



Greetings Regional Transportation Stakeholders!

The Regional Transportation Summit took place on May 17 -18, at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond, Indiana. The Summit was hosted by Gary Public Transportation Corporation. It was a SUCCESS! Your participation, engagement and enthusiasm enhances the movement for the implementation of a regional transportation system. The mobility of all citizens was a repeated theme in growing the economies of Northwest Indiana. As Miguel Southwell, President, Brakkam Aviation Management and former General Manager of Hartfield-Jackson International Airport Atlanta, Georgia, stated, if the priority of connectivity is not embraced as an economic engine for the Region, the comprehensive value is missed.

The vision of this Summit was the stakeholders coming together to have the hard conversation; joining NWI communities with a transit system, giving equitable access, economic growth and a value add to the richness of all communities. The phenomenal assets in the transportation arena available in the Region, makes enhancing the infrastructure and access a valuable commodity to the Region and the State. Businesses, while exploring the best financial reasons for investing in new areas, weigh heavily the assets of other businesses, housing, workforce, education opportunities, access, transportation, and overall quality of life. None of these modes of transportation, as a silo, have the strength of a collective strategy.

Personally thanking all the speakers, business, governmental, legislative, non-profits, faith-based, in their time, energies, and suggestions to this issue. For total transparency, NO person or organization asked to present said NO. If unavailable, recommendations were suggested, persons contacted, and information given to ensure informative content and support. A tremendous tribute to this effort of moving regional transportation forward on all agendas.

This takes us to next steps. Input gives valuable insight to what attendees find as value add, challenging, or missing. Attached is a brief survey. Please take 5 minutes to complete, submit, and assist in continuing this strategy of comprehensive connectivity and inclusion.

Thanks to all stakeholders, again, for your involvement. Discussion, communicating, and exploring new options, best practices, challenges, aimed at improving the NWI Regional Transportation system, will get this initiative implemented. It will take all of us, business and government, to drive commerce and resources. Northwest Indiana Region is poised and can be effective working together.

Strength, Sustainability, Unity.

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