

County Work Plan

OUR REGION | OUR PLAN

Clark County | Floyd County | Jefferson County | Scott County | Washington County

SCOTT COUNTY WORK PLAN





The *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* and the supporting *Our Region | Our Plan County Work Plans* and the *Our Region | Our Plan Organizational Plan* were adopted by resolution by the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority Board on August 16, 2019.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
USING THE PLAN.....	8
PLANNING PROCESS & STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH.....	9
COUNTY WORK PLAN ORGANIZATION.....	9
CHAPTER TWO: OUR PRESENT CONDITION	11
STATE OF THE REGION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES.....	13
QUALITY OF PLACE: COMMUNITY CONDITIONS SUMMARY.....	15
Demographics and Housing.....	18
Employment and Workforce.....	22
Transportation and Mobility.....	24
Utilities and Infrastructure.....	28
Parks, Open Space and Natural Features.....	32
Tourism and Attractions.....	34
CHAPTER THREE: OUR FUTURE VISION	41
OUR REGIONAL VISION.....	45
REGIONAL PROJECT METHODOLOGY.....	48
THE RDA'S PLACE IN REGIONAL PROJECTS.....	48
REGIONAL PROJECTS ORGANIZATION.....	50
RDA LEAD PROJECTS.....	50
RDA PARTNER & SUPPORTED PROJECTS.....	50
CHAPTER FOUR: OUR PATH FOR SUCCESS	69
HOW SHOULD SCOTT COUNTY USE THIS PLAN.....	72





CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

SCOTT
COUNTY
WORK PLAN



THE CASE FOR REGIONALISM

Regional planning and collaboration makes sense, but it won't just happen because it's a good idea. The concept of "regionalism" is often at odds with the mission and objectives of local economic development organizations. After all, most local economic development organizations are funded locally and it is only good business sense that your investment in economic development strategies should directly impact your city, county or territory. Economic development is also competitive; therefore, it is also human nature that a local economic development organization would want to focus only on the win for their stakeholders. Instead regionalism and regional transformation requires the work and inspiration of individuals that can think bigger picture and identify the needs of many and not just those who are locally based.

Southern Indiana is part of a major, growing regional economy. There are more than 800,000 jobs within the Louisville MSA and the Southern Indiana RDA region is a key component in the Louisville regional economy. Being situated next to a massive employment center affords the Southern Indiana region opportunities available to only a few other areas of the state. To harness the power of this successful, regional economy, regionally focused ideas and efforts are needed to unify the region, not just individual cities and towns.

The Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority's defining characteristic is that it is an entity that is designed to facilitate the collaboration by multiple jurisdictions on regionally significant projects. This intentional design stems from the understanding that in the marketplace, the Southern Indiana region as a whole competes for jobs, investment, and residents against other regional urban areas across the nation and the world. This mindset deemphasizes the significance of intra-regional competition. It understands that the important issue is not whether a company locates in Salem versus Sellersburg, but whether the company locates in Southern Indiana versus Southern California.

The RDA is unique in that is situated to facilitate collaboration between political subdivisions, and different types of public and private agencies within the region. Outside of the RDA, forms of collaboration are disorganized and difficult. Interlocal agreements, while possible, are very individualized, costly to negotiate and draft, and are generally not transferrable. In contrast, the RDA serves as a known, defined platform through which multi-jurisdictional projects and initiatives can be pursued.

The Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority is primed to lead the charge in improving the quality of life for the residents of the region and this is their plan for the future.



**People are starting to notice
Southern Indiana.
But we've known it's a great place all along.**

AN EVOLVING PURPOSE

In 2015, the Southern Indiana region recognized that the state's biggest threats to economic development are population stagnation, educational attainment, and a retaining qualified workforce. The Southern Indiana region strives to be recognized as a center for talent attraction and retention by utilizing our existing resources and working together regionally to embrace new ideas and challenges. The Southern Indiana region is poised to lead the state and the Midwest in an economic renaissance, based upon existing natural resources, geographical location, developable assets, connectivity through infrastructure investments and position within the Louisville, Kentucky Metropolitan Statistical Area and the vast amount of economic development potential that has recently become available.

In 2017, the County Councils of the four counties – Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, and Washington — each voted unanimously to join Scott County in forming the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority. By the end of that year, the County Commissioners for the five counties unanimously appointed the RDA's Board of Directors. This group has met monthly since the beginning of 2018 to not only understand the needs of the region, but also to meet with elected officials and policy makers to determine a plan of action to compete as an economically viable region of the state.

Knowing that the region was facing multiple challenges and realizing that the region was bursting with strengths and opportunities, in 2018 the Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) applied for and was awarded a planning grant from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to undertake the planning process for a regional economic development plan. At the time the plan's purpose was two-fold: To identify projects of regional significance and

to prepare a framework that would allow the RDA to apply for grants that would aid in implementation. At the time the IEDC awarded the planning grant, the primary focus was on crafting the plan around the anticipated 2019 Regional Cities Program, a state-supported program established in 2015 and overseen by the IEDC. While the previous Regional Cities funding and project implementation shows that the program was successful, during the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers could not appropriate resources for a second round of Regional Cities funding. The carrot the region was chasing was gone.

Despite the funding goal and the potential for a significant source of regional development resources being removed, the momentum of the RDA and its supporters did not waiver. With the dissipation of the Regional Cities program, the plan's purpose and intended use needed to evolve and grow. The plan could no longer serve only as an input to a larger process. Instead, the final plan needed not only to identify projects of regional significance, but also to develop an organizational work plan that would allow the Our Southern Indiana RDA to be self-sufficient. Meaning, the RDA board would have the resources to manage, implement, and/or assist in the implementation of projects without relying on scarce outside grant funds. While creating a self-sufficient organization was critical, it was also understood that revenue and staff don't appear overnight. The plan needed to account for the organization's incremental growth and development while also accounting for the momentum and progress occurring within each municipality and county. The plan needed to be a living document that accommodated and embraced change.

While the initial purpose of the regional plan focused only on project identification and development, the final *Our Region | Our Plan* documents achieve the following key criteria.

- **Visionary.** The plans address the needs of the individual communities by creating regional impact projects that will increase economic vitality and quality of life for residents of all five counties including Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington.
- **Asset-based.** While the plans identify regional challenges, the plan strives to focus on enhancing and expanding upon existing assets within each community.
- **Incremental.** For each of the nearly 50 regional projects that were discovered and/ or developed, a series of partners and supporters have been identified to aid in the future identification of funding and action projects. The plan is designed to be collaborative, which allows everyone to share in the implementation process.
- **Fluid.** The plans were designed to be living, breathing documents. The region isn't a static place; things are constantly changing, and the plans need to be easily updated to accommodate growth and progress. The plans include a framework and process to update the list of regionally significant projects and to review the anticipated regional return on investment.
- **Useable.** The plan is designed to be easy to use. The document includes the necessary pieces needed for advocacy, collaboration, and funding requests. Not only does the plan outline the projects, but it also includes the justification on how it seeks to solve a regional challenge by referencing goals and target objectives.

Together the final plan, and the supporting work plans are intended to be tools for the region. Together they represent the aspirations of nearly 283,000 residents and the drive of 22 cities and towns and five counties. These plans represent all of us and are OUR tool to build a better future together.

USING THE PLAN

The Our Region | Our Plan process included over 200 different individuals, businesses, and community organizations. The plan needed to meet the needs of numerous individuals, with varying focus, differing capacities and diverse needs. Essentially the plan needed to be a tool for everyone- no matter their location, position and capacity. Although the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority led this planning effort, it was critical to the board that every government agency and local organization was included in the development and ultimate ownership of the plan. After all, this is OUR plan for the future. To accommodate the diverse stakeholders and their varying role in the plan's implementation, the *Our Region | Our Plan* deliverable is a suite of documents that both build on and complement one another. In total, the planning effort culminated in a series of three final deliverables.

Each of the deliverables include (in some detail) the final set of initiatives designed to address the regional needs and the implementation steps each conveyed in their own unique way.

OUR REGION | OUR PLAN- REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Contains the compelling narrative related to regional vision, goals, objectives, and projects applicable to the Southern Indiana area and the five counties of Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington. The plan also includes a decision-making process for future planning updates to verify that updates are structured in such a way as to make it easy to maintain both the long-term guidance document and the shorter-term work plans.

The RDA should use the *Our Region | Our Plan- Regional Economic Development Plan* to serve as a basis for investment at a regional level. This plan identifies four projects that the RDA can dive into as staffing and funding become available. It also identifies additional projects that could benefit from the targeted resources of the RDA to move implementation forward. As projects are completed, the regional vision, goals, and scorecard should continue to guide the RDA in its future decision-making, which allows the plan to grow and change over time.

OUR REGION | OUR PLAN- COUNTY WIDE WORK PLANS

The planning process not only identify regional initiatives, but it engaged and empowered County and local leaders. This document outlines how the Our Southern Indiana RDA can better assist counties and local municipalities with project implementation at a local level. The *Our Region | Our Plan County Work Plans* are meant to be a resource for the leadership of Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington counties.

The local bodies of government should use the *Our Region | Our Plan County Work Plans* to become aware of their role in achieving the regional vision. Several of the projects identified in the regional plan should be led by the local government entity, but the RDA could help convene people and organizations together and potentially help secure funding for the projects. Therefore, a key component of implementation is for the local entities to align their planning efforts with the regional plan. The *Our Region | Our Plan County Work Plan* do not seek to override local plans or initiatives, but instead seek to enhance the work being done local both now and in the future.

OUR REGION | OUR PLAN- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ORGANIZATIONAL WORK PLAN

While the regional initiatives proposed as a part of the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* and the *Our Region | Our Plan County Work Plan* will have near-term measurable action items, long-range and aspirational vision statements transition over decades. To provide the dedicated resources necessary for Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority to be a sustainable guiding force for the region, the Organizational Work Plan provides guidance on building staff, financing options, and tools for project development and implementation.

The RDA should use the *Our Region | Our Plan County Work Plan* to review long-term opportunities for funding, development tools, and organizational staffing. While the plan is not prescriptive, it provides information on various options available to the RDA board. The document should be used to start collaborative conversations with county and municipal stakeholders to determine the best path for organizational self-sufficiency.

PLANNING PROCESS & STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Throughout this planning process, a consistent effort was focused on engaging the local officials, stakeholders and public through nine RDA working sessions (following monthly board meetings), two Leadership Group meetings, one public workshop and over 110 individual stakeholder interviews. The planning process, engagement opportunities and input received are summarized in the *Our Region | Our Plan* document.

COUNTY WORK PLAN ORGANIZATION

Each of the five county work plans are an additional layer of detail based on the larger regional plan, *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*, but the county work plans are also intended to provide enough background, information and direction from the regional plan to be referenced independently. Each county work plan is organized around two overarching themes, the present and the future, that coordinate with the regional plan. The following sections outline the content found within each chapter.

OUR PRESENT CONDITION

Chapter Two: **OUR Present Condition** describes the geographic location of the region and the communities that are included as a part of this planning effort. This chapter seeks to outline the current condition regarding each county and focuses demographics, socioeconomics, employment, infrastructure, and quality-of-place elements. The information includes an inventory of existing conditions and an analysis on local and regional trends that could pose challenges to regional improvement.

OUR FUTURE VISION AND PROJECTS

Chapter Three: **OUR Future Vision and Projects** references the regional vision and goals as a guiding elements and includes specific projects for implementation for each particular county. This chapter also outlines how the RDA can support and participate in the identified regional projects as well as how each county, city, town or partner organization can leverage the RDA during planning and implementation.

OUR PATH

Chapter Four: **OUR Path to Success** outlines the framework for updating the regional development plan following the completion of the planning process. The *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* document and county work plans are intended to be living documents which will require periodic updates. This chapter references the process that is outlined in *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* for updating to the regional plan, including the use of a scorecard and regional return on investment tool. It also provides guidance on how the counties, cities, towns and partner organizations can work with the RDA to move projects forward and become reality.

While the One Southern Indiana RDA was formed in 2017, this regional effort first began to gain momentum in 2015 with the creation of the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative (RCI), a state-supported program headed by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. This regional effort was supported by the dozens of plans, initiatives and ideas that were currently underway with the various counties, cities and towns as well as partner organizations. The history of the RDA as well as references to the local planning efforts is outlined in *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*.



2

CHAPTER TWO

OUR Present Condition

SCOTT
COUNTY
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GEOGRAPHIES TO KNOW

Southern Indiana Region

Otherwise known as the Our Southern Indiana RDA, RDA Region, or the region - this five-county area includes Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington counties.

Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineates metropolitan statistical areas according to published standards that are applied to Census Bureau data. The general concept of a metropolitan statistical area is that a geographical region with a relatively high population density at its core will often have close economic ties throughout the area. The Southern Indiana Region, excluding Jefferson County, is also part of the Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which also contains Harrison County, IN; Bullitt County, KY; Henry County, KY; Jefferson County, KY; Oldham County, KY; Shelby County, KY; Spencer County, KY; and Trimble County, KY.

This is **OUR Southern Indiana**

While boundaries on a map are often seen as defining lines, what makes, and better yet, what defines a region is more than lines on a map. The 22 incorporated cities and towns and the unincorporated areas within Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington counties define OUR Southern Indiana.



Southern Indiana means different things to different people. Regions are not just contiguous properties; they are areas that are well connected to one another and well connected to broader areas. The 22 incorporated cities and towns and the unincorporated areas within Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington counties define OUR Southern Indiana. These areas are defined by topography and share a natural and cultural history that is unique to the area. While separate geographies, the five counties are well connected to one another and to the broader Louisville, Indianapolis,

Evansville, and Cincinnati markets. The potential awaiting OUR region is greater than any other in the state. Multiple long-range infrastructure investment projects have made access into and out of the greater Louisville area more convenient. This improved access has allowed Southern Indiana employment centers and tourism destinations to grow and thrive. Now is the time to leverage these improvements, and this is OUR cooperative plan to harness the opportunity of this moment.



This is OUR region
This is OUR plan

QUALITY OF PLACE

COMMUNITY CONDITIONS SUMMARY

To chart an aspirational yet obtainable path for the future, the Our Region | Our Plan planning process included a community conditions summary at the county level. The community conditions summary outlined in this chapter provides a snapshot of the county's current demographic and employment characteristics, the state of their infrastructure, and a summary of the community amenities and destinations. The summary is intended to be the foundation for regional recommendations by identifying both local and regional challenges that need to be addressed and assets that should be protected and enhanced. This summary of information is also intended to serve as a baseline so that future change and improvement can be measured.

Scott County, Indiana



Settler groups began arriving in the Scott County area in 1804. The Town of Lexington was platted on June 1, 1813, and by 1814 a post office was established. Scott County was organized on February 1, 1820, and elections were held during this year for the following positions: sheriff, coroner, county commissioners, two associate judges, a surveyor, three county commissioners, two justice of the peace for each township; and the commissioners appointed a treasurer, a prosecuting attorney, and an assessor (lister). The county was divided into three civil townships, Lexington, Vienna, and Jennings. In 1833, Lexington had a population of 200, a tavern, three mercantile stores, a post office, and several mechanics. The Town of Vienna, platted in 1815, had a population of 50, a post office, and a tavern in 1833.

The first log jail was built in Lexington in 1820 and the 30-foot square courthouse was built in 1821. Shortly after the courthouse was constructed, attempts were made to relocate the county seat to the center of the county. These attempts were finally realized in 1874 when a new courthouse and jail were constructed in Scottsburg, a new area adjoining Centreville on the south that was platted in 1850. Today, Scott County comprises nearly 200 square miles of land with a total population of 24,446 people.

Scott County includes the incorporated communities of Austin and Scottsburg.



Image credit: Scott County Visitors Commission

Scott County, Indiana

Demographics and Housing



Image credit: Scott County Visitors Commission

Residential Population

Scott County growth is stagnant. Scott County has a total population of 24,446 residents making up 8% of the Our Southern Indiana regional population of 282,946. By 2023, Scott County is projected to experience growth of **only 1%** in total population, meaning there will be 24,665 residents. This growth rate is much lower than the projected growth rate for the state of Indiana at 2.6%.

Age and Gender

Scott County's population is aging. The median age for residents in Scott County has increased from 39.3 to 40.1 from 2010 to 2018, meaning the **residents are aging**. The median age for Scott County (40.1 years of age) is **2.4 years older** compared to Indiana. Scott County's median age falls right in the middle of the 4 other counties in Southern Indiana.

Scott County is nearly split in terms of sex. The population is made up of 49.4% male and 50.6% female. This distribution of sex is **almost identical to the state** at 49.2% male and 50.8% female.

The population pyramid for Scott County illustrated the largest age cohort for male and female is 55-59 years of age. This is the age group when workers begin thinking about retirement and downsizing their home.

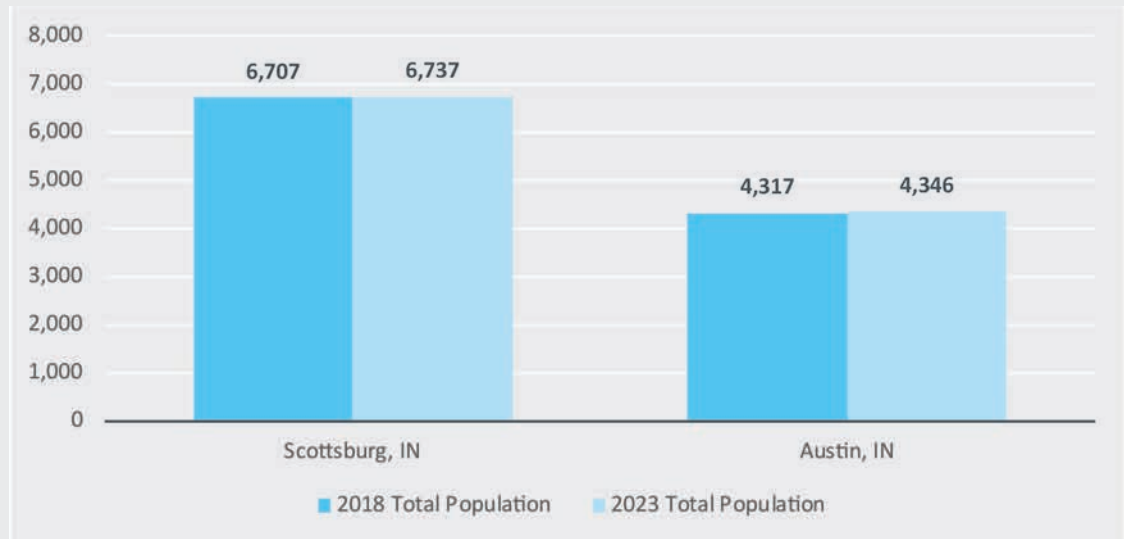
Race and Ethnicity

The majority (96%) of the county's population identifies as **Caucasian**. This is 14% higher than the state of Indiana and nearly 7% higher than the Southern Indiana region. The remaining 4% of the population identifies as Black/African American (0.47%), Asian (0.58%), other (1.03%), and two or more races (1.3%).

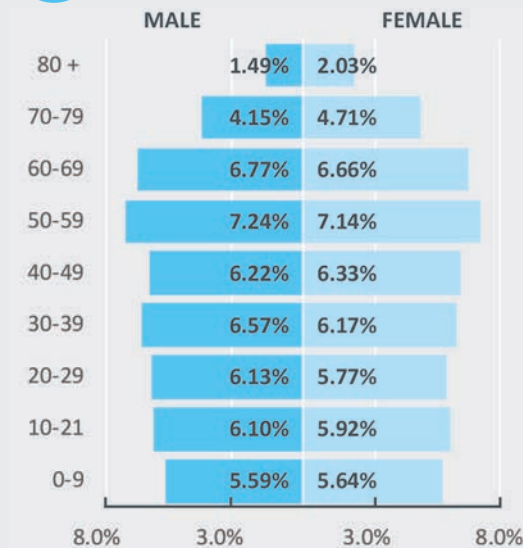
Two percent of the Scott County population identifies as Hispanic in origin and 98% as non-Hispanic. Compared to Indiana with 7% of the population identifying as Hispanic, the Scott County **is not as diverse**.



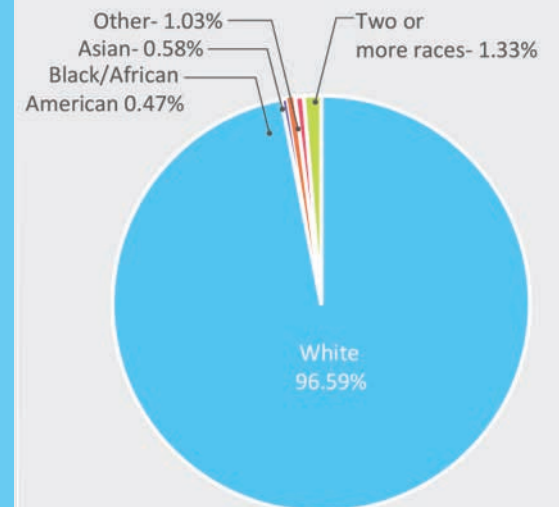
Project Population Change



Age and Gender



Race and Ethnicity



Scott County, Indiana **Demographics and Housing**



Image credit: Scott County Visitors Commission

Income and Poverty

As of 2018, the median household income for Scott County (\$45,928) was **\$7,603 less than Indiana (\$53,531)**. The 2012-2016 American Community Survey revealed that 12.4% of households in Scott County were below poverty level. The number of households below the poverty level in the City of Austin is significantly higher at 21.51%.

As a whole, the percentage of households below the poverty level for Scott County is **1.6% lower** when compared to Indiana.

Households

Household growth in Scott County is stagnant. In 2018, there were **9,441 total households** in Scott County, which is 44 more households than in 2010. Between 2010 and 2018, the number of households in Scott County **increased by less than 1%**. When compared to Indiana at 4.2%, this is much lower, revealing that the **community is struggling to attract new residents**. Scott County is expected to have about 9,500 households by 2023, resulting in a 0.7% increase between now and then.

Housing Units by Occupancy

Renter-occupied units are increasing. Scott County had over 10,500 housing units of which 90% are occupied units. Compared to Indiana (89%), the county's occupancy rate is just **slightly higher** than Indiana's occupancy rate. Of the 10,555 housing units in Scott County, 62% are owner occupied, 28% are renter occupied, and 10% are vacant.

Compared to 2010 data, the county's occupancy has shifted slightly. The percentage of **renter-occupied units has increased** by 2%. This increase is slightly higher than the state.

Age of Housing

The housing stock is aging. The 2012-2016 American Community Survey revealed that **40% of the existing housing stock was built before 1970**. This is lower than Indiana at 46%. This year is important because modern housing code did not go into effect until the 1970s.

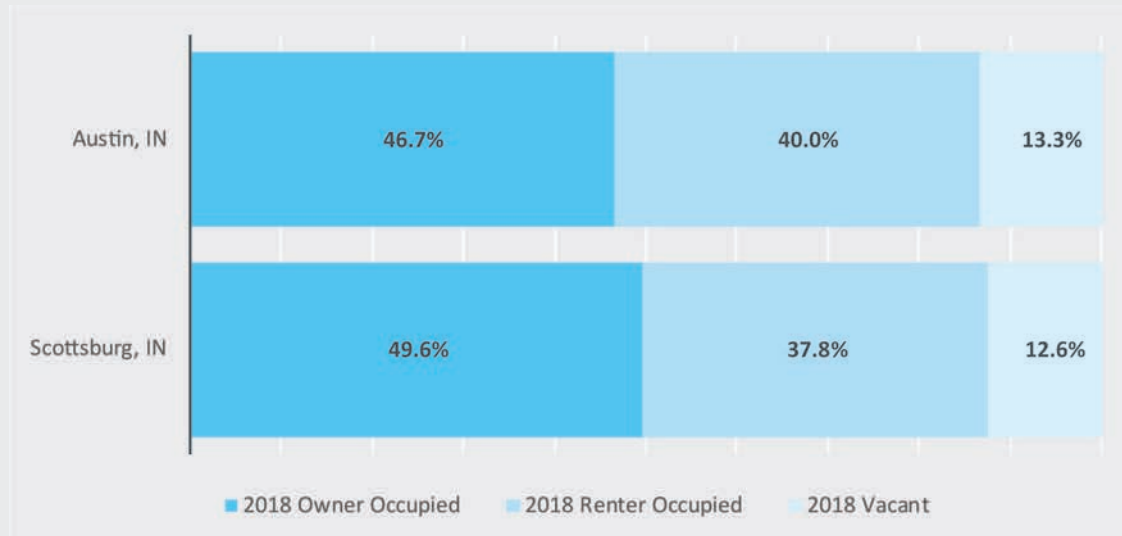
About 100 housing units or 1% of the total housing stock were built between 2010 and 2016. Compared to the state at 2.1%, the number of relatively newer housing units in Scott County is lower. Nearly 20% of the existing housing stock was built between 1990 and 1999. This time period is unique for both Scott and Washington County.

Home Value

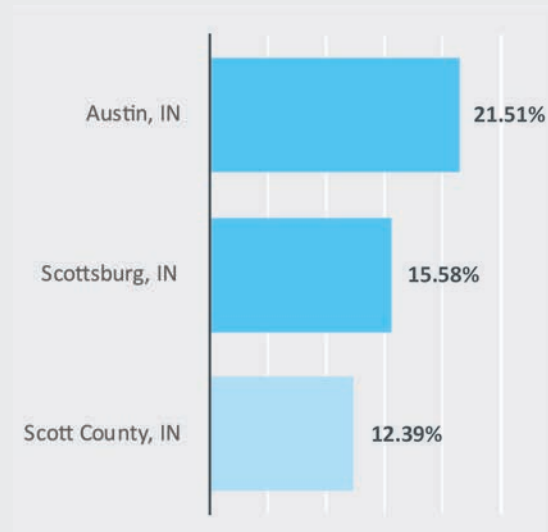
The median home value is the lowest in the Southern Indiana region. The 2018 median home value in Scott County was \$116,298. This is **\$27,000 less than Indiana's** median home value of \$143,367. Nearly 2,700 units or **42%** of the existing housing stock are valued at \$99,999 or less.



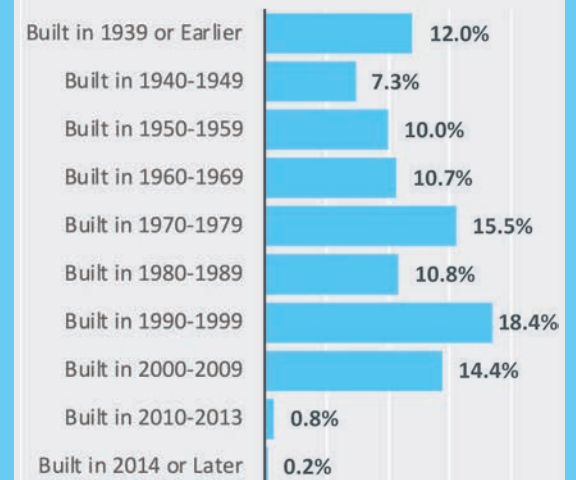
Households- Owner, Renter or Vacant



Poverty Level



Age of Housing

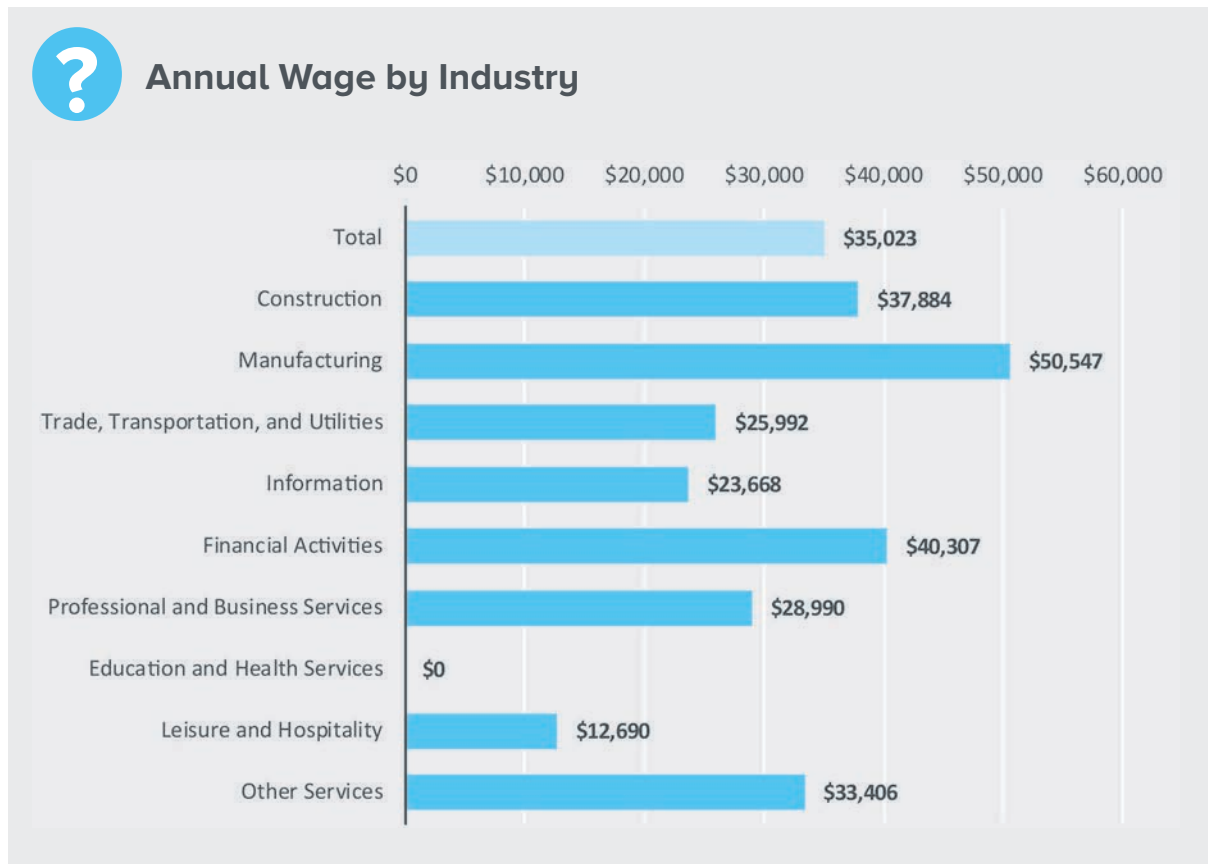


Scott County Employment and Workforce

Employment in Scott County has **increased** by **12.9%** since 2001 and has increased at an annual rate of **4.1%** since 2010. The **Manufacturing Industry** has the highest employment concentration with a location quotient of **3.51**. The county's average annual wage is **\$35,023** with the **Manufacturing Industry** having the **highest average annual wage of \$50,547**.

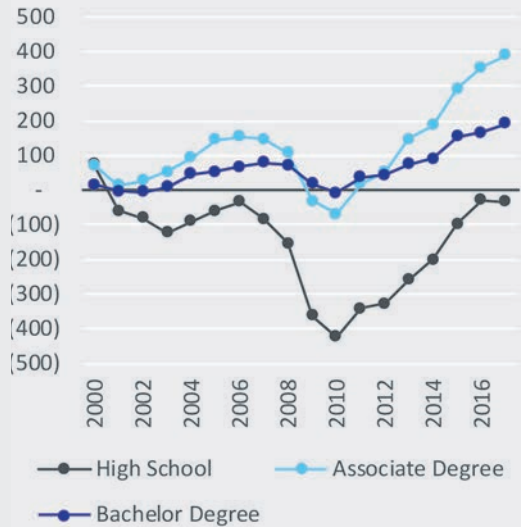
The majority of employees commute **outside of** the county, with **40.4%** remaining inside the county, **21.9%** traveling to other counties within the Region, **8.8%** traveling into Kentucky, and **29.0%** traveling outside the Region.

Of individuals older than 25, **84.9%** have at least a high school degree and **12.9%** has a bachelor's degree or higher. Those with **associate degrees** have had the most increase in job opportunities since 2000.

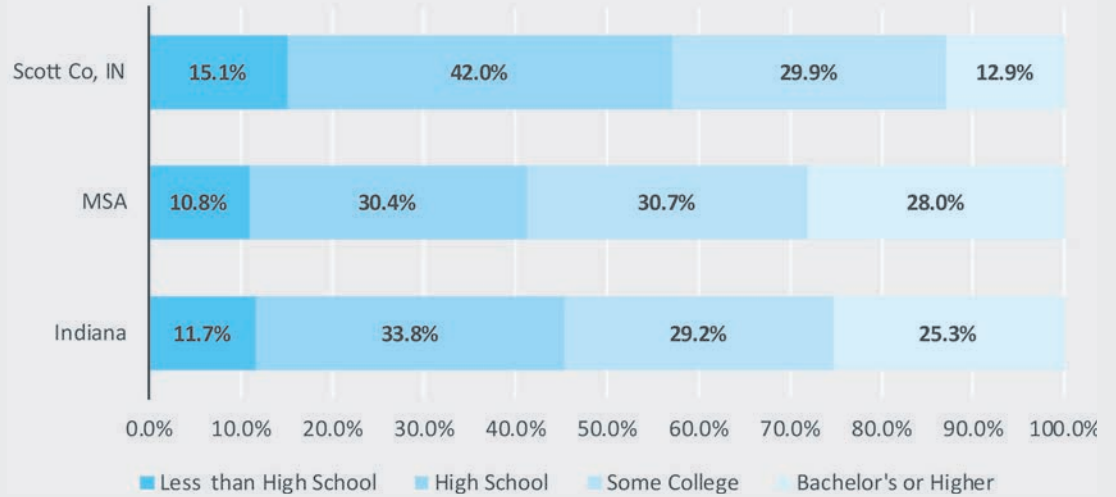




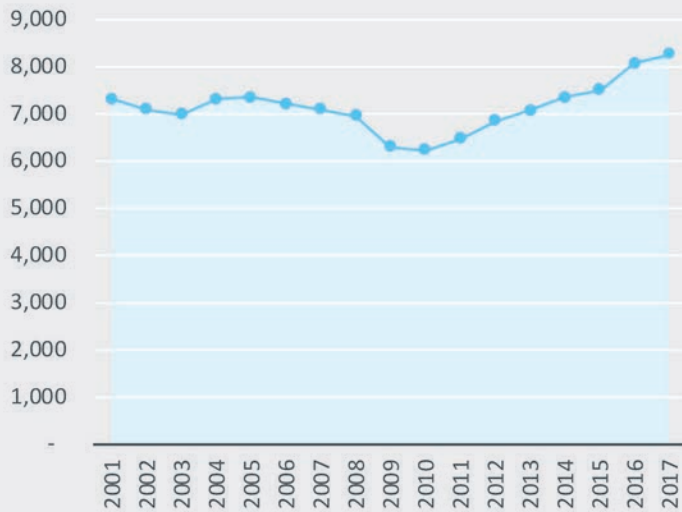
Job Opportunities



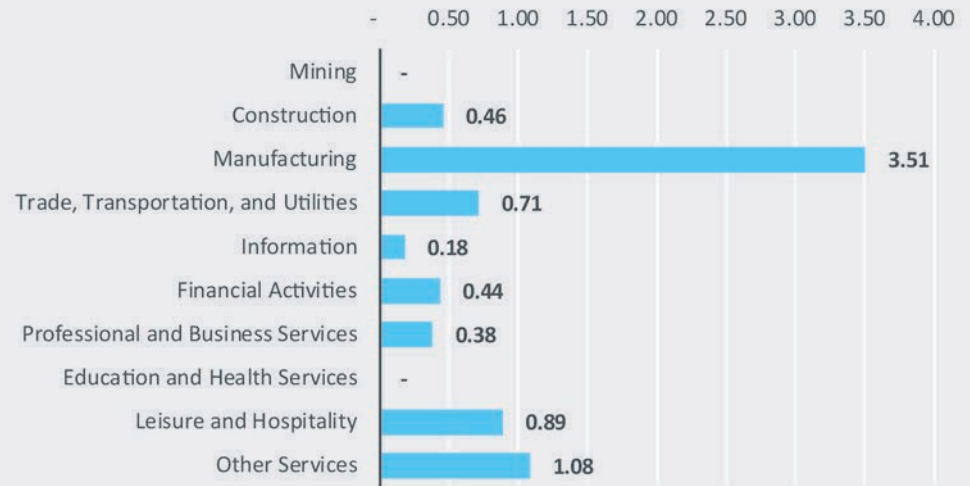
Educational Attainment



Long Term Employment



Location Quotient



Scott County, Indiana

Transportation and Mobility

Connectivity and Character

Austin, located near the northern edge of Scott County, and Scottsburg, centrally located in the county, are both bisected by I-65 and US 31. While these corridors provide connectivity advantages, their location also poses challenges to the development and general quality of life within the communities of Austin and Scottsburg.

While Austin and Scottsburg are the two incorporated municipalities within the county, other communities and the unincorporated portions of Scott County are connected by SR 256, SR 56, SR 356, and SR 203. These corridors provide ample east-west and north-south access to Washington, Jefferson County, and Clark County.

While state routes, these corridors leading into and out of Scott County are predominately rural in nature and vary from 2 to 4 lanes in width with stone or grass shoulders.

Airports

Scott County has one public airfield located just west of Scottsburg. Providing public service and facilities, the Scottsburg Airport has one turf runway (2,800 feet x 100 feet) and provides general and military aviation services. The site is also used for aviation themed community events including the Indy Air Hogs Memorial Fly-In.

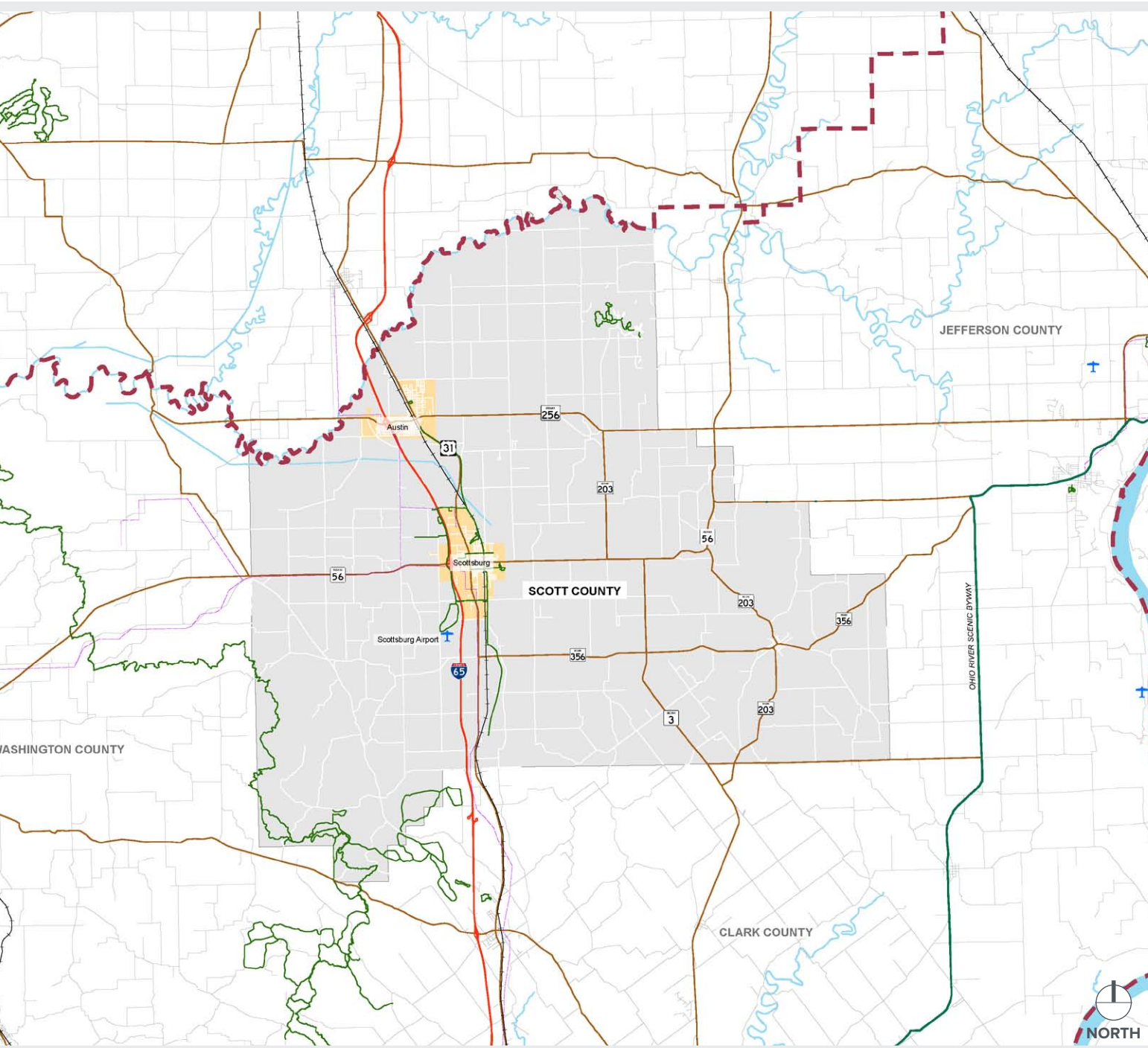
In addition to the Scottsburg Airport, one additional facility is located east of the Interstate 65 corridor between Austin and Scottsburg. Harrod/

Rose Airport is privately owned and operated and features chartered jet services.

Rail

Scott County has one predominate rail corridor. The Louisville-Indiana Railroad provides access from Clark County to Jackson County and connects to the communities of Scottsburg and Austin. Outside of Scott County, the rail corridor extends north to Crothersville and ultimately Indianapolis and extends south, paralleling US 31 and connects Scott County directly to Sellersburg, and Clarksville, Indiana, before crossing the Ohio River into Louisville. The Louisville & Indiana Railroad connects with the CSX, Indiana Railroad, Norfolk Southern, and Paducah and Louisville railroads to provide consistent service to numerous major companies and to the Port of Indiana- Jeffersonville. Since the Louisville & Indiana Railroad formed in 1994, a number of new industries have along its lines, including the recently certified 155-acre Smith Farm Industrial Park. By physically connecting both communities and developments, this rail corridor serves as an economic driver for the county and region.





MAP LEGEND

- Our Southern Indiana Boundary
- Incorporated area
- Interstate corridor
- Highway
- Roads
- Railroad
- River, Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs
- Airports
- Ports
- Natural Gas Pipeline
- Scenic Byway
- Trails

ASSET LISTING*

RAILROAD SYSTEMS

Louisville & Indiana RR

NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

Midwest Natural Gas Corp.

TRAILS

- Campgrounds Connector Trail
- Scottsburg Parks Trails
- Scottsburg Multiuse Trails
- Cemetery Trail
- Lakeside Trail
- Scottsburg to Pigeon Roost Trail
- Iola Lake Trails
- Scottsburg to Austin Trail
- Outward Bound Trail
- Knobstone Trail
- Honeysuckle Trail
- Austin Parks Trails
- Island Trail

*Data obtained from IndianaMap GIS database. <http://maps.indiana.edu/layerGallery.html>

Scott County, Indiana **Transportation and Mobility**

Trails

Currently, pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation opportunities are limited in Scott County. The County Comprehensive Plan, completed in 2001, identifies the greater need to both encourage and expand nonvehicular transportation alternatives by exploring creating a scenic bicycle tour and a vanpool/commuter route to better connect adjacent communities.

In limited locations, central Austin along SR 256 and downtown Scottsburg, along SR 56, sidewalks connect local destinations, but these facilities do not extend into areas outside of the core development district. Additionally, city facilities almost always end at the city boundary and do not provide connectivity to other parts of the county.

While local options are limited, the County has a regional hiking trail connecting northeast Scott County to both Washington and Clark counties. The Knobstone Trail is a 58-mile hiking trail that passes through Jackson-Washington State Forest in Washington County, and Elk Creek Public Fishing Area in Clark County.

Known or Planned Projects

Within Scott County, the following transportation improvements have been previously documented as a high-priority improvement project.

- Plan for and construct a bypass around the City of Scottsburg and an outerloop around Austin and Scottsburg.
- Constructing an I-65/ R 356 Leota Road interchange to accommodate truck traffic if an industrial park is developed in this area.
- Widen and improve several local roads including the following: Moonglo Road (County Road 100 N) from I-65 to Boatman Road (County Road 200 W), Lake Road West (County Road 150 S) from Lake Road North (County Road 100 W) to Boatman Road (County Road 200 W), Scottsburg Main Street (County Road 25 E) to Vienna, SR 56 east to SR 3, Intersection of U.S. 31 and SR 56, Scottsburg Main Street (County Road 25 E) to the proposed section of Blocher Road (County Road 100N).
- Improve Christie Road (County Road 225 W) for truck access into the industrial park.
- Develop public transit routes including the following routes: from Austin to Scottsburg; in Scottsburg between the Best Western area to Downtown Scottsburg; along US 31, in business districts, in residential areas, to grocery stores, to the hospital and nursing homes and to manufacturing areas; to medical and shopping facilities from Austin, Scottsburg, and other populated and developing areas of the county prioritizing service to senior citizens and the handicapped.
- Creating a vanpool system to take commuters to Louisville, Mason, Salem, and other communities in Indiana.
- Consider developing a scenic bicycle tour through Scott County.
- Develop service roads along I65, SR 56 and other heavily traveled routes to control access, avoid multiple curb cuts, and avoid conditions that cause high-accident areas.



Scott County, Indiana

Utilities and Infrastructure

Water Sources and Demand

Both surface water and ground water supplies are available in Scott County. The groundwater supplies are generally poor in water quality and susceptible to vulnerability. The public water supplies are a mixture of ground water and surface water, with surface water supply as the prevailing source.

Two main public water utilities are located within Scott County and are rated as small or larger by the USEPA. They are Scottsburg Water Department and Stucker Fork Water. Scottsburg Water supplies the City of Scottsburg and Stucker Fork is the main supply for areas outside of Scottsburg.

The Stucker Fork Water Utility does provide water to the rural portions of the surrounding counties of Jefferson, Washington, and Clark. The major supply for Stucker Fork Utility is actually a well field in Jefferson County.

Public water usage for fiscal year 2015 was 4.80 MGD (million gallons per day) for Scott County. The population served was 25,747. The expected population served and expected water demand is shown in the following table:

Projected Water Demand for Scott County¹

Year	Population	Avg. Day (MGD)	Peak Month (MGD)	Peak Day (MGD)
2015	27,827	4.80	5.60	7.53
2020	28,169	4.78	5.59	7.51
2025	28,470	4.85	5.67	7.62
2030	28,699	4.89	5.71	7.68
2035	28,791	4.90	5.73	7.71
2040	28,795	4.90	5.74	7.71
2045	28,753	4.91	5.74	7.71
2050	28,727	4.91	5.74	7.72
2055	28,701	4.91	5.74	7.72
2060	28,675	4.91	5.74	7.72

Population in Scott County is expected to slightly grow, but water usage over the next 40 years will not significantly increase over what it is today. This trend may be related to a lack of sustainable water supply for growth. Surface water supplies are limited and ground water is largely not reliable.

¹ Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis, Indiana Finance Authority, 2018



Public Water Utilities

2

There are 2 major public water utilities located within Scott County rated as small or larger by the USEPA.



Projected Growth

3.0%

Projected population growth (2015 to 2060) as outlined in the *Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis*, Indiana Finance Authority, 2018



Increased Demand

2.5%

Projected increase in maximum day utility demand (2015 to 2060) as outlined in the *Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis*, Indiana Finance Authority, 2018



Source Vulnerability

YES

As outlined in the *Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis*, Indiana Finance Authority, 2018.



Regulatory Vulnerability

YES

As outlined in the *Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis*, Indiana Finance Authority, 2018.



Affordability Challenges

YES

As outlined in the *Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis*, Indiana Finance Authority, 2018.

Scott County, Indiana **Utilities and Infrastructure**

High-Speed Internet and Wi-Fi Services

As defined by the Federal Communications Commission's 2018 Broadband Deployment Report², broadband service can include any number of technologies, but must provide a service benchmark of at least 25 megabytes per second (Mbps) upload and 3 Mbps download. When mapped³, the average service speeds for the county are only 81 Mbps download and only 11 Mbps upload, a stark contrast to what is reportedly available in surrounding counties. Based on the FCC data, the speeds throughout the county are being provided by a number of providers that offer infrastructure ranging from digital subscriber lines (DSL), fiber-optics, fixed wireless, and satellite services. Even with service being advertised in all areas of the county, the FCC and the 2013-2017 American Community Survey⁴ have documented that nearly 21% of the population do not have access to fixed broadband of at least 25 Mbps/3 Mbps. Additionally, over 26% of the county's population does not subscribe to the internet, and nearly 19% of households report that they do not own a computing device. While the data

² <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/broadband-progress-reports/2018-broadband-deployment-report>

³ <https://pcrd.purdue.edu/ruralindianastats/broadband/>
Data provided by Indiana service providers and is based on advertised availability/ speeds and is known to have a margin of error.

⁴ <https://pcrd.purdue.edu/ruralindianastats/about.php>

comes with a margin of error, fundamentally, the providers are reporting that the service and infrastructure exist, but it's possible that it is not being used by everyone.

Available infrastructure and service is only one side of the digital infrastructure network. Having subscribers who are able to use the services and technologies is a critical piece. Scott County's demographic and socioeconomic conditions leave the residents vulnerable to digital illiteracy. Residents within the county could be at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing broadband infrastructure because nearly 16% of the population is over 65 years of age. While age is not a limiting factor for everyone, income and educational attainment pose additional challenges for others. Nearly 14% of the county's residents are living in poverty, and 15% of the residents aged 25 and older have less than a high school degree. The reduction in disposable income and education could be contributing to the reported lack of access within the county.



21.1%

of people without access to fixed broadband of at least 25Mbps/3Mbps.



26.6%

of households with no internet access (not subscribing)



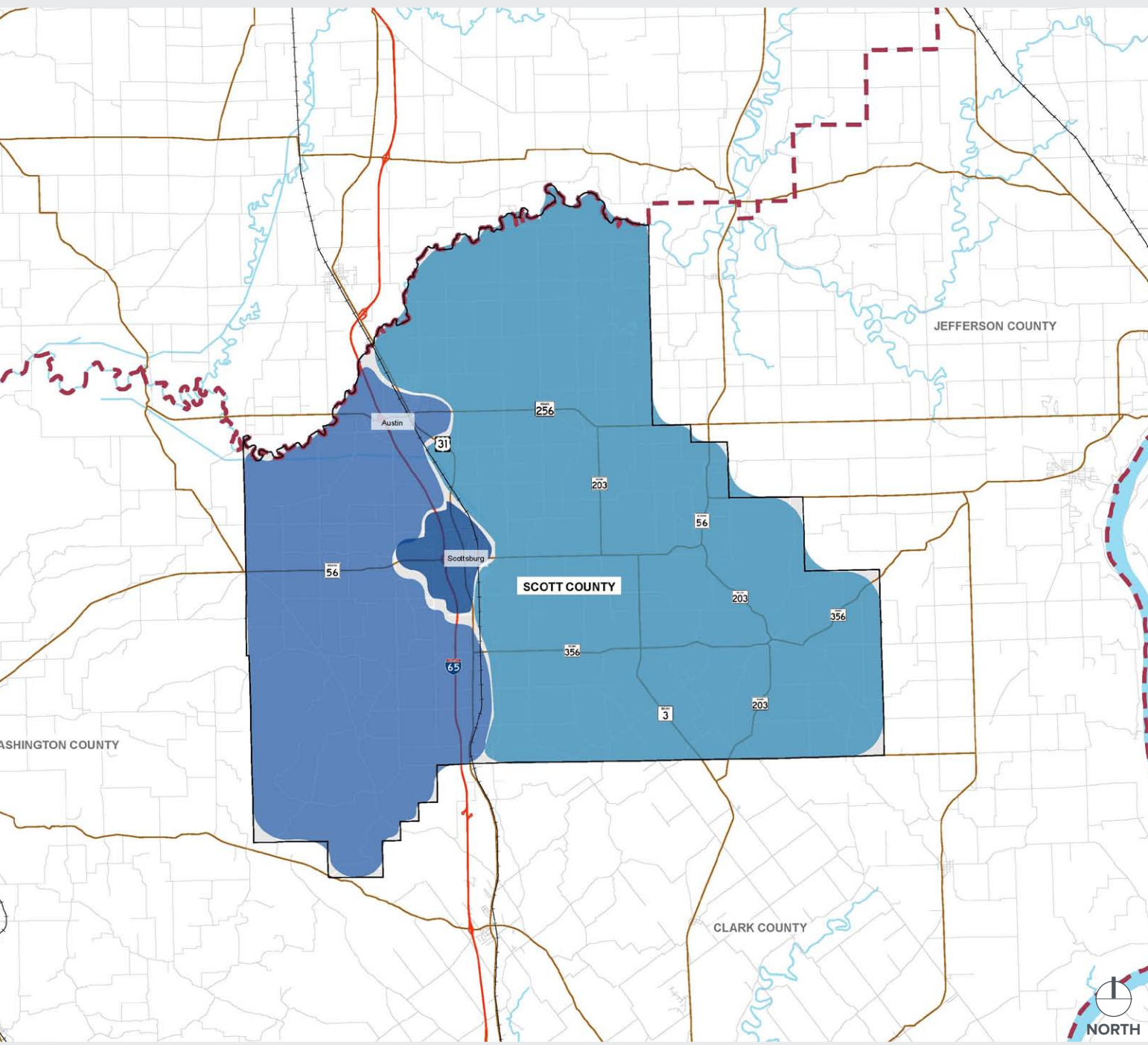
18.7%

of households without a computing device.



13.7%

of individuals in poverty.



MAP LEGEND

- Our Southern Indiana Boundary
- Incorporated area
- Interstate corridor
- Highway
- Roads
- ++++ Railroad
- River, Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs
- Scenic Byway

BROADBAND LEGEND*

- 4+ broadband providers
- 2-4 broadband providers
- 0-2 broadband providers

*Data obtained from IndianaMap GIS database. <http://maps.indiana.edu/layerGallery.html>

Scott County, Indiana

Parks, Open Space and Natural Features

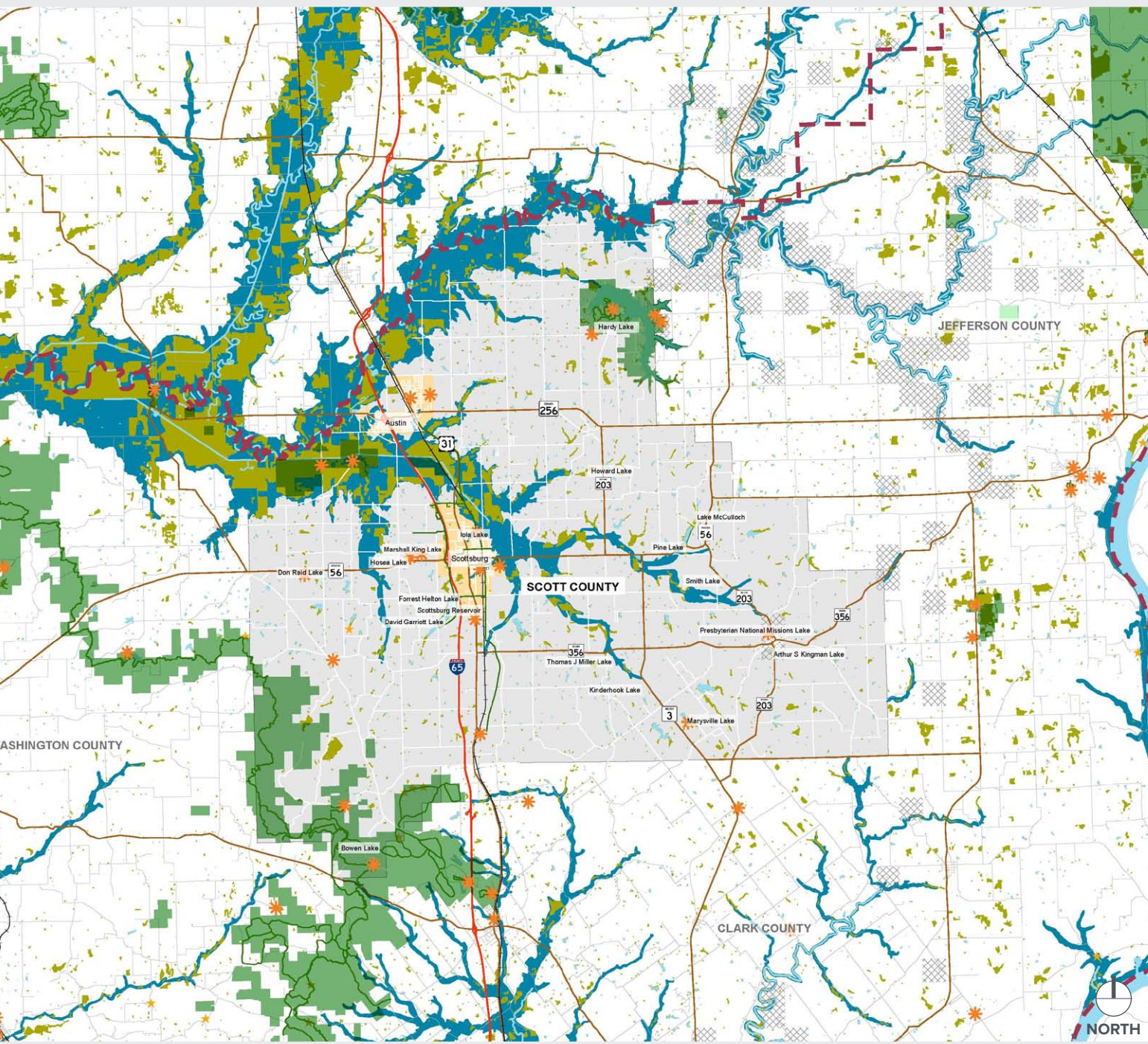
The City of Scottsburg has four community parks including William H. Graham Park, Beechwood Park, Linza Graham Park, and Nichols-Wilson Park. The William H. Graham Park has a walking path around Lake Lola, playground equipment, restroom facilities, and four different shelters for rental space. Beechwood Park has various areas for sports including basketball, tennis, volleyball, and softball. Other common amenities include shelters and playground areas. Linza Graham Park is home to a children's splash pad and play structure. This facility also has ball diamonds and an enclosed shelter. The Warrior Shelter can be rented for a fee. Similar to the other facilities, the Nichols-Wilson Park offers shelter space, ball diamonds, and soccer/football fields. The YMCA oversees scheduling for the recreation fields. The City of Austin also has Austin Little League Park, which includes playground equipment, walking/biking trails, an archery range and both baseball and softball fields. The park was a recipient of a \$50,000 grant in 2018 which was promoted by Major League Baseball.

Similar to Clark County, a portion of Clark State Forest is located in the southwest corner of the county. It is the oldest state forest in Indiana and covers over 24,000 acres of land. Users can camp, fish, hunt, shoot, and picnic at various points throughout the park.

Located in the northern portion of Scott County, Hardy Lake State Park and Reservoir is a great park and body of water for recreational opportunities. This park is over 2,000 acres with Hardy Lake stretching over 740 acres. It is the only state reservoir not created for flood control, which means the water level remains fairly stable year-round. The park has a campground and various hiking trails while the lake offers swimming, boating, and fishing opportunities.

In addition to park facilities, Scott County has two other natural areas that provide recreational amenities and environmental benefits. Thomastown Bottoms Nature Preserve is nearly 900 acres of land created to protect the hardwood bottomland forest that has a variety of trees including swamp white oak, pin oak, red maple, and green ash. Just south of this nature preserve is Stucker Fork Fish and Wildlife Area. Users can hunt and fish at this recreational facility.





MAP LEGEND

- Our Southern Indiana Boundary
- Incorporated area
- Interstate corridor
- Highway
- Roads
- ++++ Railroad
- River, Lakes, Ponds and Reservoirs
- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- ▣ Karst Features
- IDNR Managed Lands
- National Natural Landmarks
- ★ Recreation Facility

*Data obtained from IndianaMap GIS database.
<http://maps.indiana.edu/layerGallery.html>

Scott County, Indiana

Tourism and Attractions



Located in Scottsburg, Scott County Heritage Center and Museum hosts history dinners and programs each year. Additionally, they have brown bag luncheons on the third Wednesday of every month. Visitors can bring their lunch to the museum and the museum provides drinks and dessert.

In addition to the parks and recreational facilities and museums described in previous sections, Scott County has a few other destinations that attract visitors. Unique to Scott County is Goat Milk Stuff. This family farm owned and operated by the Jonas family provides visitors countless opportunities from yoga with goats to farm experiences. The Farm Store is open for visitors to purchase goat milk soaps, laundry soap, solid lotions, soy candles, and natural deodorants. Also, the Sweet Shop has goat milk fudge, goat milk caramel, goat milk toffee, cookies, muffins, jam, and local honey.

Additionally, Scott County Fairgrounds hosts several events per year that attract people from all of the region. From silent auctions and Demolition Derby to 4-H horse and pony show, food and music, and motorsports events, this fairground has something that could interest everyone. As of 2019, the fairground is celebrating its 70th annual Scott County Fair.



Image credit (this page): Scott County Visitors Commission

An aging population. Similar to the rest of the Southern Indiana counties, Scott County residents are making a deliberate choice to stay in the area as long as they can. Aging in place is often a sign that a community has a strong offering of amenities. This perception can be used to fuel economic growth and revitalization if the community is able to market these amenities to young professionals and families as an opportunity to grow, age, and transition without moving to a new city, town or region. While the statistics can be a positive for the area, future efforts will need to focus on ensuring that the residents have access to appropriate healthcare and transportation options to accommodate their changing needs.

Stagnant and slow population growth stalls economic growth. Areas with little to no population growth often struggle to maintain quality retail and entertainment establishments. These developments, including restaurants, shops, theatres, and entertainment venues, need a local population base to thrive. While some establishments can rely on commuting or visiting traffic, locally owned and operated facilities need an influx of people. As the local population ages and population growth is diminished, the ability for these retail-oriented services to thrive is diminished as well.

In addition to the supporting the development with dollars, the dwindling and aging populations also impact the labor pool from which local and regional business pull. With limited access to quality workers, businesses (both locally owned and regionally operated) will often find an alternative market that provides them with a higher quantity of skilled laborers.

Continued investment in public services. Even in areas where the population growth is projected to be slow, investment into public services and amenities should occur. Without additional residents, the revenue pool stays small and continues to be stretched. While difficult, the county should remain focused on finding innovative ways to improve local amenities, infrastructure, and public service so that those investments can be leveraged for greater economic development efforts.

Need for more housing choices. Scott County's median home value is the lowest when compared to adjacent Southern Indiana counties, the state of Indiana and the Louisville metro area. While difficult when also dealing with population stagnation, efforts should be made in the future to ensure that the county has a diverse offering in housing type, size, and value, especially within the incorporated communities.

Since the residents of the county are aging, efforts should also continue to ensure that housing development responds to the varied needs of the current and future residents that will differ, and the market will need to respond accordingly.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

OBSERVATIONS, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SCOTT COUNTY

Income and connectivity. While Scott County's poverty rate is lower than the state of Indiana and the Louisville metro area, areas within the county could benefit from infrastructure improvements aimed at providing an increase in transportation options and enhanced connectivity. The City of Austin has a poverty rate that is significantly above the county, state, and Louisville metro region, and its residents likely have lower vehicle ownership rates. These residents could rely on alternative transportation to access the area's employment centers. As development increases in these areas, special attention should be given to providing these communities well-connected activity centers that easily connect them to employment and housing options along with the goods and services they need on a daily basis.

Connectivity and Character. While both Austin and Scottsburg are well connected to the I-65 and US 31 corridors, the connectivity between Scott County communities and other regional activity centers is limited due to roadway facilities and amenities. While Scottsburg is only 20 miles from Sellersburg (via US 31) and only 30 miles from Clarksville/Jeffersonville (via US 31), these corridors provide limited capacity and safety concerns due to the 2 travel lanes and narrow shoulders.

Airports. While Scottsburg does boast a public serving airfield, major improvements in infrastructure and facilities would be needed to increase capacity in to better serve the development community.

Rail. The Louisville-Indiana Railroad is a prime economic driver that provides functional service and development opportunity within Scott County and beyond. In addition, this corridor is an asset to the developing Smith Farm Industrial Park. Efforts should be made to preserve this corridor and the connections that it makes to other regional railroad corridors, as well as to the numerous development sites that it serves.

Trails. The existing hiking trail system available in Clark State Forest is a model for connectivity and regionalism. The trail system, which connects local, county, and state amenities, is a unique and valuable asset to Scott County and its tourism base.

The Scott County water demand will remain consistent. As identified in the *2018 Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis* report, while Scott County is projected to see close to a 3 percent increase in their population, the maximum day utility demand is projected to remain constant.

Scott County is and will continue to experience both source and regulatory challenges. Water source vulnerability is related to susceptibility to drought or contamination of the source. Twenty-eight percent of the utilities in Southeastern Indiana, including Scott County, rely primarily on surface water supplies. The utility systems using ground and surface water sources generally are more susceptible to drought or contamination resulting from spills. The risks of contamination dramatically increase treatment costs. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) monitors and enforces public water supply compliance with state and federal regulations. In 2015, 44 percent of the Southeastern region utilities, including Scott County, have been subject to enforcement actions. The most common violation is for inadequate control of disinfection byproducts (DBPs), a challenge that predominantly impacts utilities that rely on surface water supplies.

Infrastructure and service costs will continue to increase. With fluctuating pressure on demand, the protection from drought and contamination, and the ever-increasing costs related to enforcement methods and infrastructure, Scott County and its water customers will likely experience affordability challenges related to the county's water utilities. High levels of reinvestment will be necessary to ensure that services remain optimal and abundant, and to offset those capital costs, water rates will need to be adjusted, causing customer bills to increase.

Residential vs commercial high-speed internet. While the majority of Scott County is advertised to have access to high-speed internet, at times the speeds and configuration are only adequate for a small residential family. Employment centers, such as offices, industrial, or hospitals, look for symmetrical connections in the range of 50 Mbps/50 Mbps or greater.

Digital literacy efforts will improve access. While infrastructure improvements can be made to ensure that optimal speeds are available to residents and employers, efforts should also be made to improve digital literacy in the county's at-risk populations, including those individuals with limited education and financial resources. Coupled with infrastructure improvements, social services aimed at improving the condition of the residents should be emphasized in the future.

Multiple providers, multiple ways to improve. Throughout Scott County, several providers are available with various technologies. Encouraging participation and collaboration with the existing service providers will be critical as the area's demand for service increases.

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

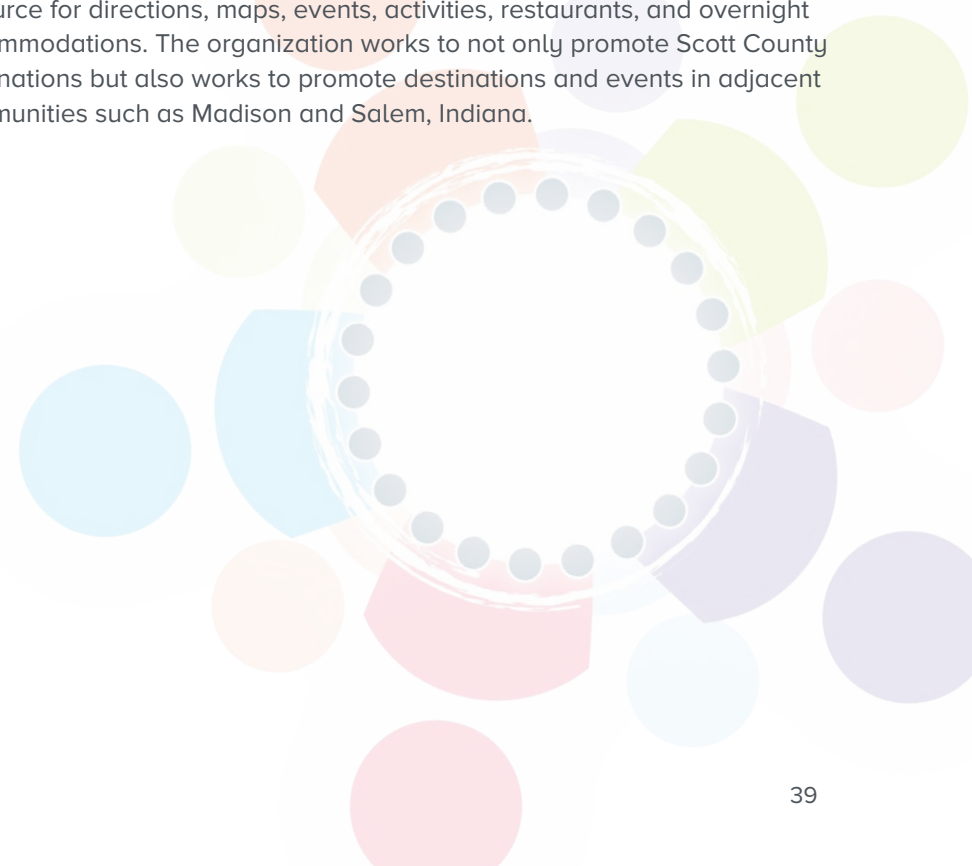
OBSERVATIONS, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN SCOTT COUNTY

Diversify amenity location. While an abundance of municipal and state parks exists in Scott County, the rural portions of the county (to the east of Scottsburg and Austin) have limited access to local or state parks. By working to add new facilities and open space to these rural areas, the Scott County population will be better served.

Connect the amenities you have. While establishing new facilities and areas can take time, complementary efforts can be undertaken to connect the parks and open space features already existing throughout the county and the broader region. By implementing multi-use trails at a local, county, and regional level, the area's assets will be available to all residents.

Improve and advertise existing amenities and benefits regionally. Existing amenities with the county could be improved and expanded to provide a greater benefit to the region. While many facilities are under the control of the state, such as Hardy Lake and Clark State Forest, they could be marketed more strategically to create an attraction and regional destination. By amplifying the resources and assets that exist within the county, population and employment growth could increase within the region.

Established tourism efforts with a limited reach. Scott County does have a local tourism organization that works to promote local attractions and events. The Scott County Visitors Commission works to promote activities likely to bring tourists to Scott County. The organization's website is a resource for directions, maps, events, activities, restaurants, and overnight accommodations. The organization works to not only promote Scott County destinations but also works to promote destinations and events in adjacent communities such as Madison and Salem, Indiana.





3

CHAPTER THREE

OUR Future Vision

SCOTT
COUNTY
WORK PLAN



**A community is a mesh of places
where people live, learn, work, play,
and do business.**

**Collectively, these places—their
physical forms, the connections and
relationships between them— shape a
community.**

A community vision reflects the highest aspirations of an area and its residents. It represents the best of the best ideas shared by residents, business owners, community organizations, and governmental leaders. Through one-on-one conversations, focus groups, leadership roundtable discussions, and public engagement, the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority sought to understand the concerns, ideas, and aspirations of the entire five-county area and not just one single community. To date, beginning with the *2015 Regional Development Plan* effort, the board has reached out and brought together more than 400 stakeholders and representatives in areas critical to the success of the region such as infrastructure, economic development, workforce, higher education, utilities, community services, natural resources, arts and culture, and governmental leadership. It was true in 2015 and it is still true today, our people are our strength. With a pride of place and a deep commitment to our communities, the people of Southern Indiana maintain a proactive optimism about the future that is the engine for our current and future success. We cherish and celebrate our unique regional identity, shaped by a compelling history and remarkable natural setting. As an integral part of the Louisville metropolitan area, we are unified in our pursuit of a successful, thriving region. We also recognize the value in Southern Indiana's diversity of people, places, and perspectives. **Together, we have set the bar high and are working hard to achieve our shared vision for the future of Our Southern Indiana.**

By recognizing the value in having diverse people, places, and perspectives, the five counties of Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington seek to work together to cultivate a region that:

Nurtures a diverse economy with thriving industries;

Collaborates to improve efficiencies, attitudes, and perceptions; and

Provides exceptional infrastructure, community services, recreational amenities, and neighborhoods for all.

OUR REGIONAL VISION

The *Our Region | Our Plan* regional vision statement outlines common aspirations for fostering a strong and diverse economy, efficient and collaborative governments, a strong sense of community, high-quality public services, improved mobility and connectivity, and vibrant downtowns and destinations. All of the desired elements result in ways to enhance livability and regional quality of life. The *Our Region | Our Plan* document is not merely a picture of what's possible, but it is an action plan to make sure the Our Southern Indiana region can get there.

The regional vision was intentionally designed to be an aspirational statement that would apply for generations. While the vision and the seven goal topics outline regional ambitions, the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* and complementary Organizational and County Work Plans are structured to set the region up for success incrementally by all participating entities. This approach and organization ensure that the pursuit of the regional vision and supporting goals is a renewable process which will allow for continuous input from new residents, business owners, emerging leaders, and community partners over time. This strategy also allows for each of the incorporated communities, the five counties, the Our Southern Indiana RDA board, and any of the numerous regional partners to help update the action plan as other projects and programs are completed.

The Our Southern Indiana regional vision has seven goal topics:

- Destinations
- Workforce
- Economic Development
- Natural Assets
- Connections
- Government
- Infrastructure

Each goal topic contains a series of targets or objectives that our region desires to achieve as part of the goal. Throughout the planning process, the Our Region | Our Plan team worked to use the region's assets to address the region's challenges. Each of the target objectives identifies ways to use the various assets of the region, including people, places, skills, and organizations to organize the region around issues that move its members into action. This method uses the community's own assets to empower stakeholders by encouraging them to utilize what they already possess. Accomplishing the regional goals and the target objectives may take a decade, but the following pages contain the roadmap for actions and guidelines that can be implemented to move the needle starting today. No one is coming to improve the region for us. We, the Our Southern Indiana community, must work together to chart a new course using the amazing resources we have. These goals, target objectives, and proposed projects are the building blocks for our future. Additional details on the seven plan priorities and supporting objectives can be found in Chapter 4 of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*.



**Our resources are finite and we don't
want to waste them.**

**This plan is our commitment to
working together, as one team,
for the betterment of all of
Southern Indiana**

ACHIEVING THE REGIONAL VISION

The *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* document provides a framework for both balancing and achieving all of the goals and target objectives well into the future. The Our Southern Indiana RDA is only one of many partners who will move the vision forward with a sense of shared ownership. The Regional Development Plan's name says it all. **Our Region | Our Plan**. While the Our Southern Indiana RDA initiated this planning effort, it is not solely their plan, but the region's plan. The *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* document is the RDA's down-payment and long-term commitment to bringing the Southern Indiana regional vision to life.

In order to succeed, the regional development plan needs both a vision generated by the people in the community and rooted in careful analysis of existing conditions, and a clear course of action to show how best to achieve the community's vision. To ensure that finite resources are being spent efficiently, the clear course of action needs to identify specific roles and responsibilities that will both empower stakeholders and provide them guidelines on how to use their time, talents, and capital. While the regional projects included on the following pages will take the support and guidance of many, the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* document focuses on providing a focused action-oriented plan for the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority board of directors. Regional development authorities are often created to partner with others in the "heavy lifting" that is often required to move projects forward. These partnerships are often critical on initiatives that span multiple jurisdictions, multiple years, and have high costs. The projects included in this plan are intended to capture the diversity of ongoing initiatives throughout the region and to provide the Our Southern Indiana RDA board of directors with direction on their role and their responsibilities on the identified projects. The information included is NOT intended to provide specific direction or action timelines to all regional projects. It is only intended to direct and focus the work of the Our Southern Indiana RDA.

REGIONAL PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The projects included in the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* document build upon those identified in the *2015 Regional Development Plan*. While some initiatives from the 2015 planning process have since been completed, many are still in need of a champion. In addition to the projects identified within the 2015 Regional Development Plan, the projects included in this document are highly influenced by the ongoing planning work of the 22 incorporated communities, the five counties, the state of Indiana, and the various community organizations. This *Our Region | Our Plan* effort was not intended to purely identify new projects, but instead it was to empower the Our Southern Indiana RDA to encourage collaboration among the various regional leaders and organizations and to provide a framework for implementation of regional projects.

THE RDA'S PLACE IN REGIONAL PROJECTS

This regional development plan builds upon the previous 2015 effort by providing the Our Southern Indiana RDA board of directors a focused set of roles for each proposed project. The newly defined roles and responsibilities are designed to be fluid, allowing the RDA to lead, partner, and support efforts and tasks as its resources and organizational powers allow. The fluidity in role and responsibility allows the board to lead those projects that fit within its wheelhouse, while also providing them the opportunity to partner with or support groups on regional projects that are beyond the scope of the RDA's original purpose. This organizational divide-and-concur approach not only allows the RDA to focus its resources, but it also requires and reinforces the collaboration and regional approach the RDA was built upon. By working with the RDA board of directors, the regional stakeholders, and the Project Leadership Group, three clear project role descriptions were defined that are intended to guide the development of projects and to allow for clear channels of communication and collaboration. As a part of this *Our Region | Our Plan* effort, the newly defined roles and its associated responsibilities were then used to define the Our Southern Indiana RDA's role in the various regional projects. The following descriptions work to define the three roles, its various responsibilities and the rationale behind the applicability to the RDA.

To further reinforce the need for collaboration, the *Our Region | Our Plan* process worked to define the benefits or value added of the RDA organization. The *Our Region | Our Plan Scott County Work Plan* seek to identify how the RDA can better connect with the five counties and how its organization can aide the incorporated cities, towns, and counties in moving forward locally significant projects.

Project Leaders:

A **project leader** is an individual, organization, or governmental entity that has the authority to use its various resources for completion of a given project that falls within its jurisdiction. **Project leaders have primary financial responsibility** of a given project meaning that the responsibility to secure funding for the project (from start to finish) lies with them. The project leader is responsible for implementing the project, securing all funding, addressing project obstacles, and also coordinating project partners (or stakeholders). Project leaders should seek to align its organizational purpose, powers, and goals with identified projects to ensure effective implementation.

Project Partners:

A **project partner** is an individual, organization, or governmental entity that can provide input, guidance, and assistance in the implementation of a given project and potentially limited or focused financial resources. Project partners also benefit in the implementation of a project by seeing increased revenues, increased development opportunities, increased connectivity, and improvements in overall quality of life. Project partners are not primarily responsible for implementing the project, but should be involved in the development process of the proposed initiatives and implementation.

Project Supporter:

A **project supporter** is an individual, organization, or governmental entity that could benefit from the project/ initiative. Project supporters can provide input into the planning/ development process and can be used as project advocates during the process or provide political support. Project supporters are not intended to be part of the implementation process of any proposed project or initiative.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP: What does it mean for Our Southern Indiana RDA?

Proposed projects identified as being led by the Our Southern Indiana RDA align with the organization's purpose and powers. For these initiatives, **the RDA board would be the primary decision-maker** while collaborating with the identified project partners and supporters. The RDA would also utilize their staff, revenue, and administrative processes to lead and complete the initiative.

RDA leadership was identified for proposed initiatives that had the ability to include, reach, and benefit multiple counties, cities, towns, and community organizations. The identified strategies do not currently have a leader and are not within the authority or ownership of any local community or county. These initiatives will benefit from having a project leader that focuses on regional assets, challenges, needs, and benefits.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP: What does it mean for Our Southern Indiana RDA?

While several proposed initiatives align with the purpose and powers of the Our Southern Indiana RDA, the project's scale, location, and implementation process are better suited to be led by local parties. However, these projects would benefit from the input, guidance, and implementation assistance that the RDA can offer.

For these initiatives, the RDA board would be a project partner, offering input and thought throughout the project planning or development process. As a component of the process, the RDA would determine the best way to use their staff, revenue, and administrative processes to complete portions of the initiative in partnership with the project champion.

RDA partnership was identified for proposed initiatives that had the ability to include, reach, and benefit multiple counties, cities, towns, and community organizations but were within the control of local organizations or agencies. The RDA could provide targeted resources but is not responsible for securing funding for the project.

PROJECT SUPPORTER: What does it mean for Our Southern Indiana RDA?

Proposed projects identified as being supported by the Our Southern Indiana RDA may align with the organization's purpose and powers; however, they are locally focused with the main impact at the county or city/town level and under the ownership or control of existing local and state organizations.

For these initiatives, the RDA board would be a project supporter, offering input and thought as necessary throughout the project planning or development process or providing political support (such as letters of support). In these instances, the RDA board would primarily serve as a vocal advocate for the project and its intended outcomes but would not provide financial resources.

REGIONAL PROJECTS ORGANIZATION

During the Our Regional | Our Plan process, nearly 50 projects were identified that would ultimately improve the quality of life at either local or regional levels and drive economic investment and reinvestment in the region. These projects not only improve the quality of life, but they can be used to neutralize and overcome the regional demographic, economic, and infrastructure challenges outlined in Chapter Two: Our Present Condition.

The projects outlined in this section are NOT organized by priority.

Priority often infers that all components and benefits of a project are equal, and in this instance, the projects outlined are diverse in scale, scope, and regional benefit. Priority also typically assumes that one cannot start an initiative until the preceding initiatives are complete, or at the very least, underway. **Instead, the proposed projects in the Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan and this county work plan are categorized by the RDA's proposed role in an effort to provide guidance and flexibility.**

RDA LEAD PROJECTS

Of the nearly 50 projects outlined the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*, only four are identified as efforts the Our Southern Indiana RDA board should lead. These projects are outlined in more detail in Our Region | Our Plan, including roles/responsibilities, potential resources, implementation steps, case studies and supporting past plans or efforts. These projects are outlined in more detail in Chapter 4 of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*:

1. Regional Broadband
2. Regional Collaboration
3. Regional Marketing & Branding Plan
4. Regional Trail Initiative

RDA PARTNER & SUPPORTED PROJECTS

The remaining projects lie with either local municipalities, counties, or community organizations as the lead organization, and this planning effort did not intend to dictate a proposed priority or timeline for those initiatives. The provided information for the proposed projects is intended to provide ample insight into the effort, resources required, and ultimate impacts. Project priority and implementation timeline should be a collaborative decision among all parties and should be discussed at the beginning of each effort.

The project summary pages are designed to provide the reader with a concise, written, and graphic summary of the proposed project. To further understand the project summaries, the provided information, and how the information should be used moving forward, refer Chapter 4 of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*. While the RDA will not be the lead organization on the following projects, they can play a support role to the county, city, town or partner organization for project implementation.

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT LEADER*

Scott County, Austin, Lexington,
Scottsburg, Scottsburg Main Steet

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Project Partner

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Various local- and county-level planning documents

** Leadership has been based on previous plans and studies. Subject to change based on implementation process.*

PROJECT GOAL CATEGORIES



Downtown Redevelopment

Build upon the charm and authenticity of the region's distinctive downtowns by promoting investment, appropriately-scaled redevelopment, improvements to infrastructure that support a safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian environment and the needs of existing and future programs and events.

Downtowns are sometimes referred to as the heart of a city and region, and accordingly, play a strong role in the health of their respective communities. The Southern Indiana region is unique in that it has several established downtown areas. The sense of place found within each of these areas is what sets each individual community apart of one another. Each community within Scott County should be reinvesting in their downtown by supporting redevelopment.

Benefits from investment in downtown revitalization include jobs creation, increases in property values, and attraction of new residents and tourists. On the other hand, redevelopment of downtown structures comes with many challenges to overcome. These structures are usually aging, which can result in high construction costs, especially with ADA regulations and efficiency standards. The key to downtown revitalization is establishing a shared vision and a pathway to get there.

Any one of the historic downtowns or courthouse squares will require reinvestment over time. Some projects will provide needed maintenance while some will be geared toward expanding the area's functionality and programming goals. While these reinvestment efforts will occur primarily at local levels, taking into account the availability of funds locally, the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority could participate regionally in a variety of ways. Because the RDA's resources are limited, their involvement will be limited to those initiatives with the greatest benefit to the region. When reviewing proposed sites and proposed projects and prior to seeking partnership from the RDA, local municipalities, private land owners, and members of the development community should refer to the following criteria that serve to guide the RDA's participation in downtown redevelopment efforts.

Our Southern Indiana regional retail redevelopment projects will be projects that focus on enhancing streetscapes and the public realm, promoting and supporting historic building renovation and façade repair, coordinating parking needs, and projects supporting downtown businesses and entertainment. These types of reinvestment projects are traditionally known to have a domino effect- meaning they

lead to more investment. While the use of these projects may vary from place to place, it is important to build upon the uniqueness of these places to attract and retain new residents, businesses, and visitors.

Throughout the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* effort, the criteria outlined above were used to identify priority projects for RDA partnership consideration. The following is a listing for each individual city or town's applicable downtown plans and initiatives. The plans and initiatives identified were provided by the local municipalities, but is not intended to be a complete site inventory. Chapter Five of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* identifies the process by which local municipalities, counties, and private developers or organizations can add their downtown redevelopment project to the RDA's list. The following downtown plans and initiatives focused on the revitalization of downtowns were identified throughout the planning process:

1. Scottsburg Downtown Plan (Scottsburg)



PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT LEADER*

Scott County

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Project Partner

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Various local and county level planning documents

** Leadership has been based on previous plans and studies. Subject to change based on implementation process.*

PROJECT GOAL CATEGORIES



Industrial Redevelopment

Revitalize the region's prominent industrial centers and reduce the perception of blight by focusing redevelopment and reinvestment at key locations and by reinventing the typical industrial development based on demand and workspace trends.

Southern Indiana's economy is at a crossroads. As forces outside of the region change the global economy, Southern Indiana must reinvent itself to stay relevant and competitive, building upon its current economic base of manufacturing, construction, and transportation. This is true for not only the workforce itself but for the development that houses the region's key employment sectors.

Manufacturing and industrial businesses have come a long way in just a few short years and will continue to evolve over time. Industrial development, both large and small, were historically the lifeblood of Southern Indiana communities. While many areas have become vacant or underutilized due to market conditions and the evolution of the manufacturing sector, the sites are primed for redevelopment for some of the same reasons they were developed to begin with. Many of Southern Indiana's industrial properties are located along the Ohio River, regional rail corridors, and primary transportation routes and are within reach of some of the area's largest employment centers. By utilizing the existing assets in the region and simply by reimagining how these sites function and the needs of the business owners and employees, the region can capitalize on the industrial growth while also allowing for

achieving the area's connectivity, aesthetic, and destination goals.

While various areas across the region are experiencing vacant and underutilized industrial centers, the region's greatest opportunity for reinvestment will be to focus efforts on key employment centers. While redevelopment efforts will occur primarily at local levels, taking into account the availability of property, market conditions, and interest from the private development community, the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority could participate at a regional level in a variety of ways. Because the RDA's resources are limited, their involvement will be limited to those sites with the greatest benefit to the region. When reviewing proposed sites and prior to seeking partnership from the RDA, local municipalities, private land owners, and members of the development community should refer to the following criteria that serve to guide the RDA's participation in regional industrial redevelopment efforts.

While not all Our Southern Indiana Regional industrial redevelopment projects will meet the following criteria, the points outlined below should be used to prioritize the involvement and support by the Our Southern Indiana RDA board:

- **Be located on a brownfield.** Redevelopment efforts focused on brownfield properties allows for unique opportunities for innovation while also solving local workforce, infrastructure, and mitigation challenges. Brownfield sites offer a multitude of development benefits including lower property acquisition and development costs and increased property values following development. Additionally, brownfield redevelopment projects often qualify for additional funding options from a variety of sources.
- **Reuse the existing site.** Redevelopment projects should be focused leveraging existing properties or previously developed sites. This limits capital investments and reduces the perception of blight amongst the local municipality.
- **Reuse and repurpose currently vacant structures.** Redevelopment projects should focus on the reuse of currently vacant structures. While capital investments may vary depending on the condition of the building and the configuration of the intended use, the reuse of existing buildings removes potential eyesores from the region’s development landscape.
- **Have environmental remediation completed or have a plan for completion.** Several of the sites across the region will require mitigation prior to the site construction or redevelopment. The process to determine environmental mitigation requirements vary depending on site constraints and the plans of the site. To determine site costs and potential return on investment, the project must have mitigation completed or at least have a firm understanding of what is needed, the costs associated with the mitigation and a timeline for completion and approval.

- **Have commitment from the private sector.** Industrial redevelopment projects should be prioritized based on commitment from the private sector. This ensures that efforts are ready to move forward so that momentum is not lost and that processes move efficiently.
- **Have a complete fiscal/operating plan.** When requesting participation from the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority, an accounting of the who, what, when, where, and how of each project should be determined. By showcasing the scope of the project, when it will occur, the estimated costs of the effort, and the long-term functional and operational maintenance plans of the development, the Our Southern Indiana RDA board will be provided with the information necessary to make an informed decision about their participation in the effort.

Throughout the Our Region | Our Plan effort, the criteria outlined above were used to identify priority sites for RDA partnership consideration. The following is a listing of the sites within Scott County. The sites identified were provided by the local municipalities and local economic development staff but is not intended to be a complete site inventory.

1. Scott County Industrial Park (Scott County)
2. American Steel Cord Plant (Scottsburg)
3. Louisville / Indiana Railroad Area (Scottsburg)

Chapter Five of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* identifies the process by which local municipalities, counties, and private developers or organizations can add their retail site to the RDA’s list. Appendix A of the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* includes a current list of projects with any project amendments to Our Region | Our Plan.

Regional Water Supply

Identify and implement the recommendations of the *Southeast Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis* to ensure the region has an adequate supply of water to meet future demand.

The five counties comprising the Southern Indiana region have over 40 public and/or private water providers serving the region's residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational water needs. These entities have distinct and highly variable characteristics including size/type of customers, raw water source(s), reserve capacity of the system, age/condition of infrastructure, water treatment processes and capacity, customer density, water rate structure, ability to respond to droughts, etc. The various representatives of Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott and Washington counties recognize that improvements to regional water supply, treatment systems, and distribution systems are critical to the economic vitality of the region and, in fact, the lack of adequate water may be the most important factor that limits regional growth.

The regional water supply has been a major concern for Southern Indiana for several years now. Dating back to the *2015 Regional Development Plan*, the opportunity to connect sustainable water supply projects to industry attraction and long-term population growth was, and still is, particularly important for Southern Indiana. In 2018, the Indiana Finance Authority conducted the *Southeast Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis*, a

process that identified existing and future water demand and the various source, regulatory, and affordability challenges that exist regionally.

Identified in the introduction of the study, INDOT has been working hard to improve the roads and bridges throughout the 14-county study area. These infrastructure improvements will position the region for growth, which is already occurring in areas such as Clark and Floyd counties. On the other hand, smaller communities may struggle to grow because of the lack of high-quality, resilient water supplies. Because of this, it is essential that Southern Indiana continue to work toward increasing the regional water supply in an efficient and equitable way.

The *Southeast Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis* outlines three different options including the current approach, extended regional systems, and targeted regional system recommendations. While no concrete implementation steps were identified, the study concludes with several key findings that should be reviewed and implemented by the appropriate partners with the Southern Indiana region.

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT LEADER*

Indiana Finance Authority

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Project Partner

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

2018 Southeastern Indiana Regional Water Supply Feasibility and Cost Analysis

2015 Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Plan

** Leadership has been based on previous plans and studies. Subject to change based on implementation process.*

PROJECT GOAL CATEGORIES





Regional Youth Sports Complex

To leverage the region’s recreational destinations and recreation-oriented tourism efforts, support the planning and development of a regional youth sports complex.

A sports complex combines the needed fields and equipment of several different sports into one purpose-built facility. Examples of some of these sports include but are not limited to football, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, and field hockey. Often built with indoor multi-purpose fields, these facilities allow funding for sporting events to be concentrated into better quality facilities, and for sporting events to be less weather dependent. This means events can be planned with more reliability and frequency, allowing communities to better develop around these facilities and gain an economic return.

One of the chief reasonings of building a sports complex is the economic takeaway expected for the initial investment and following upkeep. The money brought in from outsiders during sports events in a form of tourism, as well as increased development capitalizing on this additional traffic, are expected to justify the facility’s cost. While some level of prestige and recognition are apparent in owning a facility and hosting sporting events, a key element of any sports complex is providing affordable services to its community. At its heart, still a community recreation facility, a regional sports complex must also retain quality programs and its affordability for community resident use. The

proposed facility should focus on youth sports and events at both the regional and state levels, and it will be newly constructed or an addition and renovation to an existing regional facility. This will allow local sports groups and leagues access and use of the facility. As development continues, the following criteria should be used to guide site selection and facility development.

- Adjacent proximity to existing urbanized areas
- High level of visibility from major thoroughfares, highways, or streets
- High level of vehicular access- both external and within the site
- Is serviced by, or can easily be serviced by both public and private utilities (water, sewer, storm water, electric, gas, and broadband)
- Ability to expand in the future
- Proximity of an existing or planned hotel and/or conference facility

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT LEADER*

Scott County

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Project Partner

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

2015 Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Plan

** Leadership has been based on previous plans and studies. Subject to change based on implementation process.*

PROJECT GOAL CATEGORIES



PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT LEADER*

Scott County

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Project Partner

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Various local and county-level planning documents

2015 Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Plan

** Leadership has been based on previous plans and studies. Subject to change based on implementation process.*

PROJECT GOAL CATEGORIES



Retail Redevelopment

Revitalize the region's prominent retail centers and reduce the perception of community blight by focusing redevelopment and reinvestment at key locations and by reimagining the retail district as a mixed-use, walkable, center of activity.

Southern Indiana includes some of the Louisville region's largest retail centers, which together represent a significant economic engine. While many retail centers are extremely important for local economies, their design, format, circulation, and other factors are not ideally positioned to capture evolving retail preferences and opportunities for more diverse economic activity. Increasing vacancies highlight both a saturation of conventional retail offerings and a lack of competitiveness with newer retail centers that are more closely attuned to changing consumer preferences.

Across the region, in cities and towns alike, there is an opportunity to recast the retail district as a mixed-use, walkable, rejuvenated retail center of the future that can attract visitors, increase economic impact, provide amenities for area residents, and ensure that these regional destinations thrive in the future. A mix of coordinated projects can strengthen existing businesses, attract new quality retailers, and provide unique and memorable visitor experiences. In a saturated retail market, a repositioned retail center can thrive by providing an entertaining and amenity-rich environment that better competes to attract visitors; encouraging visitors to stay longer and visit a greater number and variety of destinations; and by providing attractions and

experiences that appeal to an expanded range of demographics and visitor interests. While there are various areas across the region that are experiencing vacant and underutilized retail centers, the region's greatest opportunity for reinvestment will be to focus efforts on key retail corridors, intersections, and employment centers. While redevelopment efforts will occur primarily at local levels, taking into account the availability of property, market conditions, and interest from the private development community, the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority could participate at a regional level in a variety of ways. Because the RDA's resources are limited, their involvement will be limited to those sites with the greatest benefit to the region. To better understand the ways in which the RDA can assist in the redevelopment of retail sites, refer to the *Our Region | Our Plan Organizational Work*. When reviewing proposed sites and prior to seeking partnership from the RDA, local municipalities, private land owners, and members of the development community should refer to the following criteria that serve to guide the RDA's participation in regional retail redevelopment efforts.

Our Southern Indiana regional retail redevelopment projects will:

- **Reuse the existing site.** Redevelopment projects should be focused leveraging existing properties or previously developed sites. This limits capital investments and reduces the perception of blight among the local municipality.
- **Reuse and repurpose currently vacant structures.** Redevelopment projects should be focused on the reuse of currently vacant structures. While capital investments may vary depending on the condition of the building and the configuration of the intended use, the reuse of existing buildings removes potential eyesores from the region's development landscape.
- **Have environmental remediation completed or have a plan for completion.** Several of the sites across the region will require mitigation prior to the site construction or redevelopment. The process to determine environmental mitigation requirements vary depending on site constraints and the plans of the site. To determine site costs and potential return on investment, the project must have mitigation completed or at least have a firm understanding of what is needed, the costs associated with the mitigation, and a timeline for completion and approval.
- **Have commitment from the private sector.** Retail redevelopment projects should be prioritized based on commitment from the private sector. This ensure that efforts are ready to move forward so that momentum is not lost and that processes move efficiently.

- **Have a complete fiscal/operating plan.** When requesting participation from the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority, an accounting of the who, what, when, where, and how of each project should be determined. By showcasing the scope of the project, when it will occur, the estimated costs of the effort, and the long-term functional and operational maintenance plans of the development, the Our Southern Indiana RDA board will be provided with the information necessary to make an informed decision about their participation in the effort.

Throughout the Our Region | Our Plan effort, the criteria outlined above were used to identify priority sites for RDA partnership consideration. The following is a listing of available sites. The sites identified were provided by the local municipalities and local economic development staff, but is not intended to be a complete site inventory.

1. SR 56 / I- 65 Interchange Area (Scottsburg)
2. S. Lake Road, North of Mid-America Science Park (Scottsburg)

Chapter Five of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* identifies the process by which local municipalities, counties, and private developers or organizations can add their retail site to the RDA's list. Appendix A of the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* includes a current list of projects with any project amendments to Our Region | Our Plan.

RDA-SUPPORTED PROJECTS

As outlined previously, the Our Region | Our Plan process worked to define the benefits or value added of the RDA organization while also identifying ways that the RDA could participate in both local and regional initiatives. The following identifies quality of life and economic development projects at the county and local level. The identified projects were determined to be projects that the Our Southern Indiana RDA board could support because the goals of the project align with the RDA's organizational purpose and powers. For these identified projects, the RDA board would offer input and thought as necessary and can work to provide necessary political support.

AGRI-TOURISM INITIATIVES

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

N/A

While many areas of the five-county region have an urban focus or urban core, the majority of the land within each county has a rural or agricultural character. It is important to not overlook the potential for building upon the rural charm of each county and develop agri-tourism initiatives that bring agriculture and tourism together. These initiatives would support the local farmers and producers by allowing for new sources of revenue and also can benefit the community through opportunities for education, preserving agricultural land, increasing business activity, growing employment options and attracting more visitors.

CITY OF SCOTTSBURG BYPASS

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Policy makers in Scott County have begun the planning to develop a by-pass around the City of Scottsburg by widening Lake Road, Lover's Lane, Double-or-Nothing Road and part of Slab Road, and developing a roadway between Slab Road and Hwy 31 which tie into present plans for a western by-pass that would complete a loop around Scottsburg. A by-pass will make more areas in Scott County accessible while relieving through traffic traveling through Scottsburg. A wider roadway and drainage ditch improvements along Lover's Lane will help alleviate standing water in the area southeast of Scottsburg.

DOWNTOWN MAIN STREET ENHANCEMENTS

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County, Austin, Lexington and Scottsburg

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

N/A

The downtown areas serve as the core of many communities. The character of each main street tells the story of each community's local history but also provides insight into their future. Downtown public infrastructure improvements in Austin, Lexington and Scottsburg are important to reinforcing the quality of place as well as tourism and economic development. Each city or town should lead the identification of improvements of their downtown. As projects are identified by each community, they should be coordinated with the RDA as necessary.

EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

KEY PLAYERS

Align Indiana, Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Align Southern Indiana Programs

Early education is a key factor in preparing today's youth for their future. Partner organizations, such as Align Southern Indiana, are taking the lead on early education. Align Southern Indiana currently has a kindergarten readiness assessment tool that will be piloted as part of the 2019-2020 school system and will provide a baseline for future readiness strategies. Programs such as this and others should be implemented to increase early education opportunities.

INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS AT I-65 AND SR 356

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Encourage the development of a light and heavy industrial corridor between I-65 and the north/south railroad from Fairground Road (County Road 200S) to SR-356. An interchange in this area will increase access to the areas south of Scottsburg, which will increase the area's attractiveness for industrial and residential development. This interchange will also reduce traffic problems at Hwy 31 and SR-56 providing southern egress to present industrial traffic.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT US 31 AND SR 56

KEY PLAYERS

INDOT and Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Complete intersection improvements at US 31 and SR 56 for safety and capacity. Commercial and industrial growth, combined with residential growth in nearby areas, places a need for improvements of this intersection.

**LAKE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
(LAKE ROAD NORTH TO
BOATMAN ROAD)**

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Widen Lake Road from Lake Road North to Boatman Road to accommodate future industrial growth and development in this area.

**MOONGLO ROAD
IMPROVEMENTS (I-65 TO
BOATMAN ROAD)**

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Widen Moonglo Road from I-65 to Boatman Road to accommodate future growth and development in this area and also provide better east-west access in this area

**OUTER LOOP BYPASS FOR
AUSTIN AND SCOTTSBURG**

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Develop an outer loop bypass around Austin and Scottsburg that would alleviate traffic and congestion issues that currently exist.

REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

N/A

While the RDA is able to have a regional perspective on trails and non-motorized connectivity, each county, city and town are the entities with the ability to implement that regional vision while making critical local connections. As each county, city and town plan for these bicycle and pedestrian improvements, those that create a regional connection or play a regional role should be coordinated with the RDA.

REGIONAL COMMUTER SYSTEM (SALEM, MADISON, SCOTTSBURG)

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Regional transportation is a key factor as our population continues to age and also as our communities continue to grow. The need for a smaller, regional commuter system was identified and Scott County has identified the need to consider the possibility of creating a vanpool system to take commuters to Louisville, Madison, Salem and other communities in Indiana.

SR 56 IMPROVEMENTS (TO STATE ROAD 3)

KEY PLAYERS

INDOT, Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

Commercial development pressures already exist in this area. SR-56 is a well-traveled route and is easily accessible from I-65. Early and thoughtful planning for commercial development of SR-56 will help the community avoid costly land acquisition of developed properties for widening of the right-of-way, avoid costly easement acquisition, avoid incompatible land uses, and avoid multiple curbcuts which will reduce traffic congestion and high accident areas. This could place a need for roadway improvements on SR 56 before development occurs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

N/A

An issue facing many of our communities is substance abuse. Many partner organizations are working to address the substance abuse issue as well as many of its impacts. These programs should be coordinated with the RDA as needed.

WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

KEY PLAYERS

Scott County

PREVIOUS PLANS AND STUDIES

N/A

Workforce training centers and programs that are implemented at a regional level should be coordinated with employment needs, employer desires, programs at local educational institutions while considering changes in future technology. These efforts could include a range of projects, from construction of a regional training center to programs that are offered at a regional level.



4

CHAPTER FOUR

OUR Path for Success

SCOTT
COUNTY
WORK PLAN



OUR PATH FOR SUCCESS

While the Our Southern Indiana RDA led the development of the Our Region | Our Plan documents, the development of the ideas, projects and plan direction were vetted and revised based on input and past planning efforts from the counties, cities, towns, partner organizations and public. Implementation should have ownership at all levels – from the RDA board to counties, cities & towns to partner organizations. In order to implement the projects discussed, the region must be a part of the process and solution.

Chapter 5 of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* outlines the steps for maintaining the plan for long-term implementation. The outlined approach and organization ensure that the pursuit of the regional vision and supporting goals is a process that allows for continuous input from new residents, business owners, and community partners over time. It also allows for each of the incorporated communities, the five counties, and the Our Southern Indiana RDA board to continually update the action plan as other projects and programs are completed. It is not necessarily the responsibility of the RDA board to reach out to each county, city, town or partner, but that responsibility for regional collaboration relies on a two-way form of communication. Local officials should attend the monthly RDA board meetings to not only engage on projects occurring in other communities but also provide insight into their community's projects. Additionally, if local officials request participation or engagement from the RDA on projects that are included in the plan, an RDA representative should actively participate in project meetings, planning and implementation as appropriate.

How Should Scott County Use This Plan?

The following outlines how the county, cities, towns and local partner organizations can use the regional economic development plan as well as coordinate new efforts that will develop, progress or change over time.

1. Project Coordination: How the RDA Can Participate in Partner Projects & Supporter Projects

While the RDA is identified to lead four particular regional initiatives, the remaining projects are identified to be led by the counties, cities, towns and partner organizations. As outlined in Chapter 3 of this Work Plan, the RDA can contribute in varying capacities for those Partner Projects and Supporter Projects, but these projects are ultimately the responsibility of the local entity. It is the responsibility of the local entity to reach out and include the RDA throughout the project development and implementation. This coordination will vary by project and by the resources provided by the RDA. Coordination in the RDA could include a representative of the RDA being included on a steering committee/stakeholder group, periodic coordination meetings and/or updates being presented at an RDA board meeting. By being included as a Partner Project or Supporter Project, the RDA has interest in helping this project move forward but is not ultimately responsible moving the project forward.

2. Regional Redevelopment Toolbox: How the RDA Can Aid in Project Implementation

As a **Development Authority**, the RDA was formed to catalyze transformative economic development and redevelopment within the region. To do this, the RDA needs strategies that will boost local projects and facilitate inter-regional collaboration, to make each local redevelopment dollar go as far as possible. The RDA Development Toolbox (*Our Region | Our Plan Organizational Workplan*) sets out a number of structured programs that will allow the RDA to amplify regionally significant development projects. These tools align with the RDA's purpose and powers, and will be structured to set realistic expectations for local entities, and to provide consistency, reliability and reasonable restraints to RDA activities.

The potential development tools that the RDA could use for project implementation and/or funding are discussed in more detail in the *RDA Our Region | Our Plan Organizational Work Plan* and include the following:

- Technical Support & Advocacy
- Land Banking
- Revolving Loan Program
- Local Matching Grants
- Debt Issuance
- Multi-Jurisdictional Facilitation
- Redevelopment Grants

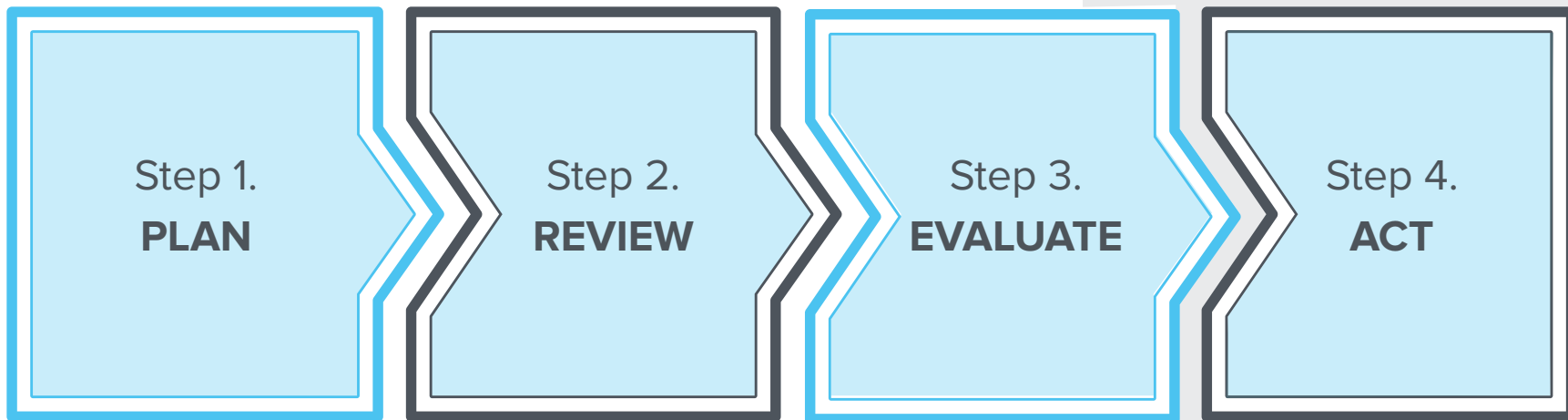
3. Redevelopment Tax Credit: How Redevelopment Projects Can Become Eligible for Redevelopment Tax Credits

The RDA's Redevelopment Plan plays an important role in the consideration of the Redevelopment Tax Credit. This is a state incentive, enacted in 2019, which provides eligibility for a state income tax credit to property owners who redevelop older, blighted properties. Redevelopment tax credits are authorized by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), not the RDA. However, projects that are included within the Regional Development Plan (as defined by the IEDC) are eligible for significantly greater incentives than projects that are not included in the Regional Development Plan. This intensifies the need for the RDA to be proactive and diligent in maintaining the Regional Economic Development Plan with strategic, regionally significant projects.

As development opportunities change over time, the county, cities, towns and development community also need to play an active role in maintaining the list of redevelopment projects in *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* in order for developers to capture these additional tax benefits. If a community has an additional redevelopment project that should be included in the regional plan, the steps outlined in Chapter 5 of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* should be referenced.

4. New Projects: How New Projects Can Be Incorporated Into the *Our Region | Our Plan* document

Our region and communities are dynamic and always changing; therefore, our plans for the future need to change accordingly. The *Our Region | Our Plan* effort recognizes documents that the plans will need to be updated as projects are completed, new issues arise or priorities of the local communities redirect. Chapter 5 of *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* outlines the steps for updating the plan and each local community should be active in this process. The steps further defined in *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* include the following:



While *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan* focuses on how the RDA plays a role in each of the outlined four steps, the following takes a different perspective of the four steps and outlines on how each county, city, town or partner organization can play a role in plan updates.

STEP 1: PLAN

While RDA board members should be involved in regional planning efforts, each community or partner organization should proactively engage a representative of the RDA board in developing regionally significant projects. This could consist of local officials including an RDA board member that represents their county in project planning meetings, steering committee meetings and/or stakeholder meetings so they can report idea development and progress to the RDA board as needed. Including a representative from the RDA in the project development allows for better understanding and context if the community would like RDA support in the future.

STEP 2: REVIEW

As a project develops, the officials leading the project development and implementation should present the project details to the RDA board for consideration to be added to the regional plan. Presentations should be focused on a project's scope, scale, costs and anticipated impact. The RDA board uses two tools when reviewing new projects and will request specific information to determine if the project is regionally significant and the RDA's role.

- The first tool is the [project scorecard](#). It should be reviewed and used by the local community as a tool to ensure each project is regionally significant. More information about this tool can be found in Chapter 5 of *Our Region | Our Plan* as well as Chapter 6 of the *Our Region | Our Plan Organizational Workplan*.
- The second tool is the [return on investment framework](#). This will be used to evaluate a project's regional significance and anticipated return on investment. More information about this tool can be found in Chapter 5 of *Our Region | Our Plan* as well as Chapter 6 of the *Our Region | Our Plan Organizational Workplan*.

STEP 3: EVALUATE

The two tools for evaluation, project scorecard and return on investment framework, should be used by the local communities to frame their projects if RDA resources or support is desired. The RDA board will review the proposed project using these tools and make a decision on resources and/or support at a monthly board meeting.

STEP 4: ACT

Once a project is approved by the RDA board, it will be added to the listing of regional projects by amending Appendix A of the *Our Region | Our Plan Regional Economic Development Plan*, and a representative from the RDA should be included in communications as the project develops and is implemented (Project Coordination page 72).

