

## Executive Summary

The reader of this document will find it divided into five sections. This section titled "Executive Summary" gives you an overview of the information covered within the Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This section also includes a list of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission's Board of Directors, a list of the members of the CEDS Committee, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission's 2005 Budget and the resolution adopting the 2005 CEDS.

Under the advisement of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Guidelines*, the annual CEDS answers the following four questions about Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission:

- Section II**     **Where are we?**
- Section III**    **Where do we want to be?**
- Section IV**    **How do we get there?**
- Section V**     **How are we doing?**

In answering the question, "Where are we?" we decided to let the facts speak for themselves. This section gives you a clear understanding of the local economic climate in the region. Current demographic and economic data has been used and placed in easily read charts and graphs. In addition we have included an analysis of each of the six counties leading industrial employers. Using the current demographic and economic data and information from the leading industrial employers we have assessed the State of the Regional Economy.

The section named "Vision: Where do we want to be?" provides the basis for formulating the action plan and serves as a benchmark to evaluate the accomplishments of the CEDS process. The Commission's goals and objectives are identified for each area. These goals and objectives compliment Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission's Mission Statement, and were taken under consideration in the next two sections.

The "Action Plan: How do we get there?" section, focused on the strategies needed to accomplish the goals and objectives determined in the last section. The strategies set forth in this document describe the general goals this plan is seeking to achieve. It also identifies the threat the Commission faces in accomplishing these goals. This section also identifies the future projects of each of our communities and scores the top projects. Since the last annual report, the CEDS Committee has revised the Selection Criteria for Project Prioritization. The Committee deleted the score based on the Average Household Size, and added scoring based on the status of local match, preliminary engineering, and environmental review. In addition the CEDS Committee has added a section that identifies the top five Economic Development, Community Development, and Planning Projects in the District.

Lastly, the Commission answers the question, "How are we doing?" in the final section. Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission evaluated itself based on the projects we have completed in the last year and the additional grant funds we have been able to bring back to the communities.

The greatest challenge this Commission faces, in achieving the goals the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy has set forth, is that local, state, and federal funds are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. In addition, most local governments cannot generate the required local match for most state and federal grants. As a result, strategic planning such as the CEDS becomes more needed even though adequate funding is not always available for this process. However, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission realizes that through strategic planning, development within the region will be more cost effective and result in the most efficient utilization of available funding.

To make the CEDS document a success, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission will continue to use this document as a guide. This document must act as a basic blueprint for the future and a mark in which to grade us. If this document is used effectively it will allow our local governments to work both individually and cooperatively to make the region successful.

#### The Staff of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission

