

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Northwest Indiana, showing a river, highways, and urban development. The text is overlaid on this image.

NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**Leveraging Assets for
Greater Economic Growth**

THE RDA

- RDA formally established September 1, 2005 with funding to begin in January, 2006
- Passed by 2:1 bipartisan majorities by General Assembly in April 2005 with strong leadership from the Governor and the Northwest Indiana Delegation
- Signed into law by Governor Daniels on May 12, 2005 at the Gary/Chicago Airport



THE RDA

- Created to seize historic opportunity to meet the needs of the Greater Chicago transportation and other infrastructure growth
- O'Hare, Midway and surface transport use is at capacity and expected growth is toward Indiana



THE RDA

- ▮ Bill (HEA 1120) enumerates transportation infrastructure projects for consideration:
- ▮ The Gary/Chicago Airport
- ▮ The South Shore Railroad
- ▮ A Regional Bus System
- ▮ Lake Michigan Shoreline Development



Leveraging

- Federal funds almost always require a substantial local match beyond the reach of RDA members acting alone



THE RDA Funding

- Unique "pay to play" partnership of Cities, Counties and State to enhance economic growth in NW Indiana
- Cities of East Chicago, Gary, and Hammond join Lake and Porter Counties to contribute \$3.5 million each per year (\$17.5 million annually)
- State contributes "up to" \$10 million per year from Indiana Toll Road revenues
- State funding needs re-authorization by 2008 by State Budget Committee and OMB following their review and approval of strategic Business Development Plan



THE RDA Management

- Each city and county get one vote per \$3.5 million annual contribution; state appoints two members (including Chair)
- "Super Majority" of 5-2 required. That must include Governor's appointee as Chair for all major actions

THE RDA Management

- RDA Board has met monthly since inception in September. Staff has been hired and legal counsel retained with the State Attorney General as co-counsel
- The process has begun to select other professional services such as banking, accounting, and engineering.



THE VISION of THE RDA



**“Be a Catalyst for Transformation
of the Northwest Indiana
Economy to Robust World Class
Status”**

The RDA Values

 **Bold:**

The RDA will set high goals and a bold and intrepid vision in order to stimulate a significant economic rebirth in Northwest Indiana.

 **Collaborative:**

The RDA will seek to undertake project with state and federal agencies; it will support public-private partnerships in the furtherance of its vision. The RDA will collaborate with agencies and individuals to help assure that development attends to the needs of our environment and social equity.



The RDA Values



Transparent:

Transparency will instill public confidence. The RDA will project differentiation and in so doing help to gain, maintain, and expand the support of public officials and the community at large.

Non-Partisan:

The RDA will seek to work with individuals and government agencies without regard to political affiliation. Our vision for Northwest Indiana will be inclusive and capable of being embraced by all.

The RDA Values

Efficient:

Efficiency will direct the RDA to secure existing resources and preserve finances for the creation of private sector jobs. The RDA will require applicants to implement “best practices” in order to qualify for funding.

Accountable:

Accountability will increase prudent allocation of the RDAs resources and enhance public confidence. The RDA decision making process shall maximize the calibration of its investment and efforts at creation of desirable jobs.

The RDA

- Must prepare and submit required Development Plan by January 2008 but expect to fund a few targeted projects before then
- Will coordinate activities with federal, state, regional, and local agencies to also leverage investment
 - INDOT: Major Moves and other road projects
 - IEDC: overall economic development
 - IDEM: petitioning US EPA to switch Lake and Porter counties to attainment from non-attainment, as appropriate
 - Ports of Indiana: “Inland” ports and Inter-modal transportation projects

