

Evaluation: How are we doing?

As part of the section titled, “Vision: Where do we want to be?” we defined the goals and objectives within the region. As part of the “Evaluation: How are we doing?” section we identified projects we have worked on over the last year that have assisted us in meeting our goals and objectives. If we have failed to develop or have not had the opportunities to accomplish any of the goals and objectives we noted it in this section.

It is realized that there are numerous obstacles the region must face in order to accomplish these goals. The biggest obstacle the communities in the region face is the lack of available funding. The slowed economy compiled with federal and state budget cuts has left many projects and program's futures uncertain.

Economic and Socioeconomic

Goal 1: Promote the development of an economy that enhances the success of existing businesses and that creates and sustains jobs in order to maintain a quality standard of living.

Objective:

Attract and maintain existing industry that improves the entire region’s economic growth and stability.

- Huntingburg OFS Project – EDA – The District was awarded an application to improve the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Huntingburg to assist in job creation and private investment growth by OFS Brands, Inc.

Objective:

Promote and support programs and projects that assist existing industry in order to create ways to become more marketable in a changing economy.

- Santa Claus Regional Water Project – EDA - The District completed an additional water source for the Town of Santa Claus. This project allows Holiday World & Splashin’ Safari to expand its water park, and will add water capacity to the Santa Claus Industrial Park. The additional water supply will allow the Town to market its industrial park to more diverse industries.
- Track & Bridge Improvements Project – EDA - The District was awarded an application to EDA for funding to assist the Perry County Port Authority in upgrading its rail to handle heavier loads.

Objective:

Identify existing industrial sites that have been abandoned and target them for beneficial re-use.

- Brownfield Assessment Hazardous Substance – The grant is nearly complete, and the District, partnering with EPA and IFA, was successful in completing Phase I and Phase II Assessments.

- Brownfield Assessment – Petroleum – The grant is nearly complete, and the District, partnering with EPA and IFA was successful in completing Phase I and Phase II Assessments.
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission was awarded a National Environmental Protection Agency award for developing a Successful Model for Assessment Coalitions in Rural Communities.
- Jean’s Junction Site – This site is currently completing construction activities through an EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant Award.
- United Energy Site – This site completed environmental assessments and recently secured funding from EPA for cleanup as part of Brownfield Redevelopment.

Objective:

Actively seek programs and projects that improve the infrastructure at existing industrial parks in order to make them more marketable.

- Four Star Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission assisted the City of Petersburg with sanitary sewer lift station improvements to improve the infrastructure to support existing and potential industries in the industrial park.

Objective:

Strive to achieve levels of employment equal or greater than national and state averages.

- Jasper Engines and Transmissions EDA – The District was awarded Disaster Recovery Funding to support JET job creation by addressing flood control.

Objective:

Utilize basic planning, coordination and organization needed to initiate and sustain sound development.

- Milltown Comprehensive Planning – The District worked with the Town of Milltown to secure funding to develop a Comprehensive Plan.
- Dubois County Comprehensive Planning – The District secured planning funds for the preparation of a comprehensive plan in Dubois County. The Comprehensive Plan studied the impacts of a new Interstate near Dubois County. This plan is complete.
- Pike County Comprehensive Planning - The District secured planning funds for the preparation of a comprehensive plan in Pike County. The Comprehensive Plan studied the impacts of a new Interstate through Pike County. This plan is complete.
- Petersburg Comprehensive Planning - The District secured planning funds for the preparation of a comprehensive plan in Petersburg. The Comprehensive Plan studied the impacts of a new Interstate through Petersburg. This plan is complete.
- Marengo Storm Water Planning – The Town of Marengo completed a storm water planning study.
- Troy Master Utility Planning – The Town of Troy completed the development of a master utility plan for water, sewer, and storm water.

- Winslow Comprehensive Planning – The District secured funding for the Town of Winslow to create a new Comprehensive Plan, as well as develop a 5-year Park & Recreation as a major component to the plan. The plan is complete.
- Leavenworth and Richland City were awarded funds to study their stormwater infrastructure.

Objective:

Develop a regional finance pool to foster economic growth throughout the Regional.

- Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund – The District assists the Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund in making loans to businesses that are seeking to locate or expand their business in Crawford County.
- Dubois County Enterprise Loan Fund – The District assists the Dubois County Revolving Loan Fund in making loans to businesses that are seeking to locate or expand their business in Dubois County.

Objective:

Develop and promote the tourism industry in the region.

- Ferdinand was awarded a Transportation Enhancement Grant to connect the Park, YMCA and Library.
- Dubois/Orange County Transportation Enhancement Project: Dubois and Orange Counties collaboratively submitted and were awarded \$1,000,000.00 for the rehabilitation of 8.5 miles of railroad track to connect Jasper and French Lick for train excursions. Repairs were complete in 2010. Efforts continue to promote tourism through Redevelop Old Jasper Action Coalition.

Infrastructure

Goal 2: Ensure that all residents and businesses of the district have adequate access to affordable water, efficient wastewater treatment, and telecommunication infrastructure.

Objective:

Promote and support programs and projects that provide every resident of the region with safe, clean, potable water.

- Patoka Water Company Project - The Regional Planning District secured funding for Water Improvements.
- English Water Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission secured funding for the Town of English to improve their water system. The completion of this project will improve the fire protection of the Town.
- Petersburg Water Improvements Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission secured funding for the City of Petersburg to make improvements to its water treatment plant, water wells and distribution system. This project will also add additional fire hydrants throughout the City.
- Grandview Water Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is working with the Town of Grandview to secure funding to expand its water capacity.
- Orange County Water - Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission secured funding to expand Patoka Lake Regional Water and Sewer District water to SE Orange County.

- Winslow Water Improvements funding secured by Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission to improve the Town Water System.

Objective:

Ensure that all residents have access to safe, clean, and affordable wastewater treatment systems.

- Marengo Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – The District secured funding for the Town of Marengo to make improvements to its wastewater treatment plant.
- Paoli CSO Elimination – The district is working with the Town of Paoli to secure funding to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows.
- Cannelton/Tell City CSO Elimination - The District secured funding for the City of Tell City and the City of Cannelton to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows.
- Ireland Sewer Mapping Project – The District is mapping the sewer infrastructure for the community of Ireland.
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission secured funding to bring sewers to southwest Spencer County/Luce Township Regional Sewer District who had no sewer system.
- Rockport CSO Elimination - Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is seeking funding to eliminate CSO's.
- Troy Wastewater - Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is seeking funds to improve the Troy Wastewater System.

Objective:

Identify affordable alternative wastewater treatment for communities that cannot afford traditional treatment methods.

- Spurgeon Wastewater Project – The District is working with the Town of Spurgeon to secure funding to establish an affordable wastewater treatment system.

Objective:

Promote and support programs and projects that increase access to high-speed telecommunications to all residents and business in the region.

- Chrisney Library Project – The District assisted the Town of Chrisney to secure funding to build a library in the Town of Chrisney. The new library provides high speed telecommunication access to the residents of Chrisney.
- Dubois County Library Planning – The District assisted Dubois County to secure funding for a library facility in the community of Dubois.

Natural and Historic Resources and Physical Environment

Goal 3: To promote a balanced utilization of the region's natural, historic, and physical resources to preserve and protect the environment while maximizing its economic potential.

Objective:

Develop and support programs and projects that utilize the area's abundant water and timber resources while protecting them from pollution.

- Anderson River Improvements Project – The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has the plan for review.
- Lower Patoka River Watershed Management Plan – The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has the plan for review.

Objective:

Create and support programs and projects that enhance the marketability of the district's mineral resources, such as coal, oil, and timber without harm to the environment.

- Spencer County Courthouse Energy Efficiency Project - The Commission secured funding for Spencer County to make their courthouse lighting energy efficient.

Objective:

Develop and support programs and projects that identify and protect the districts historic assets in such a way that all residents will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

- Spencer County Rotunda Project and Pike County Rotunda Project – The district sought funding to restore the stained-glass rotundas in the Pike County Courthouse and Spencer County Courthouse.
- Jasper City Mill Project – Jasper in collaboration with Redevelop Old Jasper Action Coalition (ROJAC) completed the reconstruction of the Mill as a Welcome Center to foster small business development, tourism, and downtown economic development. This continues with boulevard enhancements.
- Huffman Mill Bridge – Restoration work has been funded through FHWA. A grant was submitted to INDOT Transportation Enhancement (TE) to raise out of flood danger zone.
- Proctor House, Crawford County - Funding secured to paint the exterior.
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is working with the Town of Ferdinand to restore the Wollenmann House.

Transportation

Goal 4: Promote the effective flow of people and materials within the district.

Objective:

Coordinate transportation planning for all six counties within the region.

- INDOT Transportation Planning – The 2010-2011 project is underway with railroad crossings to be inventoried. Plat maps for mapping Chrisney and Richland were obtained from the Spencer County Recorder.

Objective:

Cooperate with rural counties and small urban communities to address county issues and concerns.

- Tell City Streetscape Project – Project has been completed to provide new sidewalk and other amenities to four blocks of Main Street in downtown Tell City, which will promote economic development in downtown Tell City.
- Jasper Sidewalk Project – Assisting City to use program income to replace sidewalks and improve drainage on a section of 4th Street.

Objective:

Link population centers by strategic planning for Interstate 69 and U.S. Highway 231.

- Abraham Lincoln 231 Corridor Study – The District secured funding to complete a corridor study around the new four-lane U.S. 231 Highway that is currently being constructed in Spencer County.

Regional Planning Promotion

Goal 5: Promote and market the strengths of Regional Planning throughout our region and the state.

Objective:

Promote regional planning through participation with the Indiana Association of Regional Council (IARC), Geographic Information Council and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO).

- The District has worked with IARC and NADO to promote regional planning throughout the region, state, and nation. The District has accomplished this by attending various meetings and training throughout the state and nation pertaining to the development of regional planning.

Objective:

Enhance promotion of regional planning through media resources.

The District has used a number of media outlets to promote the regional planning commission. The District has regularly distributed newsletters, and updated our website.

Health and Safety

Goal 6: Enhance the quality of life for all residents of the Region, including access to health care, recreational opportunities, community facilities and safety.

Objective:

Increase availability to affordable healthcare throughout the region.

- Crawford County Health Care Facility – The district is working with Crawford County to secure funding to complete a Health Care Feasibility Study. The study will identify what health care services are lacking in Crawford County and determine the feasibility of attracting those services to Crawford County.

Objective:

Work with communities to address the areas in the region that lack the recreation facilities to accommodate its residents.

- Huntingburg Trail Project – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission secured funding for walking paths upon a former landfill site. This is located at an entry point into Huntingburg, creating a visually attractive site and also promotes public health benefits.
- Orange County 4-H Project – A planning study to address drainage, utilities, and facility improvements is being assisted in finding resources for this study.
- Paoli Senior Center – The District assisted the Town of Paoli in securing funding to construct a senior center in the Town of Paoli.
- Santa Claus and Dubois County Park Plans – 5-year Park & Recreation Master Plans are in development.

Objective:

Actively support fire departments and emergency medical services in seeking funding to provide effective services to the region.

- Spencer County Ambulance – The District submitted Assistance to Firefighter grants for the Spencer County Ambulance.
- Chrisney – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighters grant for extrication equipment, breathing apparatus, fill station, masks, generator, and training package in 2007, which was approved and a request for a tanker truck in 2008 was approved.
- St. Henry – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighters grant for turnout gear for the firefighters.
- Dubois Fire Truck – The District submitted an Assistance to Firefighters grant for the purchase a new fire truck.
- St. Meinrad Fire Truck - The District secured funding for the purchase of a new brush truck.
- Petersburg Fire Truck – The District secured funding for the purchase of a new fire truck.
- Grandview Fire Truck – The District assisted the Town of Grandview in securing funding for the purchase of a new pumper/tanker truck.

- South Patoka Fire Station – The District has secured funding for the construction of a new fire station.
- Santa Claus Fire Station – The District submitted a Special Appropriation Application for the Town to assist with the construction of a new fire station.
- Jefferson Township Fire Truck – The District was successful in securing funding for the purchase of a new fire truck.
- Marengo Fire Truck – The District was successful in securing funding for the purchase of a new fire truck.
- Leavenworth Fire Truck – The District was successful in securing funding for the purchase of a new fire truck.

Objective:

Promote multi-hazardous planning throughout the region.

- Mitigation Planning – The district has developed Hazard Mitigation Plans for Crawford, Dubois, Orange, Perry, Pike, & Spencer Counties. FEMA has approved all the plans. Updates are underway for Spencer County.

Objective:

Create a safer region by developing projects that promote public health and safety.

- Gentryville Old School Project – The District assisted the Town of Gentryville secure funding to demolish the “old school” property.
- Cannelton/Tell City Flood Wall – The District submitted a DR2 applications to assist the Cities in studying the flood wall along the Ohio River.
- Spencer County Public Safety Building – The District is assisting Spencer County in securing funding for the construction of a public safety building.
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is assisting Jasper and Orleans to purchase properties from the flood hazard.
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is assisting Birdseye and Orleans to demolish blighted, unsafe structures in their communities.