

# Action Plan: How do we get there?

## Selection Criteria for Project Prioritization

The ranking of the CEDS Project Prioritization list is based on a system developed by the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission with adaptations to meet economic development needs and goals specific to the District. The following system of assigning values to all projects was developed by the 1992 CEDS Committee and adopted by the Board of the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission with revisions by the Board in early 1995 and October 2004. It is intended to maximize objectivity and minimize subjectivity when considering the priority of future projects. Economic development projects have been ranked according to the following criteria regarding distress and economic impact.

1. **Unemployment.** Since the primary objective is job creation, the unemployment rate of the county in which the project would be located was considered. Projects located in counties with higher unemployment received more points based on the following scale of July 2005 annual average unemployment rates.

<u>County Unemployment Rates</u>	<u>Points</u>
5.2% or lower	1
5.3 - 6.6%	2
6.7 - 8.0%	3
8.1 - 9.4%	4
9.5% or higher	5

2. **Median Income.** In general, the District counties have household median incomes that are substantially lower than the Indiana median income level. This is a serious problem in southern Indiana. Therefore, projects located in counties with the lowest household median income levels received higher scores for this category.

<u>Percent Below State Household Median Income</u>	<u>Points</u>
0.0 - 13.0%	1
13.1 - 19.0%	2
19.1 - 25.0%	3
25.1 - 31.0%	4
31.1% or higher	5

3. **Population Growth.** It is less likely for economic growth to occur in communities with declining or slowly growing populations. Population decline between 1990 and 2000 negatively affected the District at both the county and community level. Four of the six district counties experienced either a population decline or a slight increase of one percent or less. Also, population decreased in an overwhelming majority of communities located throughout the region. For these reasons, projects in counties or communities with declining populations received the highest points.

<u>Population Percent Change 1990-2000</u>	<u>Points</u>
24.1% or higher	1
16.1 - 24.0%	2
8.1 - 16.0%	3
4.0 - 8.1%	4
less than 3.9%	5

4. **Goals.** Projects are evaluated as to how they help attain the region's economic development goals. Each project was assigned one point for each goal that it would meet. A maximum of four points could be given to a project.

**Economic Development Goals:**

1. Job creation
2. Jobs targeted for minorities and/or women
3. New business ventures
4. New technology/recycling activities

5. **Spatial Impact.** Projects were awarded points according to the anticipated spatial impact of their benefits. Fewer points were given to projects with a localized impact according to the following scale.

<b><u>Zone of Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Local Impact Only	1
Area Impact	2
County Impact	3
Regional Impact	4

6. **Project Category.** The 2005 CEDS Committee determined that certain project categories are more significant than others to the economic development of the District. Projects have been assigned points according to the following scale.

<b><u>Project Type</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Infrastructure	5
Job Creation	5
Land/Resource Management Plans	5
Brownfield Redevelopment	5
Downtown Revitalization	4
Medical Care, Educational Training Centers	4
Community Centers, Town Halls, Libraries	3
Museums, Day Cares, Fire Trucks, and Fire Stations	3
Historic Preservation	2
Recreation and Parks	2
Other	1

7. **Matching Funds.** Projects were awarded points based on the local governments availability of matching funds. The availability of matching funds is crucial to the success of a project. This readiness to proceed is essential in a project moving forward.

<b><u>Matching Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Secured	4
Partially Secured	3
Initiated	2
Not Initiated	1

8. **Preliminary Engineering.** The readiness to proceed with projects is directly linked to the local needs and successful completion of projects. Projects were assigned points for the degree of engineering completed.

<b><u>Preliminary Engineering</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Preliminary Engineering Completed	4
Firm Selected	3
In Process of Selecting Firm	2
Process Initiated	1

9. **Environmental.** The Environmental Review Process is also a very important readiness to proceed issue. Some projects can be altered or slowed down if this process is not completed. Projects were assigned points for the degree of completion of an Environmental Review.

<b><u>Environmental Review</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Completed or Not Applicable	4
In Process	3
Process Initiated	2
Not Initiated	1