that time.

Stephen Sostaric announced four public meetings: November 2 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at John W. Anderson Library, Indiana University Northwest; November 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Lowell Middle School, 19250 Cline Avenue; November 13 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at NIRPC; and November 19 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Michigan City City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd. All public comments received through November 20, including those received prior to the beginning of the comment period as well as all public comment received at NIRPC meetings will be compiled into a public comment summary report. An environmental justice workshop will be held Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Genesis Center in Gary for targeted stakeholders in the environmental justice community in Lake County on the potential impact of the Illiana on those communities. Bernardin Lochmueller &

Associates, Inc. is the consultant for the workshop and the environmental justice technical analysis will be done by Kevin Garcia.

The next TPC meeting will be held on December 3 at 9 a.m. to make their recommendation and the Executive Board/Full Commission meeting will be held on December 12 at 9 a.m. to take action. NIRPC's website has dedicated a page on the Illiana with a link to the illianacorridor.org website. All public comments received will be posted on our website.

Ty Warner said CMAP in Chicago is going through a similar process. The CMAP Board will vote on October 9, and their MPO Policy Committee will vote on October 17. By year end, both agencies will be in line. Steve Strains reported that NIRPC has a seat on their transportation policy committee which met last Friday. There were 22 votes to include the Illiana into their long range plan. The vote was 10-7 with 5 abstentions, Steve being one of those abstaining.

Mitch said NIRPC staff is preparing a white paper on the Illiana because of the complexity of the project to see how the Illiana matches up with the goals and objectives of the CRP.

- b) Presentation on Illiana & I-65 Congestion Management Process: Kevin Garcia said that the congestion management process analysis will be up for a vote at the November TPC meeting and both the Illiana and I-65 projects are going through the process. In order for projects to be included in the CRP, they must meet Complete Streets policy and go through the Congestion Management Process. The Complete Streets policy does not apply to the Illiana; however, there are some good examples of bike trails along expressways in other parts of the country. A couple of months ago, Parsons-Brinkerhoff presented a congestion management analysis but staff will follow the process we used before with the CRP. We will identify congested corridors, calculate performance measures, evaluate our alternatives and then determine how the Illiana and I-65 projects look with respect to that analysis. Population and employment projections from the CRP will be used for the analysis. Kevin and Scott Weber are working together to complete the analysis and the results will be brought to the TPC for their recommendation in November.

3. Planning

Eman Ibrahim presented Amendment #1 to the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for recommendation. NIRPC's traffic data collection program equipment needs to be replaced. NIRPC will provide local match of \$3,600 for FHWA funding of \$14,400 for the total cost of \$18,000. On a motion by Stan Dobosz and a second by Don Parker, the committee voted to recommend approval of Amendment #1 to the NIRPC board.

4. Programming

- a) Quarterly TIP Project Tracking – Amanda Pollard reported that meetings for 2013 are complete and the 2014 calendar year has been scheduled with March 12-14 for Merrillville and Cedar Lake. Gary Evers thanked the LPA's for their participation in the tracking which has provided a lot of valuable information.
- b) Amendment #3 to the FY 2014-2017 TIP – Gary described the two air quality exempt projects to restore the PE phase to the TIP for a Portage Project and an IEDC project for bridge reconstruction over Aldis Avenue in East Chicago. On a motion by Don Parker and a second by Christopher Meyers, the committee voted to recommend approval of Amendment #3 to the FY 2014-2017 TIP.

5. Indiana Department of Transportation

Chris Reynolds highlighted projects in the letting list provided in the materials for September, October, November and December; the October letting date is tomorrow. Lettings for January through March will be substantial. Chris responded to Chairman Pettit that meetings with Merrillville and Hobart on the US 30 Corridor projects will be held towards the end of October.

6. Transit Operators Reports

- a) NICTD – Joe Crnkovich reported that September ridership was up 2% over September 2012, but still down almost 2% for the year to date. This week only, work at the Illinois-Indiana State Line on the tracks to the east of the freight yard is installing new switches, resulting in some interruptions of service. The 4:34 p.m. Train 218 out of Gary going into Chicago and Train 20 leaving Michigan City at 4:45 p.m. will arrive in Chicago about an hour late. If people wish they can be bused from the Gary Metro Center into downtown Chicago. There will only be one track which will be used for outbound trains from Chicago during rush hour. The bridge work over Trail Creek will take place from October 20 to November 1. Passengers will be bussed between the shops in Michigan City and South Bend. Work continues on the high level platform at Dune Park. The north part of the station will be closed until the walkway is completed. Work continues on the catenary system.
- b) GPTC – David Wright reported that September's ridership increase is about 13% over September 2012. August ridership for 2013 was the highest for a calendar month since October 2012, with a 2.5% increase over August 2012. For calendar year 2013, ridership is up about 5.73%. The Metro Center construction project should be ending soon and there are some boarding and alighting changes for their vehicles as well as for some Greyhound and other lines serving the Metro Center. GPTC did an assessment of the Metro Center with the Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) and they are waiting for a final report which they hope to use to put together projects for the area around the Metro Center. The last project is a full overhaul of GPTC's IT infrastructure including new dispatch and communications center at the 35th Avenue location to be completed within the next 30 to 45 days.
- c) Michigan City Transit – Rob Strader reported that Michigan City, LaPorte and Purdue North Central met with leadership last month to examine the feasibility of a project linking the three entities with public transportation.

8. Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration

Joyce Newland reported that FTA staff was furloughed. Therefore, the draft certification report has not yet been completed.

9. Planning Neighbors – There were no reports from CMAP, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, or Southwestern Michigan Commission.

10. Other Business, Public Comment and Upcoming Meetings at NIRPC

- a) Other Business: Don Parker reported that ATA contacted area agencies operating multi-modal connections. There is one set up for the Miller train station. Assessment factors include ease in connectivity of different modes of transportation. The Metro Center has good connectivity. Hammond, South Shore (NICTD) and Michigan City Transit can contact Don Parker if they are interested in an assessment from ATA. The Mid-America Trails and Greenway (MATAG) Conference is October 28-30 in Matteson at the Holiday Inn Conference Center. October 27 at 3:00 p.m. a "Golden Spoke" ceremony will be held dedicating the recently constructed Pennsy-Greenway Trail crossing the State Line linking Lansing and Munster.

b) Public Comment:

- Ted Gross, Lowell resident said the Illiana is a toll road not an expressway. He said that soil tests and other environmental assessments were made and about 50% of the 10-12 mile Indiana section of the highway is wetlands or lakes. If the intersection is put in at SR 55, they will have to remove the Lake Julia Dam and lower the lake which will also hurt Twin Lakes. Within a half mile of 163rd, over 40 homes are involved. There is no consideration of where they will put the Illiana. Results of an informal truck survey showed that drivers will not pay the tolls. Indiana has to buy the property and the taxpayers will pay more money. Also, the West Creek watershed was supposed to be a state lake going from north junction route 2 to 231 or the old Route 8. There were 3 artesian wells. Let's keep Lake County green.
- Sandy Linden, Lowell resident, inquired as to what public comments will be reported. Steve Strains said all comments received whether by mail, email, phone, petitions and also during the public comment portion of all NIRPC minutes will be included. Mitch Barloga added that the website will allow for a form to be filled out by the public and verbal comments can be given by calling 219-763-6060, extension 160. Comments submitted by any means will all weigh equally.

c) Staff Announcements:

Gary Evers announced that the TIP was approved by the Board; we have three amendments. He thanked Jerry Halperin and Joyce Newland for their assistance. The transit amendment was still at FTA.

d) Upcoming Meetings:

- Pathway to 2040 Committee – October 10 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.
- Executive Board/Full Commission – October 17 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.
- Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee – October 24 at 1:30 p.m. at NIRPC.
- Local Government Assistance Committee –October 31 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC
- Illiana Public Meeting – November 2 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Indiana University Northwest, 3400 Broadway, Gary.
- Illiana Public Meeting – November 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Lowell Middle School, 19250 Cline Avenue.
- EMPC – October 3 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC.
- Illiana Public Meeting – November 13 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at NIRPC.
- Illiana public Meeting – November 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Michigan City City Hall, 100 East Michigan Blvd.

The next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at NIRPC.

Chairman Pettit adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC should you wish to receive a copy of it.

For requests for alternate formats, please contact Mary Thorne at NIRPC at (219) 763-6060 extension 131 or at mthorne@nirpc.org. Individuals with hearing impairments may contact us through the Indiana Relay 711 service by calling 711 or (800) 743-3333.

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, familial status, parental status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

A LIVABLE BROADWAY

Mobility Analysis for Urban and Suburban Broadway

FUNDING

- \$200,000 in FTA Section 5307 funds, to be matched by DNR funds
- In 2013-2014 Unified Planning Work Program

JUSTIFICATION

2040 Plan:

- Plan advocates exploring “..opportunities for eventual development of bus rapid transit..”
- Focus on livable centers and walkability
- Growth focus for/on urban centers

GPTC Strategic Plan, Current Performance:

- Focus on core service delivery: “optimize service from main hubs to other urban/suburban centers”
- Current higher ridership on Broadway corridor (ridership on corridor exceeds E. Chicago ridership and doubles V-Line ridership)

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Assess current state of transit on Broadway
- Assess modal linkages (including pedestrian, rail)
- Assess signalization/modal conflicts, and ADA issues
- Review, with stakeholders, growth scenarios for corridor
- Integrate growth scenarios with optimal transit and pedestrian mobility
- Recommend transit levels of service, modes and infrastructure for Broadway corridor (fitting anticipated growth)
- Recommend Green Infrastructure improvements
- Recommend funding strategies for transit and development near key nodes

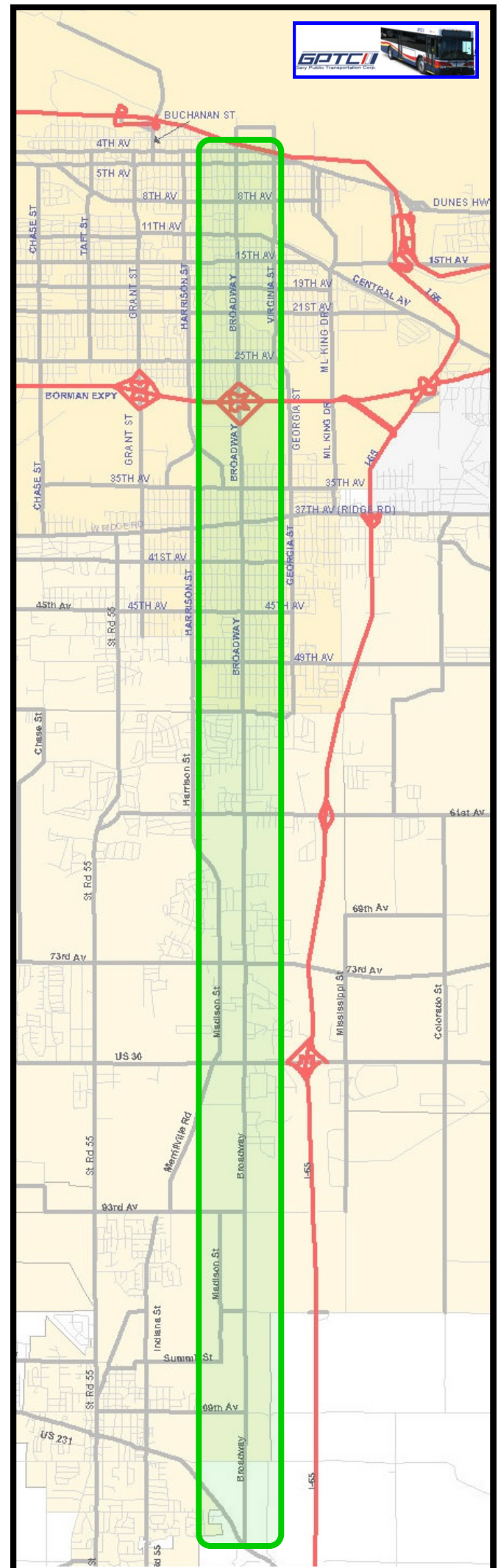
STUDY AREA

1/2 mi east and west of Broadway, from I-90 to US231 in communities of:

- GARY
- MERRILLVILLE
- CROWN POINT

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- CITY OF GARY
- TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
- CITY OF CROWN POINT
- NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
- Indiana Dept. of Transportation
- Regional Development Authority
- Indiana University Northwest
- Methodist Hospitals
- Chambers of Commerce
- Sierra Club
- Everybody Counts



**Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)
INDOT - LaPorte District Letting**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**
Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

OFFICIAL TABULATION OF BIDS RECEIVED

Total Letting Cost:

\$16,615,179.90

LAPORTE DISTRICT

FOR THE LETTINGS IN OCTOBER 2013

M-35984	1382564	Description: Route: Location: County:	Roadside Maintenance, Tree Removal/Trimming Various Various Locations within LaPorte District Lake, LaPorte, Porter	Letting Date:10/09/2013	REJECTED
R-33945	1006778	Description: Route: Location: County:	HMA Overlay, Preventative Maintenance I-80 from I-80/Clay Street (2.98 miles W of US) to I-80/90 Interchange Lake	Letting Date:10/09/2013	SOLD
		CONTRACTOR:	Address	Phone	AMOUNT OF BID
		RIETH RILEY CONSTRUCTION	Goshen, IN	574-875-5183	\$2,928,050.00
R-35931	1382521	Description: Route: Location: County:	Concrete Pavement Restoration I-65 0.59 miles S of US 231 to 0.1 mile S of US 30 Lake	Letting Date:10/09/2013	REJECTED
R-34479	1173424	Description: Route: Location: County:	Road Reconstruction Local In City of Gary, E of SR 912, begins at E end of exit ramps from SR 912 Lake	Letting Date:10/09/2013	LPA SOLD
		CONTRACTOR:	Address	Phone	AMOUNT OF BID
		SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.	Gary, IN	219-886-3728	\$6,412,101.25
R-31058	0201063 0400210	Description: Route: Location: County:	Bridge Rehabilitation or Repair/HMA Overlay, Preventative Maintenance SR 912 Bride over Gary Avenue, 0.49 mile N of I-90 Toll Road From US 12 (Columbus Drive) to 0.98 mile North of I-94 along w/frontage roads adj. to SR 912 Lake	Letting Date: 10/09/2013	SOLD
		CONTRACTOR:	Address	Phone	AMOUNT OF BID
		RIETH RILEY CONSTRUCTION	Goshen, IN	574-875-5183	\$7,275,028.65

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

LAPORTE DISTRICT

FOR THE LETTINGS IN NOVEMBER 2013

R-29729	0100331	Description: Route: Location: County:	Bridge Removal I-94 Bridge over abandoned railroad, 5.68 miles E of US 20 LaPorte	Letting Date:11/06/2013	
R-33088	0810298	Description: Route: Location: County:	Intersection Improvement W/Added Travel Lanes Local Central Avenue at County Line Road Porter	Letting Date:11/06/2013	LPA
R-35360	0400783 1006751 0400525	Description: Route: Location: County:	Small Structure Pipe Lining US 41, SR 51 & US 30 1.74 miles South of US 231 2.01 mile South of US 20 2.97 miles East of SR 2 and SR 49, over Cain Ditch Lake, Porter	Letting Date:11/06/2013	

**Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)
INDOT - LaPorte District Letting**

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

LAPORTE DISTRICT

FOR THE LETTINGS IN DECEMBER 2013

T-35393				
Des:	1172173	Description:	Traffic Signals Modernization	Letting Date:12/11/2013
		Route:	Various	
		Location:	9 various locations Districtwide for TSM's	
		County:	Various	

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

LAPORTE DISTRICT

FOR THE LETTINGS IN JANUARY 2014

R-33226				
Des:	0900061	Description:	Pavement Replacement	Letting Date: 1/15/2014
		Route:	Local	
		Location:	Broadway Street from Euclid Street to Fir Street	LPA
		County:	Lake	
R-34493				
Des:	1173425	Description:	Traffic Signals, New or Modernized	Letting Date: 1/15/2014
		Route:	Local	
		Location:	Upgrade signals at Calumet Avenue and Indian Boundary Road	LPA
		County:	Lake	
R-35341				
Des:	1297632	Description:	Concrete Pavement Restoration	Letting Date: 1/15/2014
		Route:	US 30	
		Location:	From Illinois State Line to US 41	
		County:	Lake	
R-35411				
Des:	1173472	Description:	Road Reconstruction	Letting Date: 1/15/2014
		Route:	Local	
		Location:	CR 950 W Road Reconstruction	LPA
		County:	LaPorte	
R-35799				
Des:	0710064	Description:	New Signal Installation	Letting Date: 1/15/2014
		Route:	Local	
		Location:	At intersection 15th Avenue and MLK Drive, multiple intersections and 1 rail crossing	LPA
		County:	Lake	