

IGNITE THE REGION IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

	Notes
5. PLACEMAKING: Create the amenities and places that enhance Northwest Indiana's appeal to diverse groups of people.	
5.1. Maximize the transit-oriented development (TOD) potential associated with the South Shore Line Double Track NWI and West Lake Corridor rail projects.	
5.1.1. The Northwest Indiana RDA should consider requiring communities that receive funding for transit development districts along the rail lines to conduct formal planning to prepare for TOD.	Gary, Portage, Ogden Dunes, Beverly Shores and Michigan City meet quarterly during Transit Development District Steering Committee meetings to receive updates & review processes
5.1.2. The Northwest Indiana RDA and NIRPC should provide some technical guidance to communities for TOD planning.	NIRPC is in the planning stages for Planning Commissioner Training across the region, which will include fostering an understanding of what goes into TOD.
5.1.3. The region should pursue competitive funding grants from the Federal Transit Administration to help pay for TOD planning.	NICTD announced on Feb 26 that it is able to begin the final engineering phase of the Double Track Northwest Indiana Project after receiving approval to enter the New Starts Engineering phase of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program.
5.1.4. Explore TOD opportunities in rural areas of the region.	Utilize abandon rail lines for walking & bike paths. Stephen Eastridge is working on this project in Southern counties.
5.2. Support the development of vibrant downtowns and distinct neighborhoods and districts.	
5.2.1. Encourage communities to adopt land-use policies that promote high-density uses and foster high-quality development.	Work with Infrastructure Group on tier Land banks big idea
5.2.2. Continue to assess the local regulations to ensure they are supportive of desired developments.	As above in 5.1.2, NIRPC is developing a Planning Commissioner Training curriculum that includes fostering an understanding of what goes into a TOD and how existing local land use regulations may need modification to promote a denser development pattern.
5.2.3. Utilize specialized toolsets, such as tax increment financing (TIF) districts, overlay districts, and other mechanisms, to encourage desired development in targeted areas.	Northwest Indiana's Opportunity Zone map development
5.2.4. Participate in public-private partnerships that facilitate significant infrastructure improvements and quality development projects.	Hammond's releases RFP for Redevelopment Proposals for Vacant Land in downtown area
5.2.5. Encourage the expansion or relocation of businesses in targeted development areas to stimulate commercial activity.	NIRPC is currently studying the effects of e-commerce on land use patterns and future development
5.2.6. Identify anchor projects that can bring in the type of traffic and uses needed to catalyze development.	

5.2.7. Work with developers and entrepreneurs to develop more coworking spaces in the region.	Work with Innovation & Entrepreneurship Big Idea on Impact Labs
5.3. Ensure the region encourages and promotes the development of diverse and affordable housing options.	
5.3.1. Promote the development of more multifamily housing in the region, especially around TOD nodes.	Placemaking Group continues to work with RDA, One Region via Transit Development District Steering Committee
5.3.2. The four southern counties in the region should explore partnering to establish a multicounty housing authority to increase the stock of workforce housing in rural areas.	
5.4. Support the ongoing initiative to establish a healthcare residency program in Northwest Indiana.	
5.5. Create a regional approach to developing and promoting the farm-to-fork sector in the region.	
5.5.1. Work with the region's agricultural sector and existing farmers' markets to establish a collaborative effort to promote the ongoing success and growth of locally grown agriculture products.	Legacy Foundation collaborative efforts with NWI Food Council, Purdue Co-op Extension and US Dept of Agriculture. Southern EDC forming collaborative on agri-business strategy
5.5.2. Identify gaps in the region's farmers' markets that can be filled by the establishment of new, larger, or more permanent farmers' markets.	Lake County Eats Local to begin weekly farmers markets in June to address food accessibility in East Chicago & Gary. Program funded by USDept of Agriculture in partnership with East Chicago, Gary, Legacy Foundation, NWI Food Council & Purdue Co-op Extension
5.5.3. Utilize farmers' markets as tools to promote placemaking to retain people in and attract people to the region.	County Tourism websites provided detailed information on farmers markets through NWI
5.6. Incorporate the site location needs of target industries into local and regional planning and placemaking strategies.	
5.6.1. Local and regional planning and transportation organizations should meet regularly and consult with economic development officials and with the sector councils to learn of target industry site selection needs and incorporate those needs into planning efforts.	Placemaking group attends RDA Quarterly TDD Steering Committee Updates to receive project team updates & timelines on TDD projects.
5.7. Continue regional and local efforts to expand cultural, arts, entertainment, and recreational infrastructure and amenities.	
5.7.1. Develop a regional quality-of-place asset map (online) that identifies the large array of amenities available to residents and visitors to the region.	Research regional wide map program
5.7.2 Continue regional and local efforts to expand cultural, arts, entertainment, and recreational infrastructure and amenities.	Calumet Collaborative working to integrate branding & wayfinding signage for Calumet Heritage Area Identity with partner organizations
5.7.3 Development of the bike trail app or other asset maps in cooperation with NIRPC, PNW and Legacy.	
5.7.4 2.Upon the availability of the Heritage Area Management Plan (Q1 2021), that describes the future work plan of the Heritage Area, review by the Placemaking Pillar committee/working group for general comment, but specifically to identify areas for collaboration and elimination of duplication with other organizations.	

5.7.5 Achieve Congressional designation as a National Heritage Area to realize similar benefits for the Heritage Area as accrued to the region upon elevation of the Indiana Dunes to National Park status



	In process
	Complete
	Stalled