

Now Arriving:

Transit as the Route to Growing Bike and Walk Networks



Prepared by Nexus Strategy &
Implementation

Bike & Walk Summit 2026

Meet the Panel



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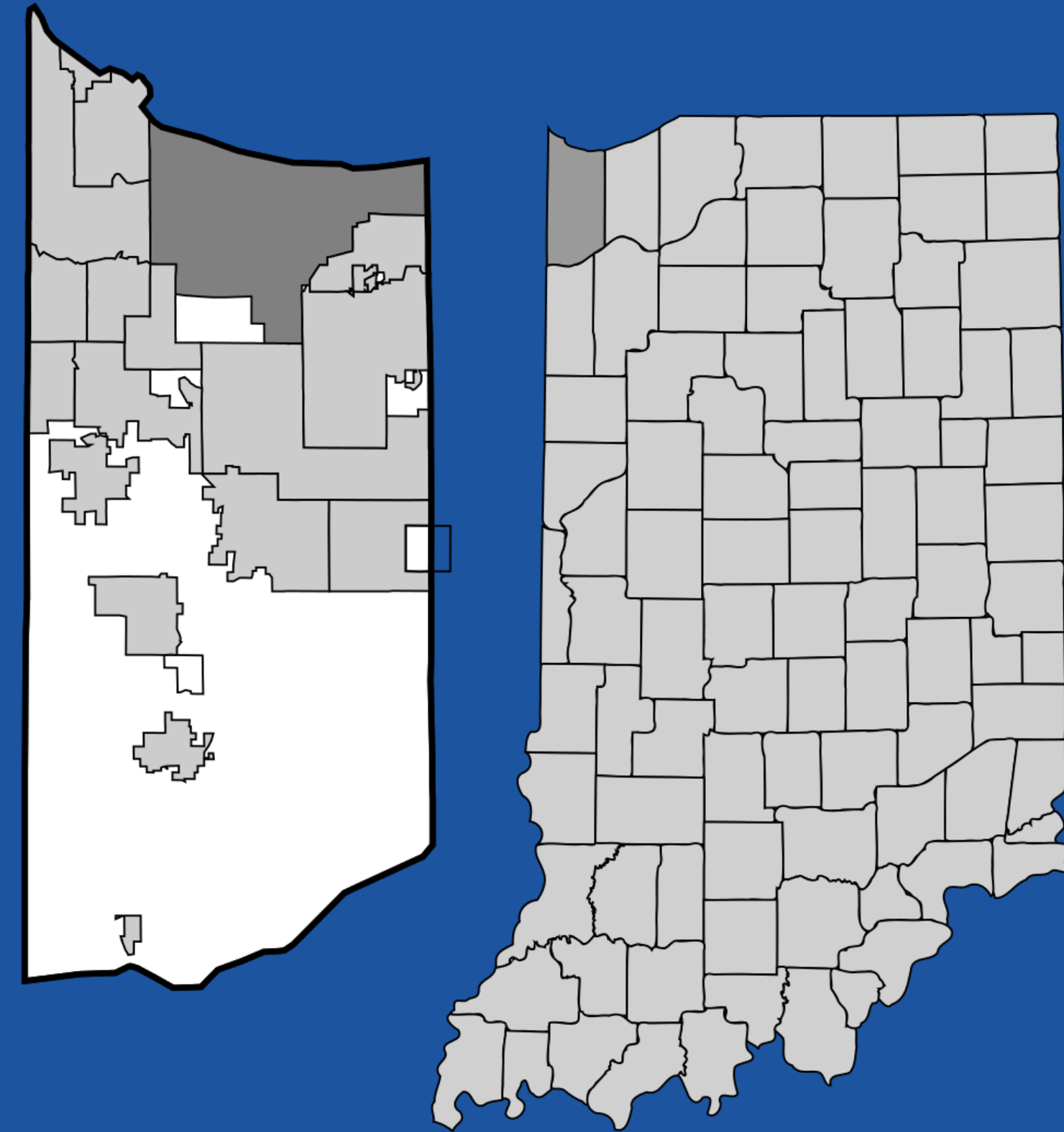
NEXUS

What's Past is Prologue.



-William Shakespeare

The city of Gary is situated on the south shore of Lake Michigan in Lake County in the northwestern corner of Indiana, about 30 miles southeast of Chicago.



Geographic Context

Image courtesy of SB Friedman





- Named after industrialist Elbert Gary, the city was founded in 1906 as a factory town for the U.S. Steel Corporation
- By the 1910 census, the city's population was 16,802, ballooning to a high of 178,320 at the 1960 census (+960%)
- In 1967, Gary elected Richard Hatcher, among the first Black mayors of a U.S. city with a population >100,000
- White flight and deindustrialization greatly impacted the city in the latter half of the 20th century
- At the 2020 census, Gary was home to 69,093 residents (-61%)

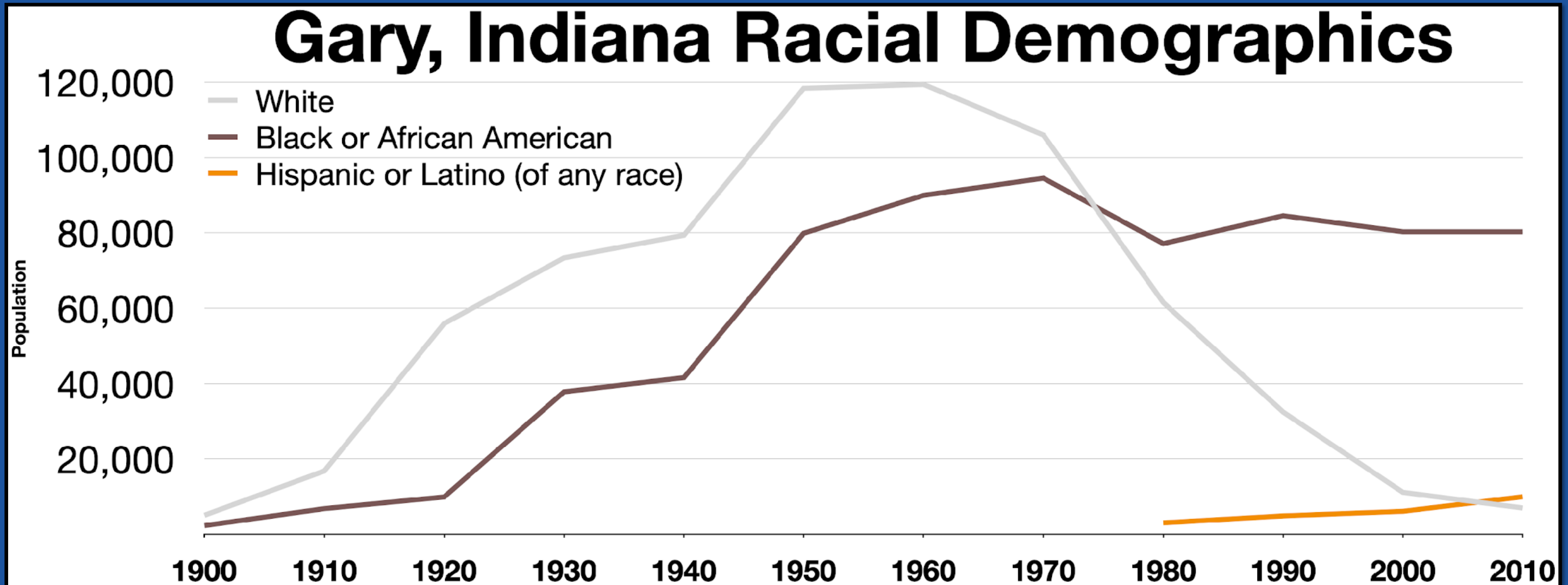


Image courtesy of Steve Shook under CC BY-SA 2.0

Historic Context



- Gary has one of the largest percentages of African American residents in the U.S. (80% in 2020)



Demographic Context





Active Transit Timeline for NWI

2015 – Foundation & Planning

Miller Spotlight SWOT completed (data sourced from 46403 zip code residents):

- Miller Spotlight Working Groups formed
- GPTC participates in Transportation & Infrastructure
- Access Miller formed

SMARRT Goals created for Community Plan:

- Equitable Bikeshare
- Build-a-Bike program
- Bikes on South Shore trains
- GPTC routing to Lake Michigan



Access Miller Volunteers in Action



2016 – Early Activation & Pilot Programs

Access Miller:

- Plans, fundraises, and installs Accessible Kayak Launch
- Hosts 1st Outdoor Adaptive Escapade (500 attendees+ establishes demand for accessible improvements)

Access Miller Volunteer, Ken Parr:

- Launches Build-a-Bike pop-ups + Slow Rolls (Farmers Market)
- Passes away the day Build-a-Bike location is funded
- Access Miller Holds Ribbon-Cutting for The Ken Parr Build-a-Bike

The Ken Parr Build-a-Bike:

- Hosts 44 workshops and 44 Slow Rolls that summer

Transit & Access Wins:

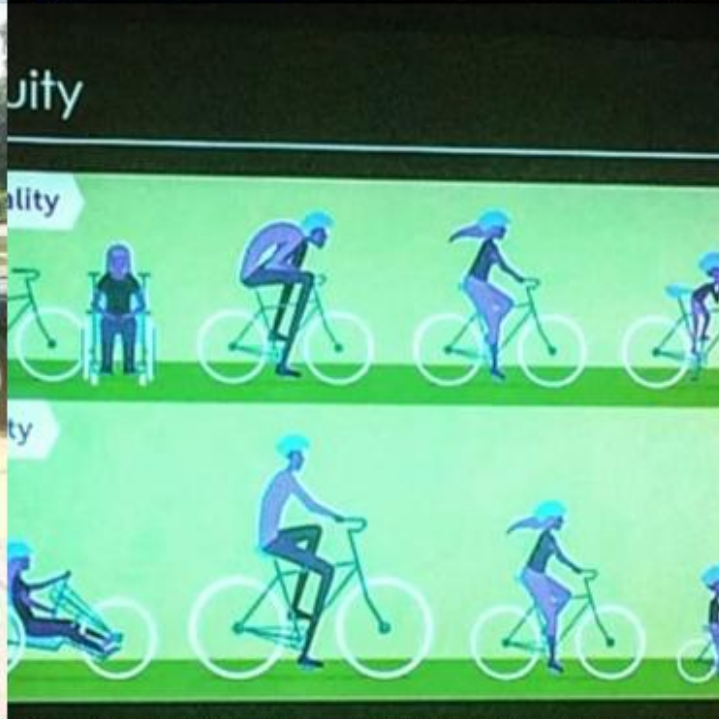
- South Shore Line allows bikes onboard
- GPTC launches summer bus stops at Marquette Park (next to kayak launch)
- Dunes Learning Center Shuttles from Miller Train Station to Lake Street Beach all summer

Mobility Programs:

- Access Miller launches Zagster Bikeshare
- (4 stations / 10 bikes, runs through 2018)

Recreation:

- NWIIPA launches Sunset Paddles in Marquette Park





2017–2018 – Expansion and Adoption

National Park Service Partnerships:

- NPS starts running Outdoor Adaptive Escapade expands regionally (becomes Outdoor Adventure Festival)
- NPS starts managing Sunset Paddles programming

NWI Partners for Clean Air Collaboration:

- Helped advocate for the Marquette Trail
- Gave feedback for the NIRPC 2050 Regional Plan
- Organized Critical Mass Events to help promote infrastructure improvements

VOCART formally established (2018):

- Focuses on accessibility equity across NWI
- Advocates for dockless bikeshare
- Launches accessible bike/equipment lending library (with Indiana Dunes NPS & State Park ongoing today)



2017-2018



2019 – Site Enhancement

Lagoon Outlook Garden added at Accessible Kayak

Launch site:

- Expands placemaking, accessibility, and environmental engagement at Marquette Park lagoon



2015–Present – Ongoing Community Activation

Access Miller / VOCART:

- Host 425+ active transit events & bike maintenance workshops

NPS:

- Continues Sunset Paddles programming

2020 – Policy & Planning Influence

VOCART leads community outreach for City of Gary Bike & Pedestrian Plan

- Dockless bikeshare again identified goal, but expanded as a citywide

2023-Grand Calumet Bikes Opens

- Gary has a bike shop!



2017-2018

The Fitness Trail:



Phase 1: Community Need & Early Engagement (2020)

- Identified need for increased physical activity opportunities
- Survey revealed high demand for accessible exercise spaces
- Established PSE (Policy, Systems, Environmental Change) strategy to improve community health
- Early concept development of a walkable, art-integrated trail

Phase 2: Public Input & Awareness Building (2021)

- Conducted social media polling
- Hosted GPTC Fall Summit
- Launched Transit to Trails Program
- Introduced “Urban Hike” concept connecting transit, art, and walkability



Art, History & Tactical Urbanism
Along Gary's Fitness Trail



The Fitness Trail:



Phase 3: Planning, Audits & Partnerships (Summer 2022)

Walk audit led by Health by Design and Indiana Department of Health:

- Included residents and decision-makers during city workshop
- Expanded partnerships (arts, health, transit, local government)
- Developed interpretation strategy (murals, sculptures, historic markers)

Phase 4: Trail Launch & Infrastructure (Fall 2022)

- Official inauguration of the Downtown Art & History Fitness Trail
- Key features implemented:
 - i. 1.6-mile accessible route (entry at multiple points)
 - ii. Integration of public art, historic sites, and architecture
Installation of signage with QR codes
 - iii. Links to website for information and usage tracking



Art, History & Tactical Urbanism
Along Gary's Fitness Trail



2021–2023 – Bikeshare Re-Emergence

GPTC gets planning grant (Fall 2021)

GPTC + Health by Design (2022):

- Conducts dockless bikeshare feasibility study
- Garners feedback from community stakeholders, governmental entities and industry professionals
- Shares findings and recommendations with public and potential funders

Cycle219 (2023):

- GPTC Secures funding
- Installs Bike Racks and Wayfinding
- Confirms Bike Vendor (Priority)



2024–2026 – Implementation & Growth



Cycle219 Pilot Launch:

- 10 bikes across 4 stations (2024–2025)
- Cycle219 Bikeshare Station added to LOG site

Nexus Strategy & Implementation:

- Brought in to manage + market expansion (2025–2026)
- Executes 3-phase growth strategy (12 stations across 3 cities managing 37 bikes)
- Hires Grand Calumet Bikes to do major repairs
- Hires Global Trade, Transport & Logistics and Mobile Mechanic team to do onsite maintenance/docking

GPTC + NICTD Partnership:

- Plans to expand into Porter County in 2027

Get ready to ride!

The GPTC CYCLE219 BikeShare program is here!!



"We are the heartbeat of the city, and the rhythm of the region".

CYCLE219

BIKE SHARE

for Active Transportation and Micromobility

GRAB LIFE BY THE HANDLEBARS

Cycle219 Bike Share offers bikes from Priority Bicycles and features adjustable seats to fit people of any height, a basket, a bell, and front and rear lights.

With many bikes and bike share stations throughout **Northwest Indiana**, you can bike directly to your destination or as a part of your journey after riding **GPTC** or parking your car.

"This bike share program gets to our core mission: **mobility**. The effort reduces first- and last-mile barriers to transit while improving the quality of life for residents who can now choose to go biking for both necessity and for leisure."
~ GPTC's Past Interim General Manager, Denise Comer Dillard

GETTING STARTED

- 1 DOWNLOAD APP**
(Turn Bluetooth ON and WI-FI OFF)
 Download on the App Store
 GET IT ON Google Play
- 2 CREATE ACCOUNT**
Company Name

Select Payment Method

SCAN. RIDE. GO!
DOWNLOAD THE APP & START RIDING TODAY!



PRICING

\$1.50
per 30 minutes

\$25.00
Annual Pass for Unlimited 30-minute Trips

BIKE PICKUP / DROPOFF LOCATIONS



Ride, Connect, and Explore in Northwest Indiana with Cycle219!

SPONSORS

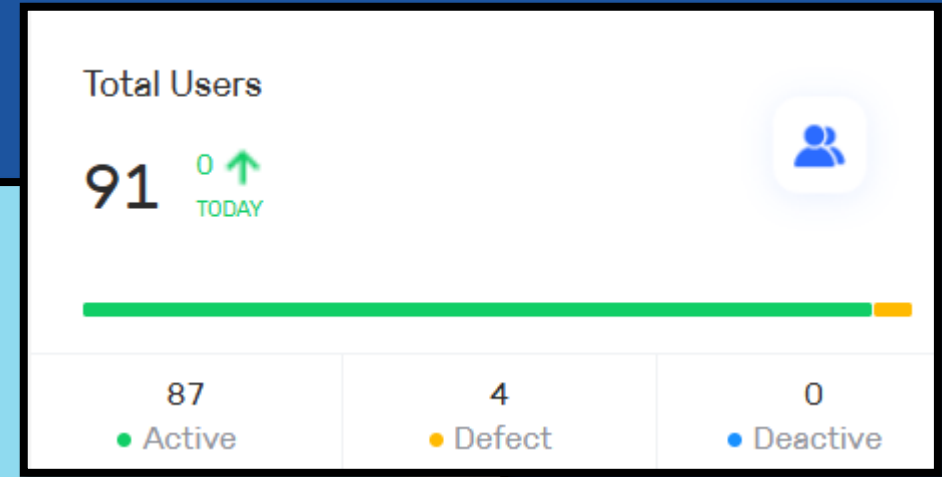
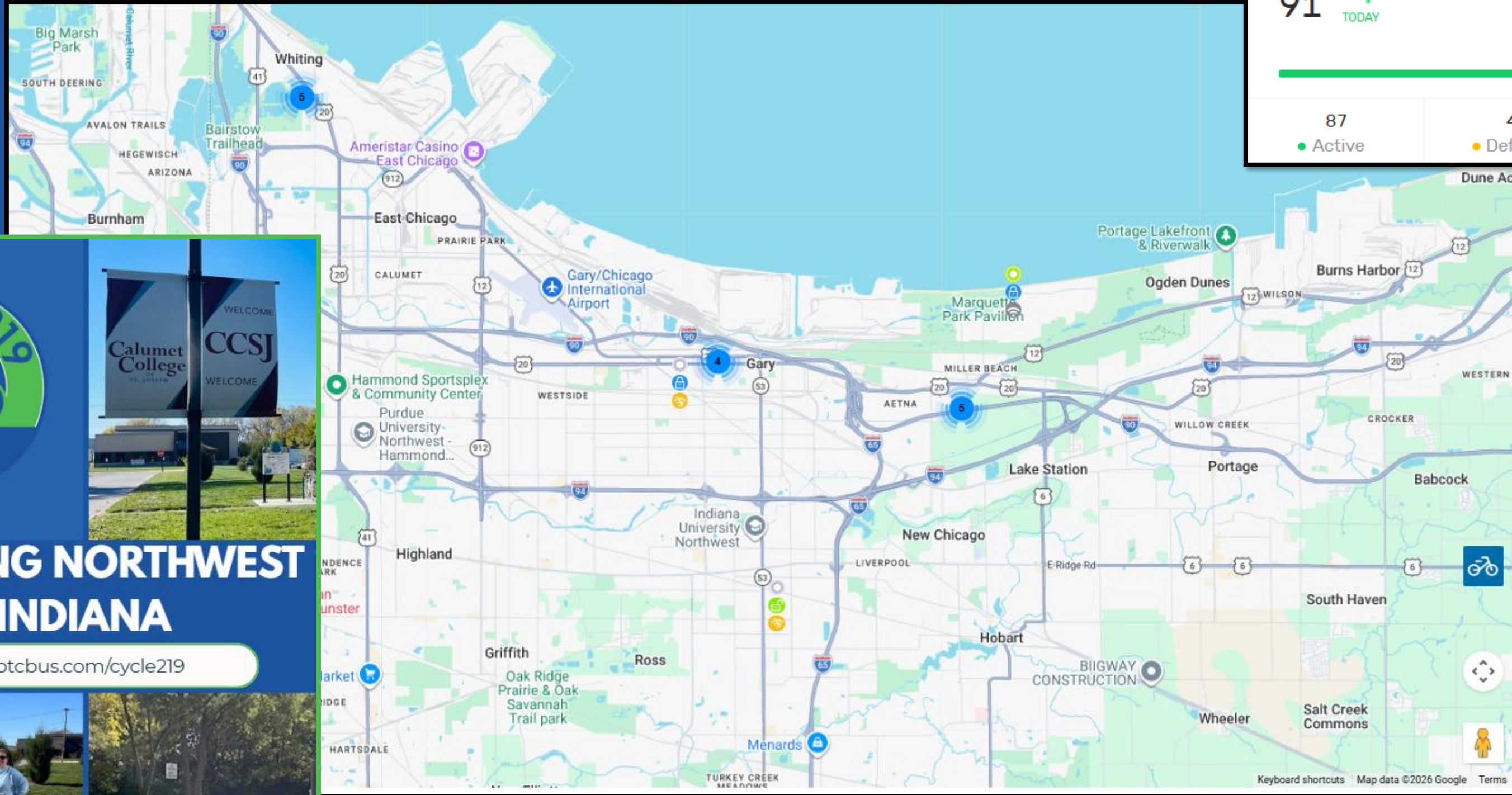


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HEALTHY. SUSTAINABLE. CONNECTED.







SERVING NORTHWEST INDIANA

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GPTC
GARY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORP.

Together, we're building stronger connects
students, families, and communities

Cycle 219 Data



A Decade of Collaboration in Action



VOCART + Miller Garden Club
Sensory Garden

City of Gary Park

Access Miller +
Causes for Change
UD Kayak launch

Sunset Paddles
NPS +NWIPA

GPTC Bus Stop

GPTC Cycle219 Bike

VOCART +
Save the Dunes +
Decay Devils
Slow Rolls

Access Miller Bike Rack





What's Next

As we move forward, our focus will be on engagement, education and outreach.

- People You Meet on the Bus Events
- America250 Transit Scavenger Hunt
- 11th Season of the Ken Parr Build a Bike Opening
- Gary EL National Trail Day Event
- Calumet College Ribbon-Cutting
- Hammond Transit, Tracks & Trails Ribbon-Cutting
- Fest in the First Slow Roll
- Potential Purdue Northwest expansion
- And more!



Questions???

CYCLE219 BIKE SHARE FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND MICROMOBILITY



GO THE DISTANCE with Cycle219 Lake County's newest form of shared low-cost green transportation.

Resources Links

- [GPTC Cycle219 – GPTC](#)
- [Art & History Fitness Trail – GPTC](#)
- [VOCART.org](#)
- [TakeBikeTheStreets.org](#)
- [cogarchive.cloud/files/City of Gary-IN-Comprehensive Plan Update Sept2025.pdf](#)
- [gary.gov/redevelopment/planning-and-projects](#)
- [GARY LAKEFRONT DISTRICT PLAN](#)
- [Gary's Miller Spotlight Community Plan 2015 | PDF](#)
- [Miller Spotlight](#)



Thank You to All Our Partners!

