

# INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

*2021 Year in Review*



*T*his year, many new programs and funding opportunities were introduced. Regional collaboration leverages strengths to capitalize on these new funding opportunities.

The Commission has risen to the challenge to enhance the regions' ability to become more resilient through these challenges. A regional economic recovery and resiliency plan is underway and will be introduced at a summit on May 17, 2022. Thank you to those that participated in the online survey, 17 topic specific focus groups and one-on-one interviews to gather data and input.

This newsletter presents a summary of the projects we assisted during the past year such as business support, code books, entrepreneurship, fire station construction, multi-hazard mitigation plans, park and recreation, port, rail, revolving loan funds, training, traffic counts, stormwater, water, and wastewater infrastructure. Together we achieved over \$16 Million in State and Federal awards in 2021 for the district. We encourage discussion about the needs of the region and look forward to fostering an environment of support for our communities and counties.



Tara Damin  
2020-2021 Chair



Paul Lorey  
2022 Chair

A very sincere thank you to our Board and especially Tara Damin, appointed by Perry County, for her leadership and public service in 2021 and 2022 as Indiana 15's Chair. We also wish to welcome our 2022 Chair Paul Lorey, appointed by the City of Jasper. We look forward to another successful year under his leadership.

*Lisa Gehlhausen*  
Executive Director



## CDBG Certification

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission has five Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) certified grant administrators on staff: Lisa Gehlhausen, Nathan Held, Cheri Taylor, Jenny Matheis and Leah Hawkins.



Our continued accreditation ensures proper implementation and administration of the Office of Community & Rural Affairs

federally-funded CDBG program and benefits the six-county region.

## Income Surveys

The Commission assisted the towns of Leavenworth, Paoli, and Troy and the City of Tell City with income surveys to determine eligibility for Community Development Block Grant funding.

If you receive an income survey, please complete it and return it to our office for confidential tabulation. These surveys are important for funding determination.



## Indiana Map

The Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC) is a nonprofit organization leading the effective application of geographic information in Indiana.

IndianaMap is the largest publicly available collection of Indiana geographic information system (GIS) map data. It is made possible by an alliance of partners from federal, state, local organizations and agencies, and universities. You can access easy-to-use interactive web maps from a computer or mobile device, select from a gallery of predefined maps to view or customize, download free GIS data and metadata, and learn about IndianaMap GIS projects, initiatives, and news at [www.indianamap.org](http://www.indianamap.org).



## System Award Management

**SAM numbers are FREE and extremely important!**

Applications for grant funds require communities to have a System for Award Management (SAM) number. SAM.gov is the official **free**, government-operated website to obtain this number. **There is NO charge to register your entity on SAM.gov.** Not sure if your community has a SAM number? A search engine is available on the official website - <https://www.sam.gov>. Have your DUNS or UEI number readily available before you start the registration process.



If your community already has a SAM number, it needs to be updated annually. You will receive an email notification from SAM.gov within 60 days of your number expiring.

The site has been updated this year and looks a little different. For instructions on how to update your SAM number on the new site, you can go to [www.fsd.gov](http://www.fsd.gov) and search '*How do I update an existing entity registration in SAM.gov*'.

New administrators must submit a notarized letter designating them as administrator of each SAM.gov account. Note: A notarized letter is not required if the administrator is already associated with the registration. Please check the status of your number well in advance of the grant application submission deadline since it may need to coincide with city/town/county meetings. Once you have updated your SAM number a confirmation email will be obtained.

The next step is for your SAM number to pass the TIN validation with the IRS and the CAGE validation/assignment with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Once it has been successfully validated you will receive a confirmation email and another email notifying that your registration has been activated.

For help registering for a SAM number, please contact the Federal Service Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov> or call 866-606-8220, or call our office 812-367-8455.

## Employee Departure



Luke Thomas joined Indiana 15 in January of 2021 in Project Development. In December of 2021 Luke accepted other employment. While employed at Indiana 15, Luke made a regional difference developing public works projects utilizing EDA and USDOT funding, including grant preparation, environmental reviews and project mapping. Luke holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Geography with a concentration in Urban and Regional Analysis from the University of Louisville and a Master of Arts in Public Policy Studies from Liberty University. We wish Luke the best and appreciate all his work while at Indiana 15.

## 2021 Return on Investments

County		2021 State/Federal
<u>Investment</u>		<u>Funds Awarded</u>
\$ 5,999	Crawford	\$ 719,152
\$ 23,458	Dubois	\$ 3,445,382
\$ 11,111	Orange	\$ 17,639
\$ 10,829	Perry	\$ 6,629,187
\$ 7,193	Pike	\$ 5,266,638
\$ 11,733	Spencer	\$ 737,639
\$ 70,323	Total	\$ 16,815,637

## C E D S

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is prepared by Indiana 15 RPC to analyze the economy of the region and to define goals and objectives of our communities. The CEDS is designed as a regional plan of action. This planning provides flexibility, utilizing unique regional advantages to maximize economic opportunity for residents.

A CEDS is the result of a continuing economic development planning process developed with diverse public and private sector participation, and must set forth goals and objectives necessary to solve economic development problems of the region and clearly define the metrics of success. Indiana 15 will soon be appointing a CEDS Strategy Committee to represent the main economic interests of the region. Private sector, public officials, community leaders, workforce development, higher education, minority and labor groups, and private individuals are being sought to represent the region. Please give us a call if you are willing to serve on the CEDS Strategy Committee.



Various funding agencies look at the CEDS for a prioritization process of regional needs. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires that project seeking funding are a priority in the CEDS. The Office of Community and Rural Affairs offers additional scoring points to applications with projects identified in the CEDS document. The CEDS is used to assess where the region is economically, where we want to be, and how to get there. The 2022 Annual CEDS Performance Report update is due April 2022. Each community is requested to submit prioritized projects before February 2022.

## EDA Planning Grant

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission has received \$210,000 in planning funds from EDA over a three-year period (\$70,000 annually) from July 2019—June 2022. This award has been matched with \$140,000 local share over the same time period by the District.



The per capita fees collected by each county are used toward the local share of the EDA award. These funds are used to prepare the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), write grant applications for our local member governments, pay mileage to board meetings, training, and other economic and community planning activities.

Local officials and citizens in the region realize the merits and long-term benefits of regional planning.

The Commission will be applying for a renewal of this planning grant in the spring of 2022.



## Community Crossings Matching Grant 2021 Awards

In 2021, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) awarded communities a combined \$202 million in state matching funds for local road projects through the Next Level Roads: Community Crossings Initiative. Twenty communities in the Indiana 15 region were awarded \$11,215,399.70 of the \$202 million awarded. To participate in the CCMG program, developing and submitting a Road Asset Management Plan to LTAP is required.

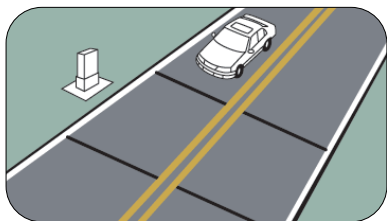
Congratulations to the following communities in the Indiana 15 RPC region:

Alton	\$ 74,805.00	Huntingburg	\$ 565,140.00	Rockport	\$ 423,372.70
Crawford Co.	\$ 534,735.00	Orange Co.	\$ 999,057.90	Spencer Co.	\$ 1,000,000.00
Dale	\$ 450,736.87	Orleans	\$ 232,549.35	Tell City	\$ 1,000,000.00
Dubois Co.	\$ 1,059,244.26	Paoli	\$ 246,148.06	Troy	\$ 35,137.50
Ferdinand	\$ 738,553.45	Perry Co.	\$ 1,000,000.00	West Baden	\$ 666,374.34
French Lick	\$ 762,419.95	Petersburg	\$ 289,671.15	Winslow	\$ 104,170.48
Grandview	\$ 28,926.37	Pike Co.	\$ 1,004,357.32		

## NSOFAR Traffic Counts

The Commission partnered with the Indiana Department of Transportation to provide traffic count data on the non-state-owned federal roadways. The contract will run through January 1, 2022-December 31, 2024 and Indiana 15 will receive \$28,400 for traffic count collection. All six counties will receive traffic counts through this contract. These counts are in addition to the transportation planning contract.

The vehicle volume and classification data is used for state planning and other activities. This traffic data can be viewed on the interactive map at <http://indot.ms2soft.com/tcds/>.



## INDOT Transportation Planning

Traffic counts were completed on locally maintained roads on the functional classification system in Spencer County. In total, 35 counts were

completed. Also, 24 railroad crossings received a railroad inventory, and a collection of data about the rail safety features. 18 of the 24 railroad crossings also received a traffic count.

Planning support to local governments and traffic counts are part of the 2021-2022 grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation's Small Urban and Rural Transportation Planning Grant. Traffic Counts will be conducted in Orange County for the 2021-2022 grant.



## Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Conference

AIM hosted their annual conference October 5-7, 2021, in French Lick, Indiana. Speakers and discussion about the American Rescue Plan Act, and topics about quality of place, COVID, and technical educational programming, were offered. Lisa Gehlhausen attended the AIM reception. As a result of the numerous ARPA questions, the Indiana Association of Regional Councils hosted Jim McGoff, Indiana Finance Authority, and Lisa Lee, Ice Miller, to present at the IARC State Association meeting in October.







## Huntingburg Northside Park

The City of Huntingburg was awarded an Indiana Department of Natural Resources-Land and Water Conservation grant in the amount of \$300,000.

The project includes construction of a walking and bicycle path, on-site parking, accessible playground feature and swings and a fishing pier for the outdoor enjoyment of the community. Construction will take place in 2022.



The City is contributing a local match of \$300,000 to the project. City officials are working with Cash Waggner.

## Tell City IDNR-LWCF

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is administering the City of Tell City pool, bath house, concession area, parking, and splash pad enhancements at Hagedorn Park. Tell City was awarded an Indiana Department of Natural Resources-Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to upgrade their facilities.



The grant in the amount of \$250,000 was awarded and the City will contribute a local match of \$250,000. Construction is underway by Arnold Masonry with completion expected in 2022. Mayor Chris Cail is looking forward to implementing this first phase of Hagedorn Park with additional recreation improvements planned for the future. City officials are working with Jason Brown, RA.

## Dubois County IDNR-LWCF

The Dubois County Park Board utilized the 2016-2021 Park and Recreation Master Plan list of priorities to contract with Hafer Design to develop an



overall future development plan keeping the priorities in mind. The Park Board examined the plans and provided input to Hafer Design. The grant

application was prepared by Indiana 15 RPC and submitted to Indiana Department of Natural Resources requesting \$250,000 combined with local funds of \$700,000 to add campsites, restroom, trails, and parking improvements.

The grant was approved by IDNR in the fall of 2018, with environmental studies completed in 2019. Federal approval came in late 2020. The land was surveyed and the deed was encumbered as perpetual park and recreation in 2021. The initial bids came in too high. Support from the Dubois County Commissioners and Council, adding additional funds, will bring the project to construction. The project was rebid, with bids opening December 2, 2021. Groundbreaking will occur in February 2022 and completed by June of 2023.

## Birdseye Fire Station



The Town of Birdseye has a new fire station!

The new fire station, funded through a grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs is a 5,150 sq. foot pre-engineered metal building with four bays, two of which are drive-through bays. The new station, designed by Universal Design, located 0.2 miles south of the previous building, is 1,691 sq. feet larger. The increased space accommodates 42-57 volunteer firefighters

for trainings and provides efficient storage space for equipment. A 60' x 35' concrete pad on the east side of the building offers a hard surface area to pull the vehicles out of the building. The station is now up to state code and ADA compliant.

A ribbon cutting was held September 12, 2021, with an excellent turnout by the community.



## Leavenworth Water

The Town of Leavenworth was awarded a \$700,000 grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs for improvements to the water supply and water distribution system located along the Ohio River.



The Leavenworth water system dates to 1938, including the elevated storage tank (which was constructed following the relocation of the town). The project will consist of the construction of a new 60,000 gallon elevated water storage tank, demolition of the existing 40,000 gallon tank, installation of a new mixing system, replacing the existing 100 gpm booster pump with a new 350 gpm pump, purchase of an Automatic Meter Read System, and replacement of various valves, fire hydrants, and flush hydrants. Commonwealth Engineers is assisting in the project.

The local match of \$525,185 is derived from a Indiana State Revolving Fund loan.

## Spurgeon Sewer



The Town of Spurgeon was awarded a grant of \$700,000 from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs for construction of a new

wastewater collection system.

The Town of Spurgeon does not have an existing wastewater collection system. With many lot sizes too small to construct septic systems to current standards, permits were no longer issued for any new construction, major renovations, or property sales requiring an inspection. The new system will be a low-pressure collection system consisting of sewer mains throughout the town, and household grinder pump stations. The new sewer collection system will connect to the Town of Lynnville for treatment. At the conclusion of this project, the community will see a reduction in the presence of un-treated wastewater in ditches and yards and connect approximately 77 households to a new wastewater collection system.

The local match of \$3,614,000 is derived from a \$3,099,000 grant and \$515,00 loan through USDA-Rural Development, as well as a \$30,000 grant through the Indiana SRF Regionalization Assistance Grant Program. The town was also recently funded through the Indiana Finance Authority SWIF program for gap funding in the amount of \$1,000,000.

## Petersburg Water

Midwestern Engineers, Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission, and the City of Petersburg collaborated on a water project to upgrade the quality and quantity of water supply necessary for normal operations and future growth. The Economic Development Administration awarded the City a grant of \$4,190,518 from the Assistance to Coal Communities funds through the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program. The City of Petersburg is providing local match from a \$17 Million USDA loan.

The designated work and improvements consist of:

Division I – New Water Treatment Plant;

Division II – New Water Supply Wells No. 5 and 6;

Division III – New Raw Water Main and Water Distribution System Improvements,

Division IV – New 750,000 Gal. Elevated Water Storage Tank and Rehab. of Existing Water Storage Tanks

## Dale Wastewater



The Town of Dale was awarded a \$700,000 grant through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to complete updates to their sanitary sewer system.

The project will include six areas of focus for improvements. These improvements are: manhole rehabilitation, collection system rehabilitation, replacement of an existing gravity sewer, lift station improvements and rehabilitation, lift station control panel and electrical improvements, and wastewater treatment plant improvements. These improvements will reduce inflow and infiltration in the wastewater system, thereby reducing the amount of water entering the treatment plant, and reducing the cost to the town.

The Town of Dale is contributing a local match of \$1,911,000 derived from a Indiana State Revolving Fund loan. Midwestern Engineers is assisting in the project.

## Milltown Wastewater

The Town of Milltown held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for their new sewage treatment plant on October 11, 2021. The new Aeromod package plant replaces the nearly 60 year old traditional treatment plant, which had been experiencing increasing problems, particularly during the winter months when freezing was an issue. The new plant increases operating efficiency, and can be fully monitored remotely.



This project was funded through a \$700,000 grant through OCRA, with matching funds through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Heritage Engineering assisted in the project.

## Chrisney Water

The Town of Chrisney was awarded a \$700,000 grant through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for water utility improvements. Commonwealth Engineers is assisting in the project.

Improvements include installation of a disinfectant residual analyzer at the master meter site, rehabilitation of the elevated water storage tank, replacement of water mains and hydrants, and improvements to the lab/utility office building and storage area.



USDA Rural Development is providing matching funds through loan dollars. The construction is ongoing, but work on the elevated storage tank has been completed.

## Dubois County SIRS

The Dubois County Commissioners, working with Southern Indiana Resource Solutions (SIRS), was awarded a \$127,743 grant through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Indiana Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services (DDRS).

This award will fund the installation of Wi-Fi hotspots in public spaces around Dubois County, installation of an accessible computer workstation at the SIRS office, purchasing iPads to create a lending library, and creating an application to connect adults with disabilities to community members that can assist in shopping and errand needs.



## Cannelton Can-Clay Clearance

Initially, Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Assessments were accomplished through an Environmental Protection Agency Coalition Award to Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission to assess the environmental concerns on this property centrally located in the heart of the city. Indiana 15 RPC then met with Mayor Ralph Terry to seek funding to remediate the environmental conditions.

The City of Cannelton was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs to eliminate hazardous and environmental conditions at the former Can-Clay Corporation property now owned by the City of Cannelton.

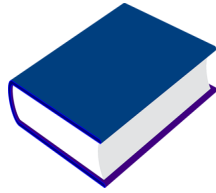
The clearance will include the removal and remediation of hazardous materials identified in the environmental assessments to include asbestos abatement, the removal of approximately 144 drums and 150 containers, 125 truckloads of brick debris removal, 190 truckloads of clay pipe debris removal, 10 truckloads of PVC pipe removal, 10 truckloads of scrap tire removal, and 8,600 cubic yards of sawdust removal. Universal Design Associates and ATC Environmental Consultants are preparing the bid documents, with remediation to occur in 2022.





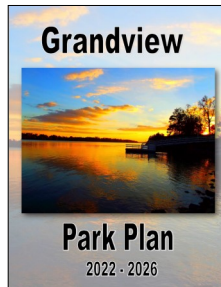
## Codebook Updates

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission offers a service to organize ordinances and resolutions in a codebook, organized by topic for quick reference. These codebooks are a great resource to have at your fingertips and are available to residents on our website: [www.ind15rpc.org](http://www.ind15rpc.org). Indiana 15 updated Chrisney, Ferdinand, Grandview, and Orleans codebooks in 2021. If your community would like a quote from Indiana 15 RPC to update your Codebook, call the Commission at 812-367-8455.



## Park Plan Updates

The Town of Grandview and Dubois County Park & Recreation Master Plans are currently being updated with a draft submittal date to IDNR by January 15, 2022. These updated plans will guide park and recreation updates for the next five years.



The public is encouraged to review these draft plans on our website

under reports. <https://www.ind15rpc.org/reports/>

## Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans

County Multi-Hazard Mitigation plans are essential to be eligible for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and US Department of Homeland Security for natural disaster preparedness projects. These plans need to be updated every five years to stay current. Perry County is currently in the process of updating their Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and will submit to FEMA by February 2022.

<u>County</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Crawford	December 16, 2025
Dubois	January 9, 2024
Orange	October 2, 2023
Perry	February 9, 2021
Pike	September 12, 2023
Spencer	April 6, 2025

## Tell City Comprehensive Plan

The City of Tell City was awarded a \$49,500 Community Development Block Grant through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to develop a comprehensive plan to identify short and long term goals and projects. While the previous plan was completed in 2012, much progress was made to implement the plan with the end result being that 17 of the 26 priority projects had either been completed or are in development. With many changes throughout the City since, a fresh look was needed. Taylor Siefker William Design Group is working to develop the new Comprehensive Plan.

## Revolving Loan Funds

The Crawford County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has assisted 26 loan clients in creating and/or saving an estimated 92 jobs within Crawford County. Since the RLF was founded in 1999, the fund has loaned out more than \$1,943,500 and leveraged over \$2 million in private investment.

The RLF exists to help entrepreneurs start, expand, or retain businesses in Crawford County. RLF loan recipients are expected to increase investment and disposable revenue in the county, create jobs, and further enhance possibilities for related industry. All RLF loan recipients are required to produce or retain at least one job for each \$20,000 of RLF investment.



The RLF exists to provide the “gap” financing needed to induce local financial institutions to complete a financing package. RLF clients must contribute at least 10% equity, and working capital loans are limited to 50% of total project cost. RLF financing is in the form of a direct loan to an individual or business at variable rates.



The Crawford County Board of Commissioners contracts with Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission to administer and provide technical assistance for the fund. For more information about the program contact our office or the Crawford County Economic Development office at 812-739-4479.



## Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI)



Indiana First Partners

Knox, Pike, Spencer, Perry, and Harrison counties are proudly looking forward to implementation of the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) regional development plan titled “Catalyst for Community Prosperity.” These five counties, known as the “Indiana First” region, strategically identified projects and programs to grow population by building on a strong foundation of working together.

The Southwest Indiana Development Council (SWIDC) is the coordinating organization. The consultant team of Rundell Ernstberger Associates, AECOM, and CWC Latitudes listened to the partners in creating the regional development plan, which was submitted September 30, 2021, to the Indiana Economic

Development Corporation (IEDC). On November 29, 2021, Indiana First presented to IEDC the themes, focus areas, outcomes, partnerships, and strengths of the Indiana First region.

The themes are Housing, Innovation, Downtown Revitalization, Quality of Life, Talent Attraction & Education, Economic Development, Tourism. The \$1.2 billion in projects were prioritized by alignment with the program goals to result in a significant population growth impact.

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission is excited about the long-term and sustainable opportunities and transformational growth in Southern Indiana through this READI Initiative.

Indiana First was awarded \$15 Million and Indiana Uplands were awarded \$30 Million.



## National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)



The 2021 NADO Annual Training Conference was attended by Lisa Gehlhausen from October 16-19, 2021 in Portland, Oregon.

“Brownfields Redevelopment;” “Effective Promotion and Communication of Regional Development Organizations;” “Midwest Caucus Meeting to discuss challenges and opportunities;” “Strengthening Rural America;” “Roles of the Regional Development Organization with the American Rescue Plan Act;” “Grant Audit Readiness and Compliance Requirements in a Pandemic Environment;” “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies;” and “Advocacy during unprecedented times” were all presented at the Moving Forward Conference. Learning from peers about their exciting projects and the insightful sessions are relevant and educational for our regional planning districts.

## Indiana Association of Regional Councils

Indiana Association of Regional Councils (IARC) is a statewide organization of regional planning commissions led by Director Brian Long. Through IARC, members find value in discussing regional strategies, current topics, the benefits of regional planning, solutions, and state wide collaboration. IARC meets monthly. IARC Officers are James Turnwald-President, Lisa Gehlhausen-Vice President, and Rose Scoval-Treasurer.



## Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP)



Recently awarded in December 2021, was a \$1,600,000 grant to the City of Tell City and the Perry County Port Authority, along with the non-federal share of \$400,000. The project will remove an existing pier and construct a new 40' foot diameter pier located approximately 230 feet upriver. The new pier will allow for direct barge-to-truck unloading of cargo and truck-to-barge loading, a new service that has not been offered previously. The new pier will also compliment the barge mounted crane and riverbank ramp. The award was made by the U.S. Department of Administration Maritime Administration (MARAD) through the Port Infrastructure Development

Program (PIDP).

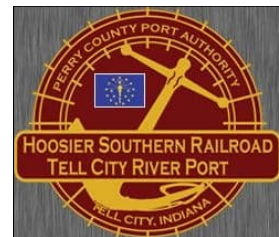
## Perry County Port Authority Bridge Rail and Capacity Enhancement

EDA is investing \$4,511,548 in grant funds to make railway infrastructure improvements necessary to support the growth of manufacturing in Perry and Spencer counties. The project includes replacing two timber trestle bridges and rail approaches on the Hoosier Southern Railroad located at Milepost 8.1 over the Anderson River and at Milepost 11.7 over the East Fork of Crooked Creek near Lamar. Once completed, the two new bridges will provide additional reliability, reduced maintenance costs, and upgraded capacity to handle heavier freight, which will provide the region with another resource to strengthen its logistics cluster and diversity into related clusters to become more resilient in response to disasters like the flooding that occurred in 2018 and 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Perry County Port Authority will be contributing a local match of \$1,127,887 from a USDA loan repayment with a total project cost of \$5,639,435. These two bridge replacements have been an ongoing need for several years. The Port Authority continued sharing the story of this need and was elated to receive the CARES Act funding through EDA for this significant transportation logistics project. CSR Engineering completed the plans for Bridge 11.7, with construction recently completed by Cooper Rail Service. Bidding documents and plans are currently underway for the next railroad bridge and milepost 8.1 and expect to bid in early 2022.



Bridge 11.7 Complete



## USDA-Rural Business Development Grants

The Commission assisted the Pike County Progress Partners with a USDA-RBDG application in the amount of \$99,999. The funds were awarded in July and have been used to purchase advanced manufacturing equipment for the new Elmer Buchta Technology Center. Pike County Progress Partners contributed \$3,592 in local match.

The Commission also assisted Lincolnland Economic Development Corporation with a USDA-RBDG application in the amount of \$20,000 to create a revolving loan fund to spur entrepreneurship. The grant was awarded in July. Lincolnland Economic Development Corporation contributed \$2,000 in local match.



## Regional Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan

The Commission has contracted with Rundell Ernstberger & Associates + AECOM to develop an action plan that will help the region respond to the economic and social impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and future economic disruptions. The economic recovery and resiliency plan utilizes CARES Act funds from the Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration.

The plan, titled, “STEADFAST: Creating Deeper Roots for a Stronger Future,” will provide short-term economic endurance strategies, long-term recovery strategies, and regional economic recovery strategies to enable the region to persevere and prevail in the wake of COVID-19 and navigate and endure future economic, biological, and natural emergencies.

Data gathering included a survey, and 17 topic-specific focus groups—agriculture, medical, small business, WorkOne, tourism, emergency management administration, transportation, community services, education, community foundations/United Way, 21st Century Talent Region Crawford County, Dubois County, Orange County, Perry County, Pike County and Spencer County. Current multi-hazard mitigation plans, comprehensive plans, housing studies and sales data, zoning, transportation, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and other plans were reviewed as part of the data collection process for this plan.

The plan is under development and will be presented at a summit planned for spring of 2022.

### 21st Century Talent Region

Indiana 15 welcomes the newly designated 21st Century Talent Region: Southern Indiana Gateway. This new region, which corresponds to the six county Indiana 15 region, has committed to working across geographic lines to attract, develop and connect talent while working together with the Office of Career Connections and Talent, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and CivicLab. The region is developing a data-driven plan to grow population, increase educational attainment, and raise household income through a set of five target goals. This new designation was celebrated at an event on August 9, 2021, in Crawford County, in which the 10-member committee was recognized for their hard work and continued dedication to this important work. The committee is made up of county economic development directors, county chamber of commerce directors, and local business people. Indiana 15 looks forward to working with this group toward achieving shared goals.



### Pike County COVID Response

The Pike County Commissioners received a grant award of \$250,000 through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses to retain jobs held by low-moderate income employees.

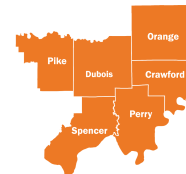
Through two rounds of applications, the Commissioners were able to award 42 small businesses in Pike County grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. These businesses employ 204 county residents and will be able to keep their doors open and operations continuing as usual while still navigating the impact that COVID has had on the county.



# INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Ferdinand, IN 47532

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staff@ind15rpc.org



## Thank you to our 2021 Board Members for their year of service.

### CRAWFORD COUNTY

Mr. Morton Dale  
Mr. Bill Breeding\*  
Ms. Tarra Carothers  
Ms. Lucy Veltman  
Mr. Michael Haverstock  
Mr. Bill Byrd

### DUBOIS COUNTY

Mr. Nick Hostetter  
Ms. Charmian Klem  
Mr. Paul Lake  
Mr. Paul Lorey\*  
Ms. Mary Ann Cummings\*  
Ms. Beverly Schulthise\*  
Ms. Melanie Barrett\*

### ORANGE COUNTY

Mr. Marshall Noble  
Mr. Carl Anderson  
Mr. Jack Hinkle  
Mr. John F. Noblitt\*  
Mr. Danny Hickman  
Mr. John Harrison

### GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEE

Mr. Stephen Bartels \*

### APPOINTED BY

County Commissioners  
County Council  
Town of English  
Town of Leavenworth  
Town of Marengo  
Town of Milltown

### APPOINTED BY

County Commissioners  
County Council  
City of Huntingburg  
City of Jasper  
Town of Birdseye  
Town of Ferdinand  
Town of Holland

### APPOINTED BY

County Commissioners  
Co. Commissioners At-large  
County Council  
Town of Orleans  
Town of Paoli  
Town of West Baden Springs

### PERRY COUNTY

Mr. Tom Hauser\*  
Ms. Tara Damin\*  
Mr. Joe Hermann  
Mr. David Etienne  
Ms. Brenda Pohl  
Mr. Larry Kleeman  
Mr. Bernard Linne

### PIKE COUNTY

Mr. Jon Craig\*  
Mr. Mark Flint  
Mr. Ryan Coleman  
Mr. Todd Meadors  
Ms. Jody Hoover  
Mr. Ron Beadles  
Ms. Debra Lamb

### SPENCER COUNTY

Ms. Heather Gries  
Mr. Todd Ruxer  
Mr. Don Winkler\*  
Mr. Mason Seay  
Mr. Don Wertman  
Ms. Angie Fischer  
Mr. Michael Johannes

### APPOINTED BY

County Commissioners  
Co. Commissioners At-large  
Co. Commissioners At-large  
County Council  
City of Cannelton  
City of Tell City  
Town of Troy

### APPOINTED BY

County Commissioners  
Co. Commissioners At-large  
Co. Commissioners At-large  
County Council  
City of Petersburg  
Town of Spurgeon  
Town of Winslow

### APPOINTED BY

County Commissioners  
County Council  
City of Rockport  
Town of Chrisney  
Town of Dale  
Town of Grandview  
Town of Santa Claus

\*Executive Board member

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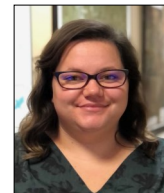
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