

RESOLUTION NO 7, 2005

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY WITHIN THE REGION AND THE USE OF CEDIT FUNDS TO INVEST IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Whereas, the Northwest Indiana delegation of state legislators has been working together to compile a comprehensive funding plan for vital regional transportation and economic development initiatives, including the expansion of the Gary-Chicago Airport, the construction of a new commuter rail line from Chicago to Valparaiso and Lowell, the redevelopment of valuable lakeshore property, providing efficient bus transportation, and other related initiatives; and

Whereas, the local funding plan will make possible the awarding of millions of dollars of state and federal grants to fund these important transportation initiatives; and

Whereas, the unified transportation plan is estimated to produce thousands of new jobs, \$718 Million in increased economic output, and \$277 of additional disposable income for Northwest Indiana residents; and

Whereas, a unified transportation system in Northwest Indiana will improve the quality of life through job creation, more environmentally friendly transportation alternatives and more convenient air travel; and

Whereas, the citizens of Valparaiso and Porter County will benefit greatly from the proposed unified transportation and economic development plan; and

Whereas, the Northwest Indiana legislative delegation has asked Porter County to be a partner in this regional transportation and economic development undertaking, and to provide funds to help fund these initiatives; and

Whereas, the Valparaiso City Council supports the proposed plan as sound and thoughtful planning; and

Whereas, Porter County enacted CEDIT, an economic development tax in 2002 to fund economic development projects and job creation in Porter County; and

Whereas, the use of CEDIT funds is entirely appropriate to fund Porter County's investment in the unified transportation initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Valparaiso, in Porter County, Indiana.

1. The Valparaiso City Council hereby declares its general support for the establishment of the unified transportation authority and desires to work closely with Porter County, all other units of Porter County government; the Northwest Indiana legislative delegation, the governor and state legislature in shaping, creating and funding this important undertaking.
2. The Valparaiso City Council hereby declares that the use of existing CEDIT revenues to provide Porter County's investment in the transportation plan is both prudent and appropriate.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2005 by a ____ vote in favor and ____ vote opposed of all members present and voting.

Joe Larr

Al Eisenmenger

Ed Howe

Robert McCasland

John Bowker

Jan M. Dick

Chuck Williams

Jon Costas, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharon Swihart, Clerk-Treasurer