

ONE DEARBORN COUNTY

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

*Our Plan for the economic prosperity of the Dearborn County Region
including our county, cities and towns*

11.7.2018



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DEARBORN COUNTY COMMUNITIES

City of Aurora
City of Greendale
City of Lawrenceburg
Town of Dillsboro
Town of Moores Hill
Town of St. Leon
Town of West Harrison
Dearborn County Government -
Unincorporated Area
including Bright and Hidden
Valley Lake



HWC

ENGINEERING

DEFINITIONS

1. LOCAL

Refers to issues or priorities that are specific to individual Dearborn County communities.

Example: Improving infrastructure in a neighborhood.

2. COUNTY-WIDE

Refers to issues or priorities for Dearborn County communities that span local political boundaries and are common to multiple communities. This plan focuses on county-wide priorities.

Example: Developing a trail network that connects communities.

3. REGIONAL

Refers to issues or priorities that span local, county and/or state boundaries. These issues are shared by a large number of communities across the area.

Example: Traffic planning along a roadway that goes through multiple counties.

4. REGIONALISM

Refers to the act of working cooperatively with other communities at the county-wide or regional level to address common needs. **County-wide planning is a type of regionalism.**

Example: Working with neighboring counties to encourage economic development along I-74.

An aerial photograph of a golf course. In the center, there is a large, light-colored clubhouse with a prominent porch. The surrounding area is lush green with well-maintained fairways, scattered trees, and a small pond. The background shows rolling hills covered in dense forest under a clear sky.

01

EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

SUMMARY

BUILT ON WHAT WE KNOW

Community planning is nothing new to Dearborn County; including its seven (7) cities and towns and the unincorporated communities of Bright and Hidden Valley. In fact, this plan was built by relying upon existing, high quality community plans across the county. Each community created its unique comprehensive plan by gathering input from local citizens, analyzing data and statistics, examining geographic factors, reviewing transportation systems and applying their unique assets, values and goals.

A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to something more.

- Rosabeth Moss Kanter

A SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

This Regional Economic Development Plan, the first of its kind in Dearborn County's recent history, launches from this platform of community planning to create a shared vision for the future --- more importantly, a set of priorities believed to have the most potential to help all communities realize their potential together.



EMBRACING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DOESN'T MEAN GIVING UP LOCAL CONTROL

To a large degree, our location within close proximity to a major metropolitan area (Cincinnati, OH) means our communities are integrally connected to each other. Our citizens live here, yet their daily life often takes them outside Dearborn County to connect to family, friends, work, recreation and education. While this plan helps us focus and capitalize on being part of the larger region, each community will still make individual decisions about their future and their own identity.

As efforts in this plan are realized, we will:

- Reduce the frequency and reasons our citizens leave their community to meet their needs.
- Bring new citizens to Dearborn County which will grow business, tax base, jobs, housing options, etc.
- Help our businesses, schools, governments, retail establishments, healthcare providers and many others thrive.

IT IS DIFFICULT, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, WITH SHARED COMMITMENT AND FOCUS

This plan is not intended to be idealistic. Rather, other communities have proven that the three (3) consistent themes underlying this effort are paramount to achieving success: *Collaboration, Regional Thinking and Overcoming Barriers*.

In a competitive world, we are called to take new approaches to old problems. So, we begin this journey by embracing the complexity and interdependency between three (3) core micro-regions that are the foundation of Dearborn County's local economy. This regional commitment is essential to our success and realistic starting point. These regions are:

DEARBORN COUNTY

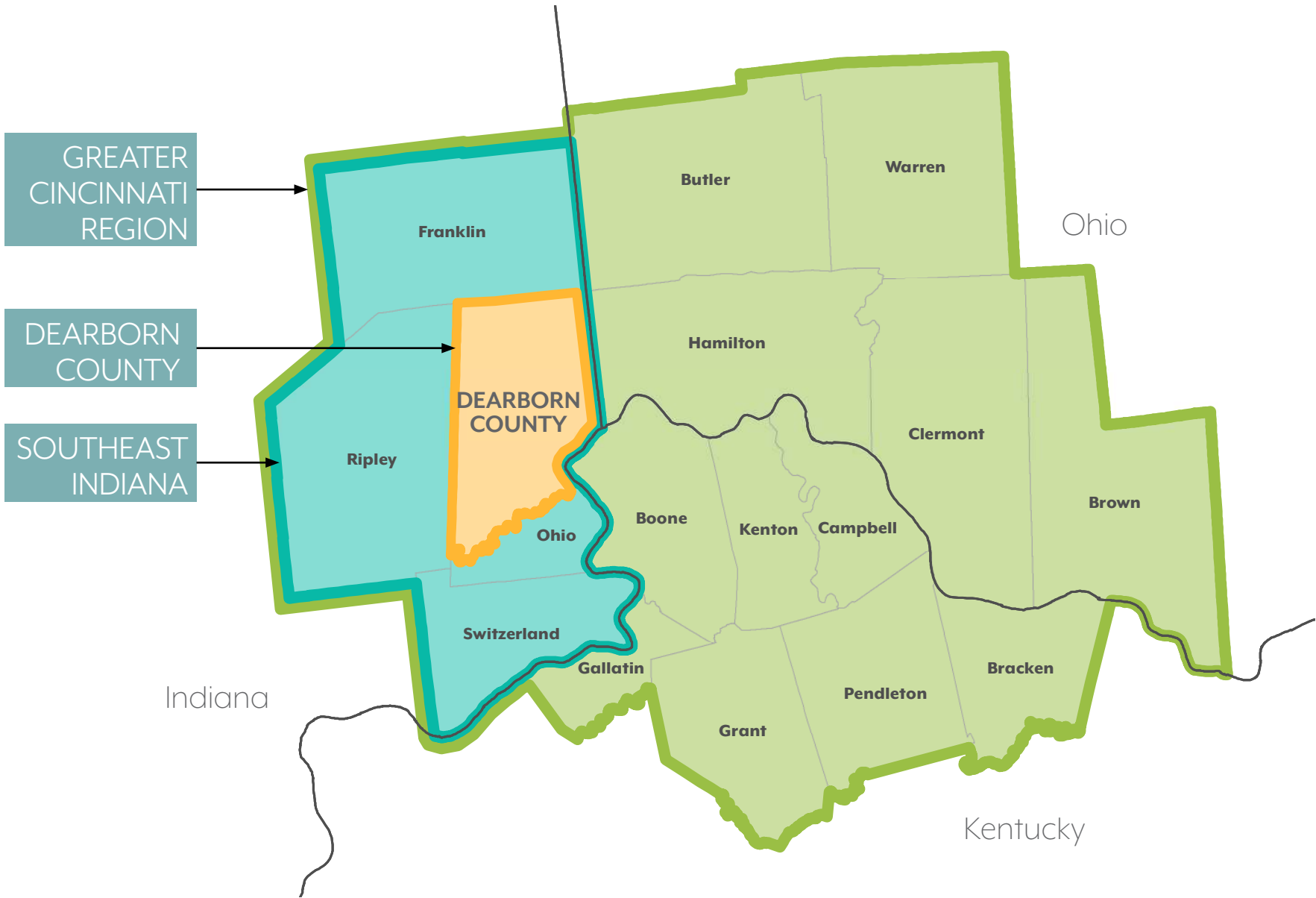
- "Where we call home"

SOUTHEAST INDIANA

- "Our Hoosier Neighbors"
(Southeast Indiana Growth Alliance)

GREATER CINCINNATI REGION

- "Our Urban Connection"
(Cincinnati MSA)



THE SUCCESS MULTIPLIER

Dearborn County has a unique opportunity to multiply local success by capitalizing on programs, funding, planning support, agency resources and the stellar economic development reputation of the State of Indiana. While we tend to think local, we are truly part of a national U.S. Economy that relies on a global economy where businesses all over the world interact and exchange goods and services each day (including many in Dearborn County, Indiana). Attracting Foreign Direct Investment, embracing cultural change, planning for the technology of the future and identifying our unique advantage in industry and business attraction are all essential to long term success.

At the same time, we must be supportive of local businesses. Without our local businesses (retail, services, freight movers, manufacturers, banks, hospitals, etc.) our economy declines. We can point to many businesses that started here and stayed here --- and they continue to give to our schools, provide jobs, spend local dollars and generally keep our blood pumping.

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS WORKING TOGETHER

Local governments, entrepreneurs, and seasoned local businesses must work together as part of this process. The decisions and investments they make have a direct impact on the long-term economic outlook. In recent years, we have seen a more collaborative and cooperative partnership in Dearborn County between the county, cities and towns. It is our desire to have this plan, which will be a living, breathing document based on actions instead of ideas, to keep us all focused on the big impact goals despite political change.



THE BIG 8 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DRIVERS

Using existing community plans, development of this document began by identifying shared opportunities and challenges. These key items were prioritized and an action plan was developed around those with the most potential to favorably impact all communities across Dearborn County.

Implementation of the Big 8 Economic Development Drivers will be accomplished through task force groups that will meet regularly and build an action plan to address the issues and opportunities of each economic development driver.

<p>HOUSING</p> <p>Dearborn County needs to increase the supply and broaden the mix of housing available in the community.</p>	<p>TRAIL CONNECTIVITY</p> <p>Finish the Dearborn Trail and connect it to other communities and attractions.</p>	<p>DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Encourage investment and redevelopment in downtowns and riverfronts to enhance their appeal as live, work and play destinations.</p>	<p>TOURISM & CULTURE</p> <p>Grow and expand culture, recreation, nature and tourism assets to increase visitors and attract residents.</p>
<p>BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION</p> <p>Target business attraction efforts around assets and community goals, connect to existing business to understand their impact and challenge and foster a culture of entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Respond to the workforce needs of current and future employers with a long-term action plan supported by a solid understanding of existing demographics, population migration and change, transportation barriers and unmet educational needs.</p>	<p>U.S. 50 & TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>Demonstrate a sense of urgency in developing long term solutions to US Highway 50 traffic congestion that is hindering economic and regional growth. Planning should be completed in the context of county-wide transportation planning.</p>	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Support communities in assessing, understanding and prioritizing infrastructure investments (sewer, broadband, utilities, etc.) linked to planned growth, economic impact and citizen health/ quality of life.</p>



02

INTRODUCTION

WHY WORK TOGETHER?

THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG COMMUNITIES

This plan was undertaken based on the understanding that Dearborn County's communities have common opportunities and challenges. With this planning effort, the goal is to find strategies to leverage the collective strength of the county's resources into action.

MAIN REASONS FOR WORKING TOGETHER:

1. MANY CHALLENGES SPAN POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

The challenges facing today's communities are increasingly complex and expensive. For example, issues such as transportation planning simply cannot be solved within one area without impacting neighboring communities. For Dearborn County, infrastructure and housing needs are examples of regional issues common between all communities.

2. MANY OPPORTUNITIES SPAN POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

In the same way that challenges don't stop at political boundaries, opportunities such as economic development are not constrained. In many ways, the strength of an area related to economic development is its size and diversity, so working in an isolated and individual manner to encourage economic development can be counterproductive.

3. WORKING TOGETHER CAN REDUCE COSTS

While there is benefit to having individualized facilities in each community, this is becoming a luxury that many communities simply can no longer afford. Instead of cutting services, more communities are working together to combine resources into shared facilities that can best meet the needs of all residents in the region.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to establish county-wide priorities for Dearborn County. This document is meant to be a living plan that can be updated as needs change. This plan promotes shared priorities and establishes actions for accomplishing them.



USING THE PLAN

GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT

Funding is the key to implementing the action plan. This regional plan can be used in funding applications as documentation of the regional value/impact of key projects.

PRIORITIZATION

Prioritization is crucial to regional development. This plan is meant to be used as a tool for prioritizing projects throughout the region for short-term and long-term implementation.

REGIONAL ADVOCACY

This plan serves as a tool and resource to advocate for projects that have regional priority. It also promotes cooperation and collaboration between regions. This plan will allow Dearborn County to partner with other regional areas.

REGIONAL CITIES

This plan establishes the foundation for Dearborn County's priorities related to a potential future Regional Cities plan/funding application.

COMMUNICATE GOALS

This plan serves as a summary of the communities key priorities. It should be used as a resource for educating the public and community leaders on key local issues and economic opportunities.

STELLAR COMMUNITIES

The Indiana OCRA Stellar Communities program has been very beneficial to rural communities and now has a regional emphasis. This plan could be used as the basis for pursuing Stellar Communities designation and associated funding opportunities.

REGIONALISM IN ACTION

Working together with neighboring communities to solve common problems is known as regionalism. Acting regionally starts by identifying the needs and opportunities that all Dearborn County communities have in common. However, being successful takes more than taking this first step to document these shared needs and opportunities (as we have done in this next chapter). It requires planning and acting collaboratively to meet those needs.

For example, this plan identifies a demand for additional outdoor and indoor youth sports fields to meet the needs of current residents as well as create opportunities for extended stay tourism in the form of tournaments. Since this was identified by multiple Dearborn County communities as a goal, it certainly would qualify as a county-wide priority. Looking at this need from a regionalism perspective, several key questions should be asked:

- 1. Will one facility serve the entire county, or is there a specific reason to provide multiple facilities to serve individual communities?**
- 2. Where should the facility be located to best serve the region?**
- 3. Which entities should work together and/or lead the development of the facility?**
- 4. How could costs be shared in the development of the facility?**
- 5. How should the facility be operated to ensure all residents in the county benefit equally from the facility?**

We may wrestle with the questions because each brings up challenges regarding project control, cost sharing and who gets the advantages or disadvantages of having the facility located in their community. Each project or challenge identified in this plan will call upon us to ask these types of questions in order to get the most county-wide benefit.

To help prepare us for a new way of working together, answer these questions the following section of this plan identifies the best practices in regional partnership. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) Regional Cities Initiative report and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth publication are based on deep research and proven results from other successful regions.

CASE STUDIES

IEDC REGIONAL CITIES INITIATIVE

2014 PEER CITIES REPORT

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) conducted an in-depth study on how regional centers of population can attract and retain talent and investment. The peer cities report examined 11 regional cities that have transformed their economies and experienced growth in talent and investment. This report identified nine principles common between these regions. The 2014 report is influential to this plan because it was intended to be used as guide specifically for Indiana communities to consider the successful themes of regional cities as communities begin to transform and act regionally.

1. A BOLD VISION, TENACIOUS LEADERSHIP AND BROAD CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE
2. A REGION RALLIES AROUND ITS CITY
3. ENGAGE AND STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY IN A WHOLE NEW WAY
4. REGIONAL INVESTMENT THAT SUPPORTS QUALITY OF PLACE
5. PLANS MUST BE VISIONARY, MARKET-BASED AND ACTION-ORIENTED TO GUIDE REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION
6. PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT RESPONDS TO BUSINESS CLIMATE AND TALENT BASE
7. FINANCING REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION REQUIRES A MULTIFACETED APPROACH
8. LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP REQUIRES NON-PARTISAN THINKING
9. HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS ARE CRITICAL FOR REGIONAL TRANSFORMATION

EPA SMART GROWTH

HOW SMALL TOWNS & CITIES CAN USE LOCAL ASSETS TO REBUILD THEIR ECONOMIES: LESSONS FROM SUCCESSFUL PLACES (MAY 2015 REPORT)

This publication from the EPA examined case studies of small towns and cities that have emphasized their existing assets and distinctive resources to build their economies. While no set process works everywhere, the case studies illustrated 6 successful tactics that other communities can use. This publication gives good perspective for this plan because it focuses on smaller communities and how they have successfully built their economies.

1. IDENTIFY AND BUILD ON EXISTING ASSETS
2. ENGAGE ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
3. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUTSIDE FUNDING
4. CREATE INCENTIVES FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY
5. ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND ACROSS THE REGION
6. SUPPORT A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES

These recommended best practices blend together successful themes of larger regions with practical strategies to build a economy in smaller cities and towns. These best practices should be used to prioritize which actions have county-wide importance.

Your plan should:

01

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY VISION

The vision is the area's desires, needs and goals for the future. By engaging the community in the plan/action for the future it generates public support that aids in implementing change.

02

BUILD ON EXISTING ASSETS

Each community has assets that offer opportunities for growth. These assets may include historic downtowns, naturalized areas, recreational features, cultural experiences, institutions, etc. These assets should be the building blocks to create an identity for the region.

03

SUPPORT QUALITY OF PLACE

Quality of place is important to attracting industry and talent. Investment in place-based development will attract an educated workforce that industries need.

04

SUPPORT COMMUNITY VALUES AND RALLY THE COMMUNITY BEHIND IT

Supporting community values promotes community ownership and allows for the community to rally behind the action/plan. Having the community rally for actions/plans will help carry the plan/action forward and support the leadership.

05

ENGAGE MULTIPLE FUNDING STREAMS (PRIVATE SECTOR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, GRANT FUNDING, STATE INCENTIVES)

Successful plans maximize the use of local money by using it to leverage other funding streams, thereby reducing the burden to local taxpayers.

06

FOSTER COOPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

Cooperation between communities with similar priorities helps leverage the different assets each community has to offer and makes the most out of available resources.

07

COMPLIMENT (AND NOT COMPETE) WITH EXISTING ASSETS

Unnecessary competition between communities for limited resources is counterproductive and hinders economic growth.

08

HAVE A CLEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

It should be easy to measure outcomes if the plan's goals and objectives have been met.



03

PRIORITIES

PLANNING PROCESS

This process was driven by a steering committee consisting of leaders and professionals from the county and the local cities and towns. These individuals had participated in previous planning initiatives for their individual communities and were able to work together to identify needs and opportunities common between communities.



PRIORITIES INTRODUCTION

VISION, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECTS

VISION

The adopted vision is based on One Dearborn's regional strategy. This was selected as the vision because it reflects the shared goals common between each community.

PRIORITIES

The priorities identified were selected through a group prioritization process because they were the highest priority county-wide needs for each community to accomplish economic development goals.

PROJECTS

Projects were prioritized based on their ability to accomplish the county-wide goals established and have the most significant economic impact.

PRIORITIZATION

TIER 1

Tier 1 projects reflect the highest county-wide priorities and reflect projects that would benefit the entire county. These are short term priorities and implementation should begin on the projects immediately.

TIER 2

These projects also have county-wide importance, but are not a short-term priority. In many cases, these projects require Tier 1 projects to be completed first. In other situations, projects were categorized as Tier 2 because of the lack of current capacity and resources to undertake the work.

TIER 3

Tier 3 reflects notable local projects that also serve to support county-wide goals. These are important to accomplishing the overall vision for the county but fall behind Tier 1 and 2 in terms of county-wide priority.





IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

In the spirit of regional cooperation, the implementation strategy for this plan will be led by local task force teams. A task force will be assigned to each of the Big 8 Economic Development Drivers and will consist of stakeholders from across the county. One Dearborn will lead coordination across the county to establish each task force and then will turn over primary responsibility for implementation to the task force.

When a project is within a single community, that individual community will be responsible for the implementation of the project. In these scenarios, the role of the task force will be to support the coordination of the work and stay informed in the context of the broader plan to meet overall goals.

When a project spans jurisdictions, the task force will take on the leadership role in implementing the projects and will work with individual communities to identify how to complete the work in their jurisdiction.

THE BIG 8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DRIVERS

VISION STATEMENT

To be one of the highest quality and most sought-after communities in the tri-state region for enjoying a prosperous career in a safe and idyllic family environment.

THE BIG 8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DRIVERS

The following are the shared, county-wide priorities for Dearborn County. These were developed based on reviewing the issues and themes common to the needs and opportunities identified by each individual community. These priorities are not in any particular order as they are very much interdependent.

<p>HOUSING</p> <p>Dearborn County needs to increase the supply and broaden the mix of housing available in the community.</p>	<p>TRAIL CONNECTIVITY</p> <p>Finish the Dearborn Trail and connect it to other communities and attractions.</p>	<p>DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Encourage investment and redevelopment in downtowns and riverfronts to enhance their appeal as live, work and play destinations.</p>	<p>TOURISM & CULTURE</p> <p>Grow and expand culture, recreation, nature and tourism assets to increase visitors and attract residents.</p>
<p>BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION</p> <p>Target business attraction efforts around assets and community goals, connect to existing business to understand their impact and challenges and foster a culture of entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Respond to the workforce needs of current and future employers with a long-term action plan supported by a solid understanding of existing demographics, population migration and change, transportation barriers and unmet educational needs.</p>	<p>U.S. 50 & TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>Demonstrate a sense of urgency in developing long term solutions to US Highway 50 traffic congestion that is hindering economic and regional growth. Planning should be completed in the context of county-wide transportation planning.</p>	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>Support communities in assessing, understanding and prioritizing infrastructure investments (sewer, broadband, utilities, etc.) linked to planned growth, economic impact and citizen health/ quality of life.</p>



HOUSING

SUMMARY

Dearborn County needs to increase the supply of housing available in the community to provide current and new residents with a full range of housing alternatives for young adults, families, empty-nesters and seniors. To meet this goal, Dearborn County will need to understand its housing needs, current barriers to housing development and equip local communities with the tools they need to inform housing decisions.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A Housing Task Force should be created to meet regularly to guide and manage the implementation of the objectives outlined. They will track progress and modify action items as necessary to accomplish the goals. The assembled team will include housing industry professionals, utilities, planning experts, community representatives and others pertinent to the work.

HOUSING PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
County-Wide Housing Analysis	Municipalities & County	Develop a county-wide and regional housing assessment to identify needed housing supply.			
Existing Sites and Building Inventory	One Dearborn w/respective Community	Inventory of vacant major structures and inventory of development/redevelopment sites with infrastructure. Include a plan for redevelopment.			
Update Community Ordinances	Municipalities & County	Review and modify local ordinances to provide a more predictable, consistent development process between communities.			
Senior Housing	All Stakeholders	Using housing market analysis, identify need, best location and mix of price points for housing to meet needs of citizens 55+ (seniors).			
Riverfront Development - Mixed Use/Public + Private Partnership Housing Development	Aurora	New mixed use housing development in downtown Aurora.			
Owner Occupied Housing Repair Program	Dillsboro	Improve blight, increase housing quality and assessed value with goal of attracting more housing long term.			
Bright/Hidden Valley Lake Housing Plan	Hidden Valley Lake POA	Develop strategic plan for expanding housing in the Bright/Hidden Valley Lake areas linked to validated housing market demand.			
Downtown Development & Single Family Housing	Lawrenceburg	Encourage the development of more infill single family housing in the greater Lawrenceburg downtown area as a mechanism for increasing use of the downtown district.			
Riverfront Apartment Development	Lawrenceburg	150 housing units overlooking the river on top of the levee. Developer (Flaherty & Collins) is working in public/private partnership with the City of Lawrenceburg to launch this project.			
Marketing Plan	One Dearborn/ Convention, Visitors and Tourism Bureau (CVTB)	Plan for marketing Dearborn County and its assets. Goal: Grow population & create brand/area awareness in Cincinnati market.			

HOUSING PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

COUNTY-WIDE HOUSING ANALYSIS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

It is recognized that Dearborn County currently has a limited supply of housing and that significant upgrades to water/sewer infrastructure may be necessary to open up additional land for housing development. Prior to developing plans for expanding infrastructure, it is recommended that the Dearborn County Region commissions a housing analysis to assess the supply of existing housing, forecast future demand and provide recommendations for the types/quantities of housing needed to meet future demand.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING HOUSING GOALS?

An assessment of housing is needed to quantify the amount of land needed for housing and to inform infrastructure investment in housing. Additionally, this document will serve to quantify the demand for potential housing developers.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Housing Task Force

EXISTING SITES & BUILDING INVENTORY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this project is to complete a prioritized inventory of development, redevelopment and infill opportunities in the community. This would include both vacant buildings and land.

The first phase of this inventory would include:

- Identify and prioritize opportunities for land development that do not require additional water/sewer infrastructure investments.
- Identify areas without water/sewer infrastructure that have opportunity for development.
- Identify available buildings for potential occupancy, renovation or adaptive re-use.

Upon completion of the housing analysis, the second phase of the planning effort should be completed, which would include an assessment of the building/site inventory to meet the forecasted housing demand. Recommendations for future use of various sites should be included. This assessment in turn will inform the recommended sanitary sewer action plan.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING HOUSING GOALS?

Since developable land outside of the floodplain is limited, this inventory will serve to identify opportunities to encourage development/redevelopment of areas already served with water/sewer infrastructure. This development strategy is expected to be the lowest cost method of meeting future housing demands.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Housing Task Force

HOUSING PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1) *Continued*

UPDATE COMMUNITY ORDINANCES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

While there are unique development constraints within communities that warrant custom rules, it is recognized that many regulations, administrative requirements and procedures could be standardized in order to create a more developer friendly business climate that supports housing development. Therefore, the goal of this effort is to update the ordinances and administrative rules for all Dearborn County communities to encourage standardization.

Although this goal could be met by adopting a single uniform development ordinance in each community, that may not best serve individual needs. Therefore, this should also consider standardizing a portion of the ordinances/procedures to create a developer-friendly process while leaving specific requirements up to individual communities. This would be best served to occur after the housing study is complete. It is recommended that this work occur in two phases.

The first phase would be to identify a recommended strategy for updating the ordinances. The second phase would be the actual work to update the ordinances.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING HOUSING GOALS?

In order to encourage developers to build in Dearborn County, ordinances need to be updated to be more consistent and predictable.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Housing Task Force



TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

SUMMARY

Dearborn County will expand our multi-use trail network to connect neighborhoods to local attractions, interconnect Dearborn County communities and to make regional connections. Our first priority will be to finish the Dearborn Trail, which will serve as the backbone of our trail system.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Trail Connectivity Task Force will meet regularly to guide and manage the implementation of the objectives outlined. They will track progress and modify action items as necessary to accomplish the goals. It is recognized that the master, county-wide trails plan, regional/state trails plans and local priority trails will be integrated. The assembled task force team will include trail users, community representatives, planning experts, public partners and others pertinent to the work.

TRAIL CONNECTIVITY PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
Dearborn Trail Extension	Aurora	Trail Extension along SR 56 from Lesko Park to Laughery Creek. Project allows for future extension of trail into Ohio County toward Rising Sun.			
Riverfront Development - Riverfront Trail Extension	Aurora	Segment of Dearborn Trail between Lesko Park and the George Street Bridge. This section would involve a sheet piling retaining wall along the Ohio River.			
Dearborn Trail Improvements	Lawrenceburg	Construct incomplete segment of Dearborn Trail between casino and Greendale.			
Bright Trails	Dearborn County	Complete segments 1 through 6 per the 2040 County Trails Plan.			
New Trail Projects	Lawrenceburg, Aurora, Greendale, Dillsboro, Moores Hill, Hidden Valley Lake	Implement trails master plans developed for each community.			
Dearborn Trail Improvements - George Street to Manchester Landing	Aurora	Upgrade of existing trail to improve barrier between trail and adjacent industry.			

TRAIL CONNECTIVITY PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

DEARBORN TRAIL EXTENSION: AURORA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this project is to extend the Dearborn trail from the southwest end of Lesko Park in Aurora to Laughrey Creek. This would complete the trail to the Dearborn/Ohio County line and would allow the future extension of the trail into Ohio County (by others).

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO TRAIL CONNECTIVITY GOALS?

This project meets the goals of finishing the Dearborn Trail and in making a connection to Ohio County.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Trail Connectivity Task Force

DEARBORN COUNTY TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS: RIVERFRONT TRAIL EXTENSION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

As part of Aurora's riverfront redevelopment initiative, the Dearborn Trail would be constructed along the riverfront between Lesko Park and the George Street Bridge. This would replace a section of the trail that currently is routed on city sidewalks. The trail in this section would include both a section built on a sheet pile section directly adjacent to the river. It would also include portions of trail to be build adjacent to a future riverfront park.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING TRAIL CONNECTIVITY GOALS?

This would finish the Dearborn Trail through Aurora and provide a trail through their downtown/riverfront district.

RESPONSIBILITY:

City of Aurora

TRAIL CONNECTIVITY PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1) *Continued*

DEARBORN TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS: LAWRENCEBURG

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

There is currently a gap in the Dearborn Trail through Lawrenceburg between the Hollywood Casino and the Greendale/Lawrenceburg corporate limits. There are multiple barriers to the development of a trail in this area, including a railroad crossing, the casino development and flood levees/gates. A feasibility study is needed to first plan a route and then seek funding for the work.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING TRAIL CONNECTIVITY GOALS?

This section of trail is needed to finish a current gap in the Dearborn Trail.

RESPONSIBILITY:

City of Lawrenceburg

COUNTY TRAILS PLAN: BRIGHT TRAILS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Dearborn County has developed a 2040 trails master plan that includes multiple trails to serve the unincorporated Bright community. Trail segments one to six are the priority of this plan.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING TRAIL CONNECTIVITY GOALS?

These trails connect neighborhoods to local attractions and also provide a connection to West Harrison, which in turn connects Dearborn County to regional trails in Greater Cincinnati.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Trail Connectivity Task Force



DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

Our town centers and riverfront districts are the core of our communities. We will encourage investment and redevelopment within these districts to enhance their role as live/work/play destinations for locals and visitors alike.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This key economic driver will be led by each individual downtown community. However, a supplemental Downtown Redevelopment Task Force will be created that includes representatives from all downtown districts throughout Dearborn County and the Convention, Visitors and Tourism Bureau. Opportunities will come through sharing the development plans for each of the districts with one another, supporting the downtown redevelopment work by ensuring these groups are well-informed around other projects (housing data, tourism efforts, U.S. 50 corridor, etc.), discussing common goals around funding projects/sources of funds and finding new synergies across the groups.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
Riverfront Redevelopment - Riverfront Park	Aurora	Construction of riverfront park as outlined in the Aurora Riverfront Vision Plan. Includes section of Dearborn Trail.			
Multi-Event Park	Dillsboro	Extension of the Cultural Center for downtown redevelopment. Intent is to attract all facets of the arts and to host events like movies, musicals, plays, classic music, etc.			
Greendale Commons	Greendale	A multiple phased/site gathering space that includes mixed use development with entertainment, retail, indoor/outdoor spaces and sports facilities. Traction on development interest is slow, need for project vision and marketing.			
Downtown Riverfront Development	Lawrenceburg	To include a park, amphitheater, public boat dock, riverfront retail improvements with trail connections.			
Riverfront Development - Gabbard Riverfront Park Improvements	Aurora	Improvement of existing downtown plaza to include seating, amenities and related features.			
Riverfront Redevelopment - Public Boat Docks	Aurora	Development of public boat docks on the Ohio River at the Riverfront Park.			
Riverfront Dock	Lawrenceburg	Larger dock for more riverfront dining and boat parking.			
Riverfront Redevelopment - 2nd Street Streetscape	Aurora	Sidewalk and streetscape improvements on 2nd Street.			
Downtown/Central Business District Plan	Bright	Development of a master plan for the developing commercial district in the unincorporated Bright area.			
Riverfront Development - Enhancement of Existing Attractions	Aurora	This is a series of small projects involving George Street Bridge Plazas, Great Crescent Brewery Caverns Park, 5th Street Art Installation, Pocket Parks and Gateways.			

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT: RIVERFRONT PARK, AURORA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project includes the development of a riverfront park as outlined in the Aurora Riverfront Vision Plan. The project would include land acquisition, park/plaza space and related improvements.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT GOALS?

This project creates improved public spaces along the riverfront.

RESPONSIBILITY:

City of Aurora

MULTI-EVENT PARK: DILLSBORO

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Dillsboro downtown revitalization plan calls for the development of a new park/public space to attract the arts and host events/programming.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT GOALS?

This project would implement a public space in order to support downtown revitalization.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Town of Dillsboro

GREENDALE COMMONS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Greendale has commercial areas along US 50, but otherwise is largely a community of single family residences of a similar style and density. The vision for the Greendale Commons project is to attract mixed use, townhome and senior housing in order to provide more housing options that would be attractive to young families and empty-nesters. It also provides the opportunity to create a town center/public park that could become a centerpiece for community events and activities. The City's Comprehensive Plan update, which is currently underway, is expected to solicit additional public input on the project and provide recommendations on potential locations and development strategies for this project.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT GOALS?

This project would create a town center for Greendale, which would be a catalyst for urban reinvestment.

RESPONSIBILITY:

City of Greendale

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1) *Continued*

DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT: LAWRENCEBURG

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project would include a public park, amphitheater, public boat docks, trail connections and related infrastructure along the riverfront.

**HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING
DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT GOALS?**

This project will serve as a catalyst to encourage private investment in Lawrenceburg's riverfront and downtown districts.

RESPONSIBILITY:

City of Lawrenceburg



TOURISM & CULTURE

SUMMARY

Dearborn County is known for its natural setting along with its mixture of art, cultural and recreation attractions. We will build on these assets by reinvesting in our regional attractions. At the same time, we will encourage the creation of new complementary facilities.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Tourism & Culture Task Force will meet regularly to guide and manage the implementation of the objectives outlined. They will track progress and modify action items as necessary to accomplish the goals. The assembled team will be determined in consultation with the Dearborn Convention, Visitors and Tourism Bureau County and include representation from key tourism partners, hotels, restaurants, parks/trails and others pertinent to the work.

TOURISM & CULTURE PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
Sports and Entertainment Complex	Greendale and/or Lawrenceburg	Project to include indoor and outdoor sports fields, along with associated entertainment and retail opportunities. Project may also include medical rehabilitation center, retail and entertainment facilities.			
Partner with Indiana to develop the 26th State Park	One Dearborn, County, Greendale & CVTB	This project involves converting a 140 acre parcel adjacent to Greendale into a new Indiana State Park. The site is currently owned by a local conservancy group and features Native American mounds and earthen forts.			
Indoor Aquatics Center and Health Center	Aurora	Construct expansion of Aurora's Indoor Recreation Center to include an indoor aquatics and health center.			
County Parks Master Plan	Dearborn County	Develop county-wide parks master plan. This should include the feasibility of development of parks of a new county-park on 400 acres of county-owned land on SR 48.			
Park & Recreation Improvement Plan	Hidden Valley Lake	Create plan to improve parks, recreation and support facilities in Hidden Valley Lake.			
Expanded Cultural Center	Dillsboro	Expansion of the Cultural Center to add additional indoor and outdoor programming space.			
Golf Course Improvements	Hidden Valley Lake	Needs an automated water system. Golf course is public for private membership. High priority for Hidden Valley Lake.			
Greenspace Plan/Land Use Plan	Hidden Valley Lake	Plan that would identify how the community could make existing vacant spaces into amenities or future development.			

TOURISM & CULTURE PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

SPORTS COMPLEX:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Greendale and Lawrenceburg have both identified the need for expanded indoor and outdoor sports facilities in the community. It is recommended that the communities partner together to complete a feasibility study to determine the type of sports facilities that are needed, and what types of complimentary development should be completed in conjunction with the project(s). The study could recommend a single facility or multiple facilities between the two communities.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING REGIONAL ATTRACTION GOALS?

Expanding sports facilities would not only be an important quality of life amenity, but it would increase tourism by making Dearborn County a destination for tournaments

RESPONSIBILITY:

Tourism and Culture Task Force

NEW STATE PARK

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project involves converting a 140-acre parcel adjacent to Greendale into a new Indiana State Park. The site is currently owned by a local conservancy group and includes Native American mounds and earthen forts. It is recommended that the implementation process for the park start with a “summit” that would engage local conservancy groups, neighboring property owners, elected officials, Indiana DNR, other stakeholders and citizens in a discussion about the opportunity. Following the summit, the next step is to develop a master plan for the site. The master planning process would include more public and stakeholder engagement, as well as plans for site development, operation/maintenance and project costs/financing.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING REGIONAL ATTRACTION GOALS?

Creation of a new state park would provide an additional quality of life amenity and also encourage tourism.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Tourism and Culture Task Force

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BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION

SUMMARY

The Dearborn County region is primarily known for being a great place to live and play. Increasingly, we want to be known as a great place to start and operate a business. To accomplish this, we will foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation that can take advantage of the talent we are seeking to attract. We will have relationships and understand our core, existing businesses across key industry sectors. We will also continue to invest in economic development opportunities that take advantage of our existing local assets such as our proximity to rivers, interstate access and location in the Greater Cincinnati market.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Business Retention & Attraction Task Force will meet regularly to guide and manage the objectives and programs outlined. They will track progress and modify action items as necessary to accomplish the goals. The assembled team will include economic development, engineering, site development, entrepreneurship experts, utilities partners and others pertinent to the work.



BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
Regional Development Plan	One Dearborn	Create a regional development plan for Southeast Indiana in partnership with Southeast Indiana Growth Alliance partners.			
Port of Indiana - Lawrenceburg	Ports of Indiana	Development of the 4th Port of Indiana facility at the former Tanner's Creek generating station.			
Port Economic Development Plan	SE Indiana Regional Port Authority & One Dearborn	Comprehensive economic development strategy for capitalizing on the port development locally. This will include a land use plan, a plan for supporting roadway improvements and industry sector attraction plan.			
Comprehensive Plan Update	Dearborn County	Prepare updated county-wide comprehensive plan.			
Business Retention	Municipalities & County	Develop BR & E program to retain existing employers and help them grow.			
Shovel Ready Site Assessments	One Dearborn	Complete assessments of sites being considered for economic development to determine their readiness for development. Plan should identify actions needed to make sites closer to shovel-ready status.			
Entrepreneurship/Incubator & Maker Space	All Stakeholders	Create an entrepreneur creative space with services and support to build a business. This will include development of supporting programming.			
Public Transit	All Stakeholders	Develop connection to Go-Metro in Cincinnati and TANK in northern Kentucky in order to connect workforce to jobs.			
Fiber Utility	Lawrenceburg	Fiber utility loop. Access will be provided to businesses and homes. This would be a city-owned utility that would have a product center. This will attract IT industries to Lawrenceburg.			
4-H Fairgrounds Business Activation Plan	Lawrenceburg w/One Dearborn	Create plan to leverage use of the 4-H fairgrounds site to grow agribusiness opportunities. Partner with Purdue			
Industry Attraction Plan	One Dearborn	Capitalize on unique assets and logistics/location to target specific, desired industries over time. Provide jobs. Goes hand-in-hand with site development and identification.			
Capitalize on Rail Connectivity	SE Indiana Regional Port Authority & One Dearborn	Identify ways to capitalize on location of rail in Dearborn County.			
Comprehensive Plan Update	Greendale	Prepare updated comprehensive plan.			

BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this project is to create a regional development plan for Southeast Indiana in partnership with Southeast Indiana Growth Alliance partners, including Dearborn, Ohio, Franklin, Ripley and Switzerland Counties. This plan should identify shared regional goals and objectives and identify strategies for capitalizing on collective strengths and assets. A key component of this plan should be to evaluate the feasibility of developing a Regional Development Authority as a mechanism for implementing the recommendations of the county-wide plans for each county involved, as well as their regional priorities.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

In the same way that issues and opportunities span local political boundaries, Dearborn County has many challenges and opportunities in common with their neighbors. By developing a regional plan, Dearborn County can take advantage of regional partnerships to capture these opportunities.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Business Retention and Attraction Task Force

PORT OF INDIANA: LAWRENCEBURG/AURORA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The State of Indiana has reached a purchase agreement for 750 acres of land formerly owned by American Electric Power and served as the Tanner's Creek generating station. The State is currently completing feasibility and environmental studies for the facility to evaluate the potential for the development of the State's 4th port. The studies are scheduled to be completed in December 2018. The new port would create significant opportunity for economic development and is a key priority for Dearborn County.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

A new port would create both direct and indirect economic opportunities in Dearborn County.

RESPONSIBILITY:

State of Indiana

BUSINESS RETENTION & ATTRACTION PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1) *Continued*

PORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The development of a new port presents significant economic development opportunities for Dearborn County. This plan would be a comprehensive economic development strategy for Dearborn County to capitalize on peripheral development opportunities related to the State of Indiana's investment in the proposed new port.

The plan would include multiple components. First, a land use/development plan would be developed to guide how land near the port should be developed. This would guide development toward suitable sites and discourage development in incompatible areas. Second, the plan would include a business attraction plan. This would specifically identify industry sectors to target with marketing efforts. Finally, the plan would include recommendations for infrastructure development to support port-associated development. This component of the project is key and should include proactive cooperation with the State of Indiana to review traffic impacts resulting from the port and should recommend strategies for jointly addressing port traffic and current traffic challenges.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

This plan would identify how Dearborn County can capture direct and indirect economic development opportunities associated with the port.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Business Retention and Attraction Task Force

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: DEARBORN COUNTY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project is the development of an updated Comprehensive Plan for unincorporated portions of Dearborn County. In order to complete this plan in a timely and efficient manner, it is recommended that the county procure a planning consultant to complete the project.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

An updated Comprehensive Plan would update land use and development policies to support current economic development initiatives.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Dearborn County Commissioners

BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

It is recognized that the best opportunities for job creation in Dearborn County will likely come from businesses that already operate within the county. Therefore, a key priority for the county must become having a sustainable program for keeping in contact with local businesses and finding ways to help them stay competitive and ultimately grow.

While this plan could be developed with consultant help, it is recommended that One Dearborn develop their program internally. This could be completed with current staff or intern assistance. One or more visits to peer communities to review lessons learned from their programs would be a helpful step in program development. A final review by an economic development consultant or a local economic development official from a peer community would be beneficial to confirm that the plan includes all the necessary components for success.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

Developing an updated program will ensure that Dearborn County is supporting local businesses and helping them to grow and thrive.

RESPONSIBILITY:

One Dearborn

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

We recognize that having a ready and educated workforce is critical to attracting economic investment. We will support workforce development through outstanding public schools, vocational training and providing higher education opportunities.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Workforce Development Task Force Team will meet regularly to guide and manage the objectives and programs outlined. A component of their work will be understanding data and utilizing workforce and population trends to help inform their planning. The team will include representatives from businesses in key industries, economic development professionals, educators, colleges and other members pertinent to the work.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
4-Year University	All Stakeholders	Retain more young people in SE Indiana by providing more job and housing opportunities through attracting more corporations/industry and partnering with Ivy Tech or other private or public institutions to attract talent and stop the outflow of citizens to Ohio and Kentucky universities.			
Workforce Development Plan	One Dearborn	Development of short and long term strategies for workforce development in Dearborn County			

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

4-YEAR UNIVERSITY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The intent of this project is to establish a new 4 year public or private university in southeast Indiana. The purpose of this is to improve educational attainment, attract talent, raise socio-economic conditions and attract industry.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

Establishment of a new university will offer Dearborn County residents direct access to higher education, providing them the skills needed to be competitive in today's workforce.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Workforce Development Task Force

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

One Dearborn has recognized the need for workforce development and has made it a pillar issue in their strategic plan. In this project, workforce development needs will be assessed and short/long term strategies will be identified to meet those needs.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

This plan will identify the workforce development needs of the community, so that implementation strategies can developed.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Workforce Development Task Force

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U.S. 50 & TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY

US 50 plays many critical roles in Dearborn County's economy including welcoming visitors, establishing community identity, commuting residents to work, as a commercial freight corridor and for industrial opportunities. We will demonstrate a **sense of urgency** in developing long term solutions to US Highway 50 traffic congestion that is hindering economic growth. Planning should be completed in the context of regional transportation resources and opportunities to connect residents to the places where they live, work and play.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The U.S. 50 & Transportation Task Force will meet regularly to determine action steps, research, communication and resources that should be convened to begin building possible alternatives and solutions to our transportation corridor. They will also explore the depth of the transit gap that may hinder citizens from connecting to places of employment. The team will include a diverse group of stakeholders with expertise in road projects, funding, engineering, traffic flow analysis, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments and others pertinent to the work.

U.S. 50 & TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
Highway 50 Congestion Solution	All Stakeholders	Inventory existing studies of US 50 and develop a plan to solve the congestion issues. Intent is to solve this barrier to economic development by opening access to the west. Plan should also look into when the port is expected to come and capitalizing on it.			
Dearborn County Gateway Enhancement (4-Phase)	One Dearborn, CVTB & All Communities (with help of State of Indiana Tourism)	(4-Phase) 1) Area Litter Cleanup & Paint Poles/Lights Black, 2) Landscape exit ramp corridor, 3) Monuments on I-275 (N & S)- Welcome to Southeast Indiana, 4) Pedestrian overpass & trails connection at U.S. 50/I-275 intersection.			
I-275 Corridor Enhancements	One Dearborn/ CVTB & all Stakeholders	Improve aesthetics of the interstate corridor from Kentucky line to US 50. This would include maintenance, landscaping and related improvements.			
State Route 1 Improvements	Greendale	SR 1 reconstruction and realignment from US 50 to Ridge/Bellview			
State Route 1 Intersection Improvements	Greendale	Traffic flow, safety and beautification improvements at the intersection of State Road 1 and Ridge Avenue. Currently \$100-\$500 thousand is funded by OKI.			
Targeted Retail Development	Greendale	Develop complementary retail along U.S. 50 and otherwise to serve tourists, local residents and attract employers and housing.			
Gateway Improvements	Aurora	To include wayfinding, branding, decluttering and welcome signage at US 50			
US 50 Intersection at St. Eliz/ LaRosas area Retail Park	Greendale	New signalized intersection to open developable land and for safety. Project has been approved and funding received.			
Highway 50 Corridor and Gateway	Dillsboro	Clean-up of 1.25 miles of degraded and overgrown corridor. Construct gateway and wayfinding improvements to let people know they are in Dillsboro.			

U.S. 50 & TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

HIGHWAY 50 CONGESTION SOLUTION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

US 50 is a vital corridor connecting Dearborn County to I-275 and the greater Cincinnati market. However, congestion through Aurora, Lawrenceburg and Greendale makes this corridor inconvenient and a limiting factor in the future economic development of the county.

This project should begin with the re-evaluation of the status of action items recommended in the 2006 US 50 Gateway Plan adopted by the Dearborn County Commissioners and the OKI Executive Committee. This plan recommended adoption of land use and access management regulations for the corridor, along with additional recommendations for infrastructure improvements throughout the corridor. Where still appropriate, the community should continue to implement the recommendations of that plan.

The opening of a new port also presents a unique opportunity to merge economic development opportunity with a plan to address US 50 congestion. The community should also work together with INDOT and Ports of Indiana officials to review port recommendations and seek opportunities to address port and congestion needs at the same time.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING U.S. 50 CORRIDOR GOALS?

Reducing traffic congestion on US 50 is essential to maintaining current quality of life and in attracting future economic investment

RESPONSIBILITY:

U.S. 50 & Transportation Task Force

DEARBORN COUNTY GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this project is to implement a four phase gateway improvements plan for the US 50/I-275 interchange.

The plan includes:

- Phase 1: Area-wide litter clean up and minor enhancements. This would include repainting light poles
- Phase 2: Implement landscaping at interchange corridor
- Phase 3: Construct monument sign at interchange
- Phase 4: Construct pedestrian overpass and trails connection.

A plan has been developed for these improvements and it is ready to move to design and construction.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING U.S. 50 CORRIDOR GOALS?

Improving the gateway experience is important to local quality of life and in encouraging future economic investment in the county.

RESPONSIBILITY:

U.S. 50 & Transportation Task Force

U.S. 50 & TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1) *Continued*

I-275 CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Improve aesthetics of the interstate corridor from the Kentucky state line to U.S. 50. This would include maintenance, landscaping and related improvements. Work will be focused on, but not limited to, the interstate right-of-way.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING U.S. 50 CORRIDOR GOALS?

Improving the gateway experience is important to local quality of life and in encouraging future economic investment in the county.

RESPONSIBILITY:

U.S. 50 & Transportation Task Force



INFRASTRUCTURE

SUMMARY

The Dearborn County region will encourage investment in the infrastructure needed to support the community's housing, trail, downtown, community attraction, economic development, workforce development and transportation goals. These investments include drinking water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, broadband and telecommunications infrastructure. Infrastructure priorities directly tied to a specific goal are covered in that representative portion of this plan. Infrastructure issues impacting multiple goals are covered in this section.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Infrastructure Task Force will meet regularly to guide and manage the objectives and programs outlined. The team will include representatives who are subject matter experts around current infrastructure and challenges with that infrastructure. This may include sewer providers, health/environmental experts, engineers, utilities, elected officials, city or town planners or other members pertinent to the work.

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Project Name	Community	Project Description and Intent/Goals	Tier 1 Top County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 2 County-Wide Priority Project	Tier 3 Local Priority Project
County-wide Sewer Action Plan	Dearborn County	Update strategic infrastructure plan to support development of new housing.			
Fiber Assessment & Upgrade Plan	One Dearborn w/respective Community	Complete county-wide assessment of the capacity of available broadband relative to current/future needs. Develop plan for making improvements to address needs identified.			

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY ACTIONS (TIER 1)

COUNTY-WIDE SEWER ACTION PLAN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Upon completion of the County-Wide Housing Study and the Existing Sites and Building Inventory, an updated Sewer Action Plan should be developed.

This plan will evaluate the feasibility of providing sanitary sewer service to future service areas prioritized by the housing study and inventory projects. Ultimately, the plan should include recommendations for which areas should be served to most cost effectively meet the future development demands

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS?

A plan to provide infrastructure to support housing development is needed. This plan can be developed once a housing needs assessment is complete.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Infrastructure Task Force

FIBER ASSESSMENT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Complete county-wide assessment of the capacity of available broadband relative to current/future needs. Develop a plan to make improvements to address issues identified.

HOW IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ACCOMPLISHING INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS?

Access to broadband is essential to maintaining quality of life for local residents and to business retention and attraction efforts.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Infrastructure Task Force



CONCLUSION

THANK YOU to every community in Dearborn County, and your citizens, for building future-looking plans around a vision for the future.

Through our multi-stakeholder work teams, we will stay focused and make progress on the **BIG 8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DRIVERS** outlined in this plan.

Alongside the day-to-day work inside each of our unique communities, deliberate implementation of this plan will create an environment that fosters economic vitality throughout Dearborn County and the entire southeast Indiana region.

To share ideas or discuss this plan in more detail, please contact:

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