

**DRAFT VISION STATEMENT
AND GOALS/OBJECTIVES/ STRATEGIES
July 15, 2009**

"INvision" Northwest Indiana

"INvision" Northwest Indiana: a vibrant, revitalized, accessible and united region.

Stretching from the treasured shores of Lake Michigan to the historic banks of the Kankakee River and committed to an ethic of sustainability:

A vibrant region – Our economy is thriving, our people are well educated, healthy and engaged, and our environment is clean;

THRIVING ECONOMY

GOAL: Diversify the region's economy.

Objectives (or Strategies)

1. Capitalize on unique geographic location **and Assets** for development and redevelopment |
2. Attract logistics industries, complete intermodal facilities (on existing industrialized space and only allowed (funded) where environmentally sustainable and appropriate and all costs are considered |
3. Transit-oriented development should include freight |
4. Establish sustainable technology center |
5. Promote tourism as regional industry, highlighting natural resources for eco-tourism
6. Explore medical corridor potential, especially I-65 in Lake County and SR 49 in Porter County
7. Foster unique opportunities for activities around our towns |
8. Promote exposure to communities and places
9. Expand agricultural industry by doubling production and increasing food exports
10. Develop niche markets for value-added agriculture
11. Promote agricultural entrepreneurship
12. Promote sustainable agricultural uses
13. All new construction should use current smart technology and be wired for internet
14. Explore, Foster and Develop Knowledge based economies. |
15. Promote the expansion of Culture and Art Markets in our urban cores as catalytic projects |
16. Seed, Develop and incentivize Environmental Remediation Industries. |
17. Mitigate against negative impacts between incompatible adjacent uses

Projects

- Double amount of locally produced natural organic food by 2015, quadruple by 2025

GOAL: Preserve and promote industrial base |

Objectives (or Strategies)

1. Promote sustainable energy as a business opportunity
2. Develop regional research triangle to promote research and development
3. Publicize threats to our industrial base (cap and trade)
4. **Promote triple bottom-line of sustainable business, social and environmental practices to sustain future growth opportunities**

Projects

- 1 energy park in Hobart

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:51 PM

Comment: GREAT! Intrinsic in this statement is that the region create and incentivize other markets other than the one's we already have.

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:19 PM

Comment: And Assets, such as the lakefront

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 3:17 PM

Comment: Although I respect the need to develop further our logistics and intermodal facilities, it doesn't exactly qualify for "diversify our region's economy." "As a region our rail/freight corridors already ranks at the top in the WORLD (we just don't benefit econocally). And I-80 is already the most used freight corridor by tonnage in the country.

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:23 PM

Comment: DELETE. This is a perversion of TOD, and redundant - included in the 2nd objective

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:53 PM

Comment: What is a sustainable technology center, and how will it diversify our local economy?

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:26 PM

Comment: Cultural and natural resources, including urban art, industry, and recreation along with eco-tourism (including toxic tourism)

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:27 PM

Comment: and increased resources and densities around existing city centers

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:57 PM

Comment: Besides #6 to "Explore medical corridor potential" these objectives are not committing to developing any knowledge based markets in NWI, where 70% of jobs are found. This is a glaring omission. This effort would help in stemming our chronic problem of "Brain Drain"

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 2:53 PM

Comment: Pilsen is a great case study for encouraging the Artist as urban pioneer to begin to occupy our urban shells, and do the things artist do – buy materials, make art, show art, create events, visit dinners, cafes, night clubs, create alternative street activities, and participate in civil culture without gentrification.

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 12:51 PM

Comment: The BEST Economic Development document we have in NWI is the Marquette Revitalization Plan, which identifies economic development opportunities in Environmental Remediation.

Thomas Frank 8/19/09 3:19 PM

Comment: I find this an odd statement. I don't think NWI ought to be willing to fight to preserve industries that are unwilling to compete in providing good products and services in the market place or who are not good stewards of the community and environment in which they reside.