

Our Southern Indiana Regional Economic Development Plan

FAQ's Project Information

**People are starting to notice Southern Indiana.
This is our plan to build a better future together.**

The Our Southern Indiana Redevelopment Authority seeks to grow together as a region and collaborate for mutual benefit in order to develop a globally competitive economy, to provide exceptional livability for everyone, to offer world class amenities and to celebrate the diverse people, places, and perspectives of Southern Indiana.

**Learn more at:
<https://oursoinrda.org/>**

What is the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority?

In 2015, the Southern Indiana region recognized that one of the state's biggest threats to economic development is population stagnation, along with educational attainment and offering employers a 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, 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 five counties – Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott and Washington – each voted unanimously to form the Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority (Our SoIN). By the end of that year, the County Commissioners for the five counties unanimously appointed a five-member Board of Directors for the RDA. This group has met monthly throughout 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.

Who are the Regional Development Authority Board members?

The RDA Board of Directors consists of five members appointed by the Boards of Commissioners of Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington counties. Board members serve a four-year term. The 2018-2022 board members and the counties they represent are:

- Dana Huber, VP, Marketing and Public Relations for Huber's Orchard, Winery & Vineyards, and the Starlight Distillery, Clark County. Dana is the group's chairperson.
- John Jones, founder of John Jones Automotive Group, Washington County
- Kevin Kellems, businessman and manager of his family's fifth-generation farm, Jefferson County
- Steve Meyer, retired, Scottsburg High School, Scott County
- Kenny Rush, independent business development consultant, Illini Precast LLC, Floyd County

What is the Our Southern Indiana Regional Economic Development Plan?

The Our Southern Indiana Regional Economic Regional Development Plan is a strategic approach to creating a broad and visionary strategic growth plan for the region. The Our Southern Indiana Regional Development Authority commissioned the plan that will result from a collaborative effort among the RDA members, counties of Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington; local municipalities; as well as numerous public and private organizations.

The plan will provide strategic goals, objectives and recommendations for the region as a whole and the five counties individually – Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Scott, and Washington – to prioritize and make happen that result in drawing investment and quality-of-life improvements to the region.

How is this planning process being funded?

This planning process is being funded through an Indiana Economic Development Corporation planning grant.

What will be in the plan?

The plan will discuss transportation and utilities, housing, education, economic and property development, talent attraction, population growth and financial and economic impacts. Additionally the plan will contain the following:

- Identify the vision, goals, and objectives for the five-county area.
- Assess the regional assets and challenges.
- Anticipate the regional trends.
- Develop initiatives and identify funding opportunities for the region and each county.
- Outline each county's role in achieving the regional goals.
- Provide the RDA with a work plan that is essential to becoming a sustainable guiding force for the region for the next five, ten, and 15 years.

How will the Regional Economic Development Plan be created?

The development plan process is part technical planning (completed in large part by planning professionals), part key stakeholder involvement (by way of a Project Leadership Committee and focus groups), and part public engagement (this means YOU!) Together we will:

- Evaluate existing conditions and determine what local, state and national trends suggest.
- Collect input from a variety of sources to discover issues and opportunities that need addressed.
- Articulate a regional vision through a series of strategies and action step.

Who will be involved in developing the Regional Economic Development Plan?

The Our SoIN RDA board has hired American Structurepoint to lead the development of the plan. Local firm Taylor Siefker Design Group, which specializes in community engagement and placemaking, will support the planning process as well. Policy Analytics, an Indiana-based company, will focus on economic research, public financing, and policy analysis. A project leadership group of county and municipal leaders will provide input and guidance to the planning team at three key milestones. We also will seek input from community stakeholders and will facilitate a variety of public outreach opportunities throughout the planning process.

Who can I contact if I have a question or concern about the planning process?

Please direct your questions to Katie Clark cclark@structurepoint.com or info@oursoinrda.org

Who participates in the development of the plan?

Anyone and everyone! You can use the following tools to follow the plan's progress and provide your input.

Website: The planning process will generate numerous documents, maps, and images. We have added a tab to the Our SoIN RDA website to create a one stop shop for this planning process. Visit <https://oursoinrda.org/> to get updates on our planning process, participate in online polls and surveys and give us your input!

Our SoIN RDA Board Meetings: All of the regular monthly RDA board meetings are open to the public! During each monthly meeting, the planning team will either be presenting our findings, brainstorming solutions, or providing our recommendations to the board. Come and join us and provide your input! The Our SoIN RDA Board meeting schedule is available here: <https://oursoinrda.org/schedule>

Speaker's Bureau: If you have a group that is interested in learning more about the plan, please request a presentation through our Speaker's Bureau program: <https://oursoinrda.org/request-a-speaker-1>. The planning team will do our best to pair you with a member of the project or leadership team so that you and your organization can learn more about this important process.

Public Open House: In case we missed you during our stakeholder outreach, or at the monthly meetings the project team, we will also be hosting two public open houses throughout the process. The meetings will provide information on the planning process, key findings, and draft recommendations. Final dates will be scheduled soon so please refer to the online schedule <https://oursoinrda.org/schedule> for more information.

When will the plan be finalized?

The Our SoIN Board will finalize and approve the plan by the end of June 2019.