

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, October 2004 and March 2007. 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 and community 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. The unemployment rate of the counties in the district varies drastically from county to county. In order to assist projects located in counties that are experiencing a high unemployment rate we ranked the counties in the district from highest to lowest unemployment. We then assigned a score for each county. Projects located in counties with higher unemployment received more points based on the 2006 annual average unemployment rates.

<u>County Ranking on Unemployment</u>	<u>Points</u>
County with the lowest unemployment rate	1
County with the second lowest unemployment rate	2
County with the third lowest unemployment rate	3
County with the fourth lowest unemployment rate	4
County with the fifth lowest unemployment rate	5
County with the highest unemployment rate	6

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 communities 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. **Commuting Patterns.** Some counties within the district experience a high percentage of their workforce leaving the county to find employment. It is a priority of the district to promote projects that will decrease the need for residents of the region to commute out of their county of residence to find employment. Therefore counties that have a high percentage of their workforce leaving their county to find employment were scored based on the percentage of their population

leaving to find employment. However, it is also a priority of the district to promote projects that increase the number of jobs for the entire region. Therefore counties that provide a high percent of employment to the counties within our district were also given points based on the percent of jobs they gave to residents of the region.

<u>Percent of Workforce That Leave Their County For Employment</u>	<u>Points</u>
0.0 - 20.0%	1
20.1 - 40.0%	2
40.1 - 60.0%	3

<u>Percent of Incoming Workforce For The District</u>	<u>Points</u>
0.0 - 24.0%	1
24.1 - 48.0%	2
48.1 - 70.0%	3

4. **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

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

<u>Economic Development Goals:</u>	<u>Points</u>
Job creation	2
Leverages private capital	2
Provides higher wage jobs	1
Expands to new business sectors	1
Exhibits a high level of community support	1

6. **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.

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

7. **Project Category.** The 2007 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.

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

8. **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.

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

9. **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.

<u>Preliminary Engineering</u>	<u>Points</u>
Preliminary Engineering Completed or Not Applicable	4
Firm Selected	3
In Process of Selecting Firm	2
Process Initiated	1

10. **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.

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