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## **RDA Board Approves Transit Plan Partnership with NICTD**

*Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District to jointly fund plan commuter transit in the region.*

Crown Point, IN (April 2, 2013) – The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) have chosen URS Corporation to develop a strategic business plan for commuter transit in northern Indiana.

The two organizations will split the estimated \$550,000 cost of the plan, which is expected to be complete in early 2014. The RDA Board of Directors approved funding for its half of the study during its quarterly board meeting today. This follows NICTD, whose Board signed off on the project in late March

“Connectivity to Chicago is key to the economic health of the region,” said RDA President and CEO Bill Hanna. “This plan will help us to maximize the job creation and economic development potential of the South Shore line.”

Mark Yagelski, NICTD Board Chairman and LaPorte County Council President, said that NICTD is looking forward to having the RDA/URS team help chart a course for future strategic investment that will enhance Northwest Indiana’s access to Chicago.

Items and issues that URS will address as part of the strategic plan include, but are not limited to:

- Strategies for increased ridership
- Transit-Oriented Development

- Access to airports and recreational destinations
- Public/private partnerships
- Expansion of service

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**About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority**

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit [www.rdatransformation.com](http://www.rdatransformation.com) or [www.in.gov/rda](http://www.in.gov/rda)