

## Introduction

Many rural counties share traffic problems with their urban counterparts. The rural roads are typically more narrow, winding and unpaved. The existing road network cannot support growth and development. There are many narrow bridges and drainage concerns. These characteristics result in rural counties having roads that are simply inadequate.

Transportation planning needs are crucial to rural areas as well as metropolitan areas. A working relationship exists between the rural counties, small communities and the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission. Transportation planning issues are multi-jurisdictional and decisions in one county can affect the surrounding counties. As a part of an effort to meet the non-metropolitan planning needs, the Indiana Department of Transportation funds the Small Urban and Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program.

Understanding the problems, issues, future planning projects, and maintaining specific data of the population and characteristics, as well as the natural environment assists planning a well designed transportation system. Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is available to support and assist transportation planning activities in the region. Local input is an essential component of the statewide transportation planning process. The unique position of the regional planning commissions being comprised of local elected officials, further serves to connect INDOT planning and development activities to existing regional efforts and to a consortium of local elected officials.

Through this Rural Transportation Planning-Regional Project, the rural counties and small urban communities are cooperating in a coordinated transportation planning process for all six counties within the region. This report documents:

- local listings of Indiana Department of Transportation projects;
- county issues and concerns;
- rural transit issues;
- proposed functional classification maps;
- traffic count maps;
- existing economic development and potential growth area maps;
- advisory task force membership;
- land use maps; and
- appendix

# INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Serving the counties of Crawford, Dubois, Orange, Perry, Pike, and Spencer)



Demographically, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is a rural area in southern Indiana, made up of six counties, with a combined 2000 Census population of 121,850. The region has six municipalities and twenty towns. Of the total miles of rural roads, 13 percent are state, 83 percent are county, and 4 percent are municipal and other.

The six counties of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission are in the Indiana Department of Transportation-Vincennes District which totals sixteen counties. Subdistricts exist in Paoli, Tell City, Petersburg, and Dale.

# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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