

**Resolution Supporting**  
**STRATEGIC PLANNING INVESTMENTS IN COMMUTER RAIL**  
**CONNECTING CHICAGO TO NORTHWEST INDIANA**  
**and**  
**THE EXPANSION OF THE WEST LAKE CORRIDOR**

**Whereas** the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of REALTORS® is a professional trade association comprised of approximately 2000 individual REALTOR® members across a six (6) county area of Northwest Indiana who actively engage in the real estate profession and have a duly elected board of directors empowered to govern the affairs of the association pursuant to Article XI of the bylaws of the association;

**Whereas** objectives of the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of REALTORS® include providing a unified medium for real estate owners and those engaged in the real estate profession whereby their interests may be safeguarded and advanced and to further the interest of home and other real property ownership;

**Whereas** the citizens of Northwest Indiana require a safe, efficient and cost effective transportation system that provides the linkage between high wage employment centers in Illinois and the affordable, high quality housing markets and comparatively lower cost of living in Northwest Indiana;

**Whereas** the January 2014 Regional Benefits Study, commissioned by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), reports Cook County, IL (Chicago) has an employment base 8.5 times greater than that in Northwest Indiana, 20 times greater in the high wage fields of finance, information services and healthcare and has a 40% wage premium over jobs in Lake County, IN, on average, overall;


**Whereas** Northwest Indiana does not benefit economically at the same level as Cook County's "collar counties" - only 20% of the Lake County, IN workforce and 6% of the Porter County, IN workforce commute to Chicago while an average of 34% of Cook County's "collar county" workforce commutes - despite the fact travel distances between the geographies are similar;

**Whereas** a convenient, quicker, reliable commuter rail system that can accommodate an increase in passenger commutes to the Chicago job market enhances the Northwest Indiana economy as many individuals commute for jobs that do not yet exist in Northwest Indiana - as commuter income flows into the region, and the concentration of workers grows, Northwest Indiana can expect to see local gains in knowledge industry employment and general economic activity; and

**Whereas** the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of REALTORS® has a history of supporting regional planning, economic development and redevelopment through its formal actions, advocacy, and educational activities and continues to support these efforts specifically for the benefit of the Northwest Indiana; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of REALTORS® supports strategic planning investments in commuter rail connecting the world-class Chicago economy to Northwest Indiana and the development of the West Lake Corridor Expansion Project

All of which action was taken by the members of the Board of Directors on January 18, 2017.

  
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Nathan Reeder, President

  
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Peter D. Novak, Jr., Chief Executive Officer