

2011

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Greater Wabash Region



Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission

Accepted by the District CEDS Committee: February 23, 2011
Approved by the Economic Development Administration:
Approved by the Board of Directors:



Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission

10 West Main St., P.O. Box 209
Albion, IL 62806

Serving Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White Counties

Sarah A. Mann
Executive Director

March 31, 2011

Mr. C. Robert Sawyer, Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
111 North Canal Street
Suite 855
Chicago, IL 60606-7208

Dear Mr. Sawyer:

Pursuant to the requirements of the EDA 301 (b) planning grant received by Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the attached *2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Greater Wabash Region*. Following approval by the EDA Chicago Regional Office, the District CEDS will be sent to all pertinent individuals within the District.

The District CEDS document represents a complete update of the former CEDS published in 2009. This document incorporates all the new regulations established in 2006 by the Economic Development Administration's Final Rule.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah A. Mann

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Executive Director

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Acknowledgements

The Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission (GWRPC) would like to express its grateful appreciation to the following organizations and local governments for the valuable contribution they made toward the preparation, review and approval of the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2011:

- the CEDS Advisory Committee members
- the Crawford County Board and County Officials
- the Edwards County Board and County Officials
- the Lawrence County Board and County Officials
- the Richland County Board and County Officials
- the Wabash County Board and County Officials
- the Wayne County Board and County Officials
- the White County Board and County Officials
- the Crawford County Development Association
- the Fairfield Area Development Commission
- the Lawrence County Industrial Development Council
- the Richland County Development Council

In addition, the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission wishes to express its appreciation to the organizations and local governments for their contributions toward the preparation, review, and approval of the 2011 CEDS document. GWRPC would also like to recognize the contributions made through the cooperation of various local economic development organizations along with state and federal agencies in providing data and reviewing the accuracy of this document.

2011 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Greater Wabash Region

Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal.....	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
Table of Contents.....	4
Background/ Introduction.....	5
District Organization and Management.....	6
The Seven County District.....	8
District SWOT.....	39
District Goals and Objectives.....	46
Community/ Private Sector Participation.....	51
Vital Projects.....	51
Plan of Action.....	53
Performance Measures.....	54
Appendix.....	55
CEDS Strategy Guidelines.....	56
CEDS Committee	62
GWRPC Board of Directors	63
County Specific Projects	66
References.....	74

Background

Input for this document was provided by the local government officials of Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and White counties, local Economic Development Organizations, Private Businesses, Higher Education, Workforce Development, State and Federal Agencies and Interested Citizens.

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS) is the result of a local planning process designed to guide the economic growth of an area. A CEDDS process helps to create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies and improve living conditions. It provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry concerned with economic development.

A CEDDS is required to qualify for Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance under its public works, economic adjustment, and most planning programs, and is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an economic development district (EDD).

Introduction

What is the CEDDS?

CEDDS are the initials for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The CEDDS is a publication that is a result of a local and area-wide planning process designed to guide and foster the economic growth of the region.

According to the Economic Development Administration, a CEDDS is designed to bring together public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen Regional economies. The CEDDS should analyze the Regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing Regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a Regional plan of action and identifying investment priorities and funding sources.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, CEDDS, is required by federal regulations to qualify for EDA planning investments. As an EDA funded District, Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission is charged with the yearly submission of the CEDDS which is designed to create and retain higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in the most economically distressed areas.

District Organization and Management

The Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission's Economic Development District consists of the following seven counties: Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White. The office of the Commission is located at 10 West Main Street, P.O. Box 209, Albion, IL 62806.

Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission (GWRPC) was officially established in 1964 by the Edwards, Wabash and White County boards. Wayne County was annexed into the Commission in 1971, Lawrence County was added in October 1998, Richland County in December 1998, and Crawford County in 2001. As the assigned planning body of these counties, the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region. GWRPC's by-laws were first established on December 28, 1972.

Governing Body

The GWRPC board of commissioners is composed of six representatives from each county for a total of forty-two commissioners. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting member of the board. Presently the board consists of 22 elected or appointed officials and employees of local government (53%), 20 private representatives/ workforce development/ post-secondary education (47%). A complete list of board members and their affiliations can be found in the appendix of this document.

The Board of Commissioners meets quarterly in March, June, September, and December and meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices are published in the county newspapers one week before the meetings.

District Management

The Board of Commissioners oversees and ultimately approves all official and/or advisory planning activities. Under the Commission's by-laws the forty-two member board retains all policy-making authority and can function between quarterly meetings via a seven member Executive Committee. Routine or day to day management of GWRPC is overseen by the Executive Director. Table 1 depicts the staffing at GWRPC.

Table 1
GWRPC STAFF

Sarah Mann.....	Executive Director
Kara Kuykendall.....	Grant Writer
David Jordan.....	Grant Coordinator
Crissy Thomas.....	Administrative Assistant

The Commission's General Activities

GWRPC's primary concern is the preparation and implementation of the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Commission also provides numerous other services to the seven county region including: planning, technical assistance, and project development in the areas of community and economic development, transportation, housing, land use, public facilities, and natural resources.

The Commission provides grant writing and management for several programs such as the Community Development Assistance Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and EDA Public Works projects. Eligible projects include: public facilities (such as water and sewer), housing rehabilitation, recreation projects, and economic development.

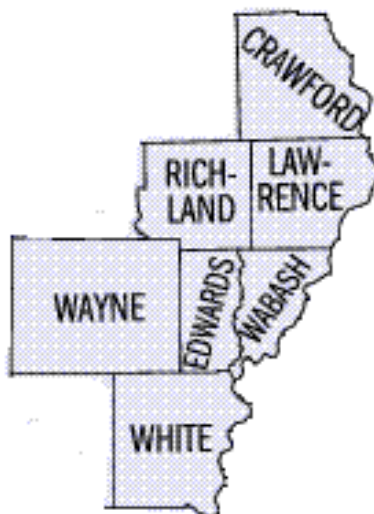
Another one of the many services that GWRPC provides includes a Revolving Loan Fund which was established in 1993 by EDA and Rural Development to assist local businesses and promote economic development. Loans are based on job creation or retention; applicants may be eligible for \$7500 per job with a maximum loan of \$100,000. Since 1993, GWRPC has loaned out over \$2 million for projects totaling over \$13 million. As a result of the revolving loan fund, there have been over 500 jobs created, retained, or saved within the seven county region.

The Commission has served as the coordinator for the *(PSAP)* Participant Statistical Areas Program through the U.S. Department of Census in preparation for the Census 2010 effort. The Commission was responsible for identifying problematic geographical areas that served as census tracts, blocks or designated places.

The Commission is a member of the following Board of Directors: Southeast Alliance of Illinois (saIL), Illinois Association of Regional Councils, Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board and Connect SI Foundation.

The Seven County District

The Greater Wabash region is comprised of the rural Illinois counties of Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White.



Crawford, Lawrence, Wabash and White counties all border the State of Indiana on their eastern sides. The region's center is located adjacent to a number of large metropolitan areas. The Greater Wabash Region is ideally located within a three to four hour commute to major metropolitan cities including Chicago, Illinois, Cincinnati, Ohio, Memphis, Tennessee, St. Louis, Missouri, and Louisville, Kentucky. Evansville, Indiana is located only 50 miles from the center of our region.

According to the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the counties of Edwards, Wabash, Wayne, and White are considered to be in the Economic Development Region of Southern Illinois while the three remaining counties of Crawford, Lawrence and Richland lie within the Southeast Economic Development Region.



DCEO -Southern Region



DCEO- Southeast Region

Regional Economic Profile

Geography

With the Wabash River flowing at the eastern border of the entire Region, the Greater Wabash area is characterized by a highly rural composition. Roughly covering 2,812 square miles, the Region has a total of 43 incorporated communities. Interstate 64 runs through White and Wayne counties, linking the Greater Wabash region with larger communities, such as Evansville, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky and St. Louis, Missouri.

*Table 2
Metropolitan Areas in Close Proximity to the District*

Area	Approximate Driving Hours
St. Louis	2.0
Louisville	2.5
Indianapolis	3.0
Nashville	4.0
Memphis	5.0
Chicago	5.0

*Table 3
Region Characteristics*

	Crawford	Edwards	Lawrence	Richland	Wabash	Wayne	White
2000 Population	20,452	6,971	15,452	16,149	12,937	17,151	15,371
% change from 1990	+ 5.1	- 6.3	- 3.3	- 2.4	- 1.3	- 0.5	- 7
Land area Square Miles	444	222	372	360	223	714	495
Person Per Square Mile	46.1	31.4	41.5	44.9	58	24	31

Climate

The Greater Wabash Region has four distinct seasons and a moderate climate, with average monthly temperatures ranging from 32 F to 90 F. The summers are usually typified by hot, humid weather with highs reaching the upper 90's, and moderate cold winters with night-time lows averaging in the teens. The average precipitation totals approximately 43 inches of rain and 14 inches of snow.

The Region's relatively mild climate poses no significant hindrance to economic development efforts. This factor could, in fact, allow for a much more diverse agricultural sector of the local economy. The growing season lasts about 190 to 200 total days. The Average regional climate in the area is as follows: Summer- 78 degree Fahrenheit, Winter- 32 degree Fahrenheit. The area receives approximately 40 inches of rainfall and 14 inches of snow annually.

Labor Force

The District’s Labor Force is comprised of 50,372 workers as noted in Table 5. As noted in the Annual Unemployment Chart below, the unemployment levels have increased in the region since 2007 and has historically been higher than the U.S. unemployment rate.

*Table 4
Percentage of Population in Selected Age Groups~*

Location	Age 0-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-44	Age 45-64	Age 65+
Crawford	20.3%	9.3%	26.1%	27.7%	16.7%
Edwards	21.2%	6.9%	24%	29.3%	18.7%
Lawrence	18.6%	9.8%	28.5%	25.7%	17.3%
Richland	22.3%	7.9%	23.7%	26.5%	19.7%
Wabash	21.8%	8.3%	23.7%	28.5%	17.7%
Wayne	22.2%	7.7%	23.3%	27.4%	19.3%
White	21.3%	7.3%	22.8%	28.3%	20.4%
Region	21.1%	8.2%	24.6%	27.6%	18.5%

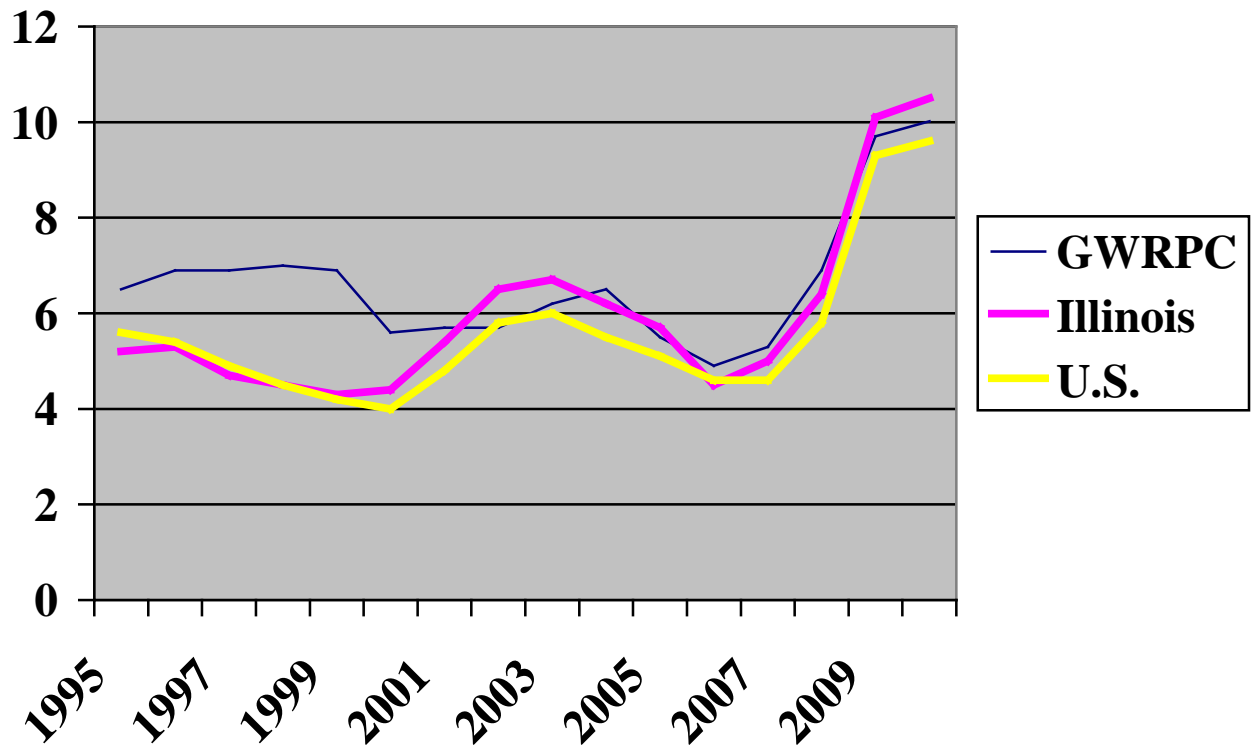
Source: www.statsamerica.org

*Table 5
Labor Force for the Greater Wabash Region*

County	Labor Force
Crawford	9717
Edwards	3105
Lawrence	8285
Richland	7314
Wabash	6052
Wayne	8184
White	7715
Region	50,372

Source: www.statsamerica.org

*Annual Unemployment Rates for the 7-County Region, Illinois,
And the U.S. 1990-2010*



Population Characteristics

The seven county district includes forty-three (43) incorporated communities, the majority of which are aligned in close proximity to I-64, Route 1 or one of the many state and federal routes which provide linkages to other Illinois and Midwestern areas.

According to the 2010 US Census, the population of the Greater Wabash Region was 102,976. This number represents a decrease of 1,507 from the census taken in 2000 which is approximately 1.4%. Two counties, Lawrence and Richland, had an increase in population over the past ten years.

Economic Tools

Most of the District’s larger municipalities are assisted by chambers of commerce, local economic development corporations, and/or industrial commissions comprised of public and private leaders. Village boards, city councils and county boards and their local economic development organizations have begun to cooperate more in order to foster future growth through joint endeavors. These endeavors include enterprise zones, tax increment-financing districts, and jointly financed public infrastructure improvements.

The State of Illinois has designated a number of areas in the Greater Wabash region as Enterprise Zones. State-designated Enterprise Zones are presently in the cities of Albion, Carmi, Fairfield, Grayville, Lawrenceville, Mt. Carmel, Olney, and Robinson. These Enterprise Zones offer a combination of state and local incentives to encourage companies to build or expand within a designated zone. Incentives are available provided that companies invest a certain amount of money and retain or create a certain number of jobs. Businesses that build or expand in an Enterprise Zone may be eligible for significant local property tax abatements and a State sales tax exemption of 6.25% for all building materials. In addition, companies in an Enterprise Zone may receive a state utility tax exemption on gas and electricity. Development in an Enterprise Zone also allows companies to receive a \$500 credit on Illinois income taxes for each job created in the zone. Because of the great financial benefits to companies, local governments actively promote these Zones for economic development.

Several municipalities contain TIF Districts (Tax Increment Financing) including Carmi, Grayville, Fairfield, Robinson, Olney, Lawrenceville and Mt. Carmel. These districts are designed to provide local government with the ability to offer a combination of local and state tax incentives in order to attract private sector investments into defined areas within their local jurisdictions.

*Table 6
Gender Population Characteristics- 2000*

County	Male	Female
Crawford	10,741	10,212
Edwards	3,351	3,599
Lawrence	7,267	8,076
Richland	8,077	8,692
Wabash	6,094	6,536
Wayne	8,230	8,759
White	7,449	8,197
Region	51,209	54,072

Source: 2002 Illinois Statistical Abstract

Table 7
Census Population

County	2000 Population	2010 Population	Loss/Gain
Edwards County	6,971	6,721	-250
Crawford County	20,452	19,817	-635
Lawrence County	15,452	16,833	+1381
Richland County	16,149	16,233	+84
Wabash County	12,937	11,947	-990
Wayne County	17,151	16,760	-391
White County	15,371	14,665	-706
Net Loss to Region:			-1507

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 8
District Racial Composition

County	Caucasian/% of population		Minority/% of population	
Edwards County	6,892	98.9%	79	1.1%
Crawford County	19,139	93.6%	1313	6.4%
Lawrence County	15,139	98.0%	313	2.0%
Richland County	15,852	98.2%	297	1.8%
Wabash County	12,937	97.9%	277	2.1%
Wayne County	16,930	98.7%	221	1.3%
White County	15,097	98.2%	274	1.8%

Source: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs-Comprehensive Economic Development System

Table 9
Population of Incorporated Communities in the Greater Wabash Region

County	Village or City	1980	2000	2010
Crawford	Flat Rock		415	331
	Hutsonville		568	554
	Oblong	1704	1580	1466
	Palestine	1766	1366	1369
	Robinson	6438	6822	7713
	Stoy		119	104
Edwards	Albion	2285	1933	1988
	Bone Gap	350	272	246
	Browns	213	175	134
	West Salem	1145	1001	882
Lawrence	Bridgeport	2281	2168	1886
	Lawrenceville	5652	4745	4348
	Russellville		119	94
	St. Francisville	1040	759	697
	Sumner	1238	1022	3174
Richland	Calhoun		222	172
	Claremont		212	176
	Noble		746	677
	Olney	8864	8631	9115
	Parkersburg		234	199
Wabash	Allendale	613	528	475
	Bellmont	307	297	276
	Keensburg	244	252	210
	Mount Carmel	8908	7982	7284
Wayne	Cisne	705	673	672
	Fairfield	5954	5421	5154
	Golden Gate	126	100	68
	Jeffersonville	340	366	367
	Keenes	123	99	83
	Mount Erie	135	105	88
	Sims	355	273	252
	Wayne City	1132	1089	1032
White	Burnt Prairie	114	58	52
	Carmi	6264	5422	5240
	Crossville	944	782	745
	Enfield	890	625	596
	Grayville	2313	1725	1666
	Maunie	225	177	139
	Mill Shoals	333	235	215
	Norris City	1515	1057	1275
	Springerton	154	134	110

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Income/ Employment Characteristics

As noted in Table 10, the per capita income within the Greater Wabash Region is well below state average. According to Table 11, the percent of the population that is below poverty level is higher than the state average for six out of the seven counties in the district. The average percent of population below poverty for the entire district is 16.5% which is significantly higher than the U.S. average of 13.5%. According to Table 12 and www.statsamerica.org, the Average for the District Average Wage per job in 2008 for the region was \$32,720. The average wage in Illinois was \$48,388. There is a significant difference between the district average and the Illinois average.

Table 10
District Income Characteristics

County	Median Household Income (2008)*	Per Capita Income (2008)
Crawford	\$42,564	\$33,469
Edwards	\$41,275	\$30,099
Lawrence	\$38,999	\$28,141
Richland	\$39,267	\$29,478
Wabash	\$43,642	\$30,798
Wayne	\$38,114	\$31,264
White	\$40,118	\$34,591
Region Average	\$40,568	\$31,120
Illinois	\$56,230	\$42,540

Source: www.statsamerica.org

**Median Household Income is a CEDS 2011 Performance Measure*

Table 11
% of Individuals below Poverty (2009)

Crawford	16.8
Edwards	10.7
Lawrence	16.3
Richland	15.9
Wabash	14.1
Wayne	14.8
White	13.8
U.S.	13.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau- ACS Estimates

*Table 12
District Average Wage per job (2008)**

County	
Crawford	\$41,169
Edwards	\$32,572
Lawrence	\$34,572
Richland	\$29,872
Wabash	\$30,176
Wayne	\$27,995
White	\$32,683
Region Avg.	\$32,720
Illinois	\$48,388

Source: www.statsamerica.com

**Average Wage in a County is a CEDS 2011 Performance Measure*

Table 13
Employment Statistics in the Greater Wabash Region 2009

Definitions

Total Employment (Emp) -Beginning of Quarter Employment Total number of workers who were employed by the same employer in both the current and previous quarter

New Hires (HirNew) -Total number of accessions that were also not employed by that employer during the previous four quarters

Job Creation (FrmJobGain) - The number of new jobs that are created by either new area businesses or the expansion of employment by existing firms.

Separations (Sep) : Total number of workers who were employed by a business in the current quarter, but not in the subsequent quarter.

Turnover Rate (TurnOvrStbl) : $\text{Turnover Rate} = (1/2) * (\text{full-quarter accessions} + \text{full-quarter separations}) / \text{employment stable jobs}$

Net Job Flows- **Job Change** (FrmJobChg) The difference between current and previous employment at each business.

QWI Quickfacts	033 Crawford	047 Edwards	101 Lawrence	159 Richland	185 Wabash	191 Wayne	193 White	Total for Region	Average for Region
2009 Quarter 1									
Avg Monthly Earnings	\$3,100.00	\$2,717.00	\$2,253.00	\$2,321.00	\$2,640.00	\$2,399.00	\$2,701.00	\$18,131.00	\$4,532.75
Avg New Hire Earnings	\$2,213.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,597.00	\$1,244.00	\$2,419.00	\$1,354.00	\$1,735.00	\$12,467.00	\$3,116.75
Job Creation	696	30	98	276	106	127	161	1494	373.5
Net Job Flows	417	-83	-149	49	-68	-50	-9	107	26.75
New Hires	927	84	322	511	304	312	573	3033	758.25
Separations	751	203	535	727	425	442	677	3760	940
Total Employment	6,964	2,615	3,998	6,191	3,473	4,431	4,618	32290	8072.5
Turnover	6.00%	4.80%	8.10%	7.30%	8.30%	6.40%	6.40%	47.30%	11.83%
2009 Quarter 2									
Avg Monthly Earnings	\$3,541.00	\$2,833.00	\$2,379.00	\$2,567.00	\$2,738.00	\$2,550.00	\$2,854.00	\$19,462.00	\$4,865.50
Avg New Hire Earnings	\$6,794.00	\$1,341.00	\$1,630.00	\$1,704.00	\$2,129.00	\$1,401.00	\$2,167.00	\$17,166.00	\$4,291.50
Job Creation	352	131	565	314	292	248	252	2154	538.5
Net Job Flows	-170	15	394	114	121	47	72	593	148.25
New Hires	655	162	765	686	464	424	565	3721	930.25
Separations	1,156	253	629	887	521	605	789	4840	1210
Total Employment	7,507	2,626	4,086	6,531	3,509	4,501	4,752	33512	8378
Turnover	8.80%	3.80%	6.90%	7.30%	7.00%	6.10%	7.00%	46.90%	11.73%
2009 Quarter 3									
Avg Monthly Earnings	\$3,290.00	\$2,948.00	\$2,868.00	\$2,345.00	\$3,069.00	\$2,470.00	\$2,727.00	\$19,717.00	\$4,929.25
Avg New Hire Earnings	\$1,584.00	\$1,424.00	\$5,234.00	\$1,372.00	\$4,142.00	\$1,525.00	\$1,820.00	\$17,101.00	\$4,275.25
Job Creation	129	42	476	204	309	143	187	1490	372.5
Net Job Flows	-178	-53	300	-113	170	-16	-72	38	9.5

New Hires	502	286	965	675	561	394	502	3885	971.25
Separations	809	373	798	945	495	550	692	4662	1165.5
Total Employment	7,128	2,562	4,293	6,321	3,611	4,410	4,523	32848	8212
Turnover	6.10%	4.30%	10.60%	7.90%	8.10%	6.90%	8.80%	52.70%	13.18%
2009 Quarter 4									
Avg Monthly Earnings	\$3,547.00	\$3,341.00	\$2,988.00	\$2,713.00	\$3,477.00	\$2,884.00	\$3,084.00	\$22,034.00	\$5,508.50
Avg New Hire Earnings	\$2,242.00	\$1,665.00	\$2,492.00	\$1,470.00	\$3,660.00	\$1,694.00	\$1,962.00	\$15,185.00	\$3,796.25
Job Creation	227	83	253	308	179	143	193	1386	346.5
Net Job Flows	-103	-23	-495	24	-8	-107	-40	-752	-188
New Hires	547	155	647	770	491	352	448	3410	852.5
Separations	914	352	1,238	948	629	673	649	5403	1350.75
Total Employment	7,106	2,523	4,521	6,468	3,767	4,484	4,591	33460	8365
Turnover	5.80%	4.40%	11.50%	7.40%	8.80%	7.30%	7.80%	53.00%	13.25%

Source: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/LED/qwi.htm>

- *Average Monthly Earning is a CEDS 2011 Performance Measure*

Natural Resources

Agriculture

The Greater Wabash Region's land is used primarily for agriculture. The most important agriculturally related products grown within the Region include corn, wheat, soybeans, milo, along with some livestock, dairy and poultry operations. Agricultural-related work such as fertilizer companies, grain elevators, Implement dealers, seed dealers, accounting firms specializing in farm accounting, high school agriculture teachers, and many other areas of agricultural work provide many of the jobs in the region.

Parks

There are four state parks in the Greater Wabash Region. They include Beall Woods, Crawford County State Fish and Wildlife Area, Sam Dale Lake, and Red Hill State Park. Beall Woods is located in Wabash County and lies along the Wabash River. Included in the park's 635 acres, is one of the few remaining tracts of virgin timber east of the Mississippi River where one can see trees 120 feet tall and over 3 feet in diameter. Besides hiking, Beall Woods also offers camping, picnicking, and fishing. Crawford County State Fish and Wildlife Area is located two miles southwest of Hutsonville and features 1,129 acres for hunting and nine ponds for fishing. Hiking and horseback riding trails are also available. Sam Dale Lake is 194 acres located in Wayne County has fishing, hunting, picnicking, camping and swimming. Red Hills State Park in Lawrence County includes picnicking, camping, hiking and fishing.

Coal Resources

Electricity is a form of energy that is critical to the quality of life of modern-day society. According to the Energy Information Administration, of the U.S. Department of Energy, demand for electricity is projected to increase by 30% between 2010 and 2035. Approximately 50% of electricity in the U.S. is generated from coal. Illinois is blessed with an abundance of coal resources. In Illinois, coal underlies 37,000 square miles, about 65 percent of the state's surface.

As of July 2008, there was an estimated 38 billion tons of recoverable coal reserves in Illinois, representing almost one-eighth of total U.S. coal reserves and one-quarter of the nation's bituminous coal reserves. Illinois' coal reserves are "bituminous", with high energy values ranging between 10,000 and 14,000 Btu/lb. It takes less than one pound of Illinois coal to produce one kilowatt-hour of electricity.

Regarding coal reserves in the this area, the Illinois State Geological Survey estimated that there is approximately eight billion tons of coal beneath the Greater Wabash region, representing about 20 percent of Illinois' vast coal reserves. Because most of the coal is buried deep below the surface, it cannot be mined by surface techniques. In addition, coal within the Illinois Basin has a sulfur content commonly ranging from 3 percent to 4 percent, which is considered high, to some that has ranged a low as 1 percent.. The high sulfur content of this coal can make it less marketable because of stringent environmental regulations and costs to burn high sulfur coal. These regulations have led to major cutbacks in the operations

of mines in the Greater Wabash Region. The three coal operations within the region are White County Coal, LLC, Wabash Mine, and the Friendsville Mine.

White County Coal, LLC., Pattiki Mine, started operations in 1983, and in the year 2010 produced 1.657 million tons. White County Coal is a segment of Alliance Resource Partners LP. ARLP, a publicly traded limited partnership, is a diversified producer and marketer of coal to major United States utilities and industrial users. ARLP is the eighth largest coal producer in the eastern United States.¹ Primary customers are Seminal Electric Cooperative, Inc., Tennessee Valley Authority and numerous spot customers throughout the Midwest and South.

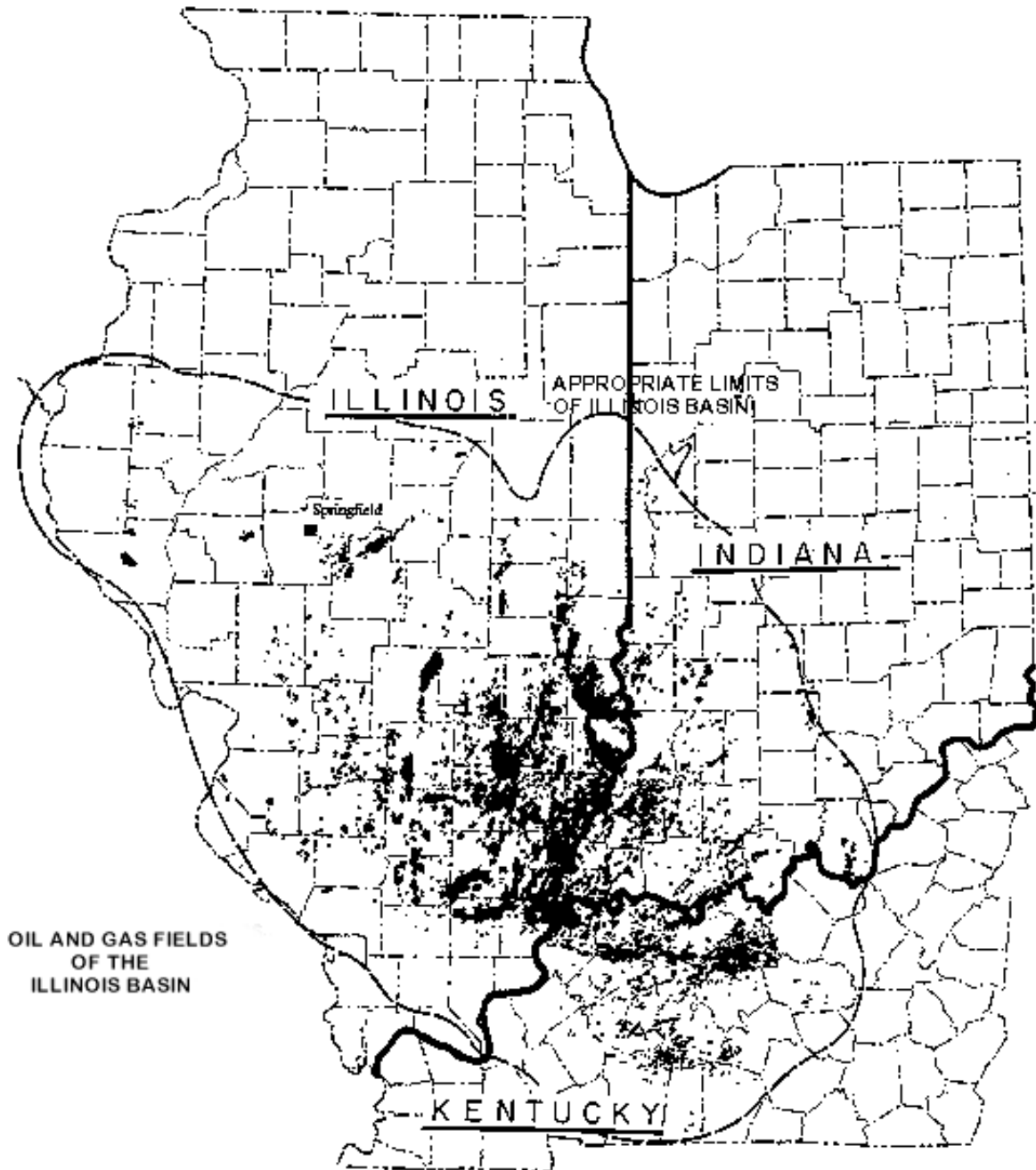
White County Coal produces Illinois #6 seam coal for shipment to Alliance Coal's Mt. Vernon Transfer Terminal located at Mile Post 328.0 on the Ohio River. Pattiki utilizes continuous mining units employing room and pillar mining techniques on four coal producing sections. Production of the high sulfur coal is shipped via CSX railroad. There is an estimated 47.4 million tons of proven and probable reserves in the Pattiki Mine. The Pattiki Mine reportedly produced 2.5 million tons in 2009.²

The Wabash Mine was owned and operated by Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc., a publicly traded company at the time of its closure in 2007. The mine closed after workers went on strike over the failure to reach a new labor contract. The Wabash Mine was a room-and-pillar operation, mining in the Illinois No. 5 seam, located in Wabash County, Illinois. The mine shipped 1.7 million tons of steam coal in 2005. After being cleaned in the preparation plant, the coal was shipped via the Norfolk Southern Railroad to power plants located in the Illinois Basin, in particular to the Duke Energy Gibson Power Station in Owensville, Indiana, one of the largest power plants in the U.S., which is approximately 15 miles from the Wabash mine. With its proximity to the Gibson Generating Power Plant, one of the world's largest coal-fired power plants, some speculate that the Wabash Mine may potentially be re-opened following the expiration of certain worker benefits tied to the closure of the plant.

The Friendsville Mine is a surface mine operation located in Wabash County, near Mt. Carmel, Illinois, that supplies approximately 1 million tons of coal each year, for the Alcoa Warrick Power Plant, located southeast of Newburgh, Indiana, approximately 60 miles from the mine. The Alcoa Warrick Power Plant provides power for Warrick Operations, one of the largest aluminum smelting and fabricating facilities in the world. The coal mine is owned by Friendsville Mine, LLC., and controlled by Vigo Coal Company, Inc. Opened in 2006, the mine is managed and operated by Vigo Coal Company, Inc. The mine employs approximately 55 people. In 2010, the Friendsville mine produced 977,000 tons of coal.

Petroleum Resources

The Greater Wabash region lies over some of the most productive oil deposits in the Midwest properly named the *Illinois Oil Basin*. The *Illinois Oil Basin* not only includes Southern Illinois but also extends to western Kentucky and western Indiana.



2008 State of Illinois Petroleum production: (In thousands of barrels/year)

1. White	1,109.8
2. Marion	1,097.9
3. Crawford	903.3
4. Lawrence	869.6
5. Clay	643.3
6. Fayette	604.8
7. Wayne	562.2
8. Wabash	465.2
9. Richland	381.0
10. Franklin	357.1
11. Jefferson	265.3
12. Jasper	226.9
13. Clark	221.6
14. Hamilton	218.8
15. Edwards	192.2
16. Washington	190.7
17. Gallatin	170.8

From this list, you will see that the GWRPC counties (**bolded**) are among the highest oil producing counties in the entire State of Illinois.

Oil deposits have been extracted in this area since the middle portion of the past century. While oil production decreased from 1970 to 2000, it has grown in recent years, after oil prices started increasing in the year 2003. Oil prices have gone up and down over the last four years since before 2007. They oil prices peaked at \$145 a barrel in 2008 and are currently hovering around \$100. Simply stated, pricing levels have been favorable to crude oil production. The oil industry in this area is responsible for a large portion of employment in the Greater Wabash region, and provides good paying jobs to many of those within the industry. Oil production in 2010 was around 9 million barrels of oil.

Oil is by far the most important mineral resource in Crawford County. In 2008, Crawford County was the third largest producer of oil in the state. In 2010, production was around 939,000 barrels. One of the significant users of crude oil production in the region is Marathon Petroleum Company LLC, which is has been one of the top two largest employers in Crawford County with over 600 employees. The Robinson facility is reportedly the third-largest refinery in the Marathon Petroleum system.

In 2008, White County was the top oil producing county in the State of Illinois. During the past 60 years, White County has produced approximately 245,000,000 barrels of oil. It is currently producing between 1.0 million and 1.1 million barrels of oil per year. White County has been the home base of three companies which provide drilling rigs and well servicing rigs with depth capabilities from 1,500 to 12,000 feet. White County is considered to be one of the hubs in the oil service industry. Well service work has been abundant in White County.

Other services include supply companies, acidizing and stimulation, cased hole logging and perforating, drill pipe and casing inspection, coring services, down hole completion tools, rock bit services, down hole production chemical services, and injection pump and valve repair. The oil industry has been responsible for employing nearly 500 people within White County.

Every year since 2002, except for a dip in 2009, oil prices have increased in price per barrel, affecting the crude oil industry in a positive way. Steady higher prices in 2010 and 2011 have encouraged more drilling, which has increased the demand for oil service companies to employ more, helping the entire region.

Bio-fuels

Currently, there is one ethanol plant within the region, in Crawford County. This ethanol plant utilizes corn as the feedstock for ethanol production. The Lincolnland Agri-Energy, LLC ethanol facility in Crawford County invested millions of dollars to build in the area, it provides 38 full time jobs, and requires services from several local companies for various work scopes required to sustain the plant. In addition, an end user of a locally grown corn adds the value to the grain right here and therefore increases relative price levels and returns to the local farmers. Lincolnland purchases approximately 18 million bushels of locally grown corn each year. Distiller's grains, a high protein, high value livestock feed is also produced at the facility.

Infrastructure

Community facilities provide a foundation on which community and economic development efforts can be built. Many of the older, low-income communities in the Greater Wabash region are typified by antiquated, inadequate infrastructure. A considerable amount of improvements in public water and sewer systems have occurred with the help of competitive grants and loans to initiate needed public facilities improvements. In order to continue the process of assessing the seven-county region's tools for successfully fostering and supporting future economic development, continued evaluation of essential public and private sector utilities, facilities, and services is imperative. These facilities are critical to the District's ability to accommodate future private sector investments.

Water Resources

The most important water resource in the Greater Wabash Region is the Wabash River. The Wabash River flows down the eastern boundaries of Crawford, Lawrence, Wabash, and White Counties. The Wabash River and its local tributaries drain the vast majority of all seven counties. These tributaries include the Little Wabash River, which flows through Edwards, Wayne, and White counties. A portion of southwest White County is in the drainage basin of the Saline River, which flows directly into the Ohio River. In addition to the surface streams, there is also an aquifer that extends beneath the Wabash River. This underground river contains a massive supply of water. The aquifer has been used to supply water to many communities in the Greater Wabash Region. While there are numerous streams in the region, there are only a few lakes of substantial size. Three of these lakes include 934-acre East Fork Lake in Richland County, 194-acre Sam Dale

Lake in Wayne County and Mesa Lake in Wabash County. In addition to these lakes, Fairfield is currently working on building a new 100-acre lake.

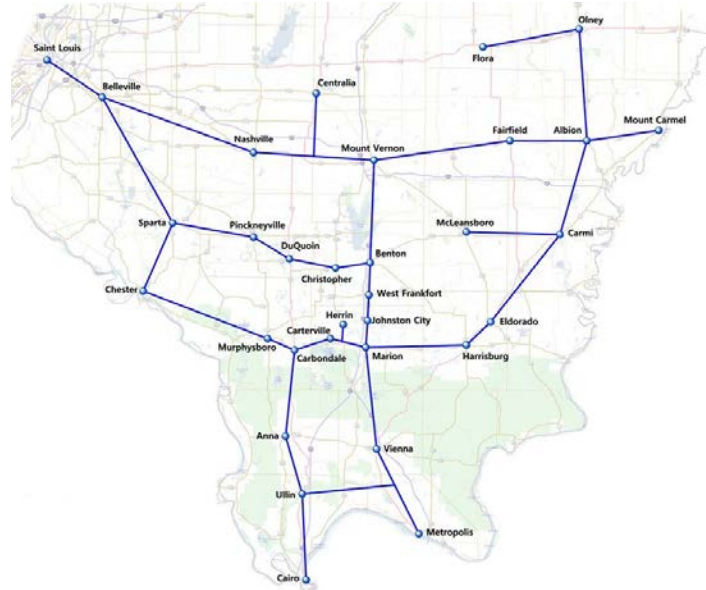
Water supplies can play a vital role in the decision making process of a private sector investment. Availability and cost of public utilities are essential to further the region's progress. In addition to municipal water supplies, there are several rural water companies throughout the seven county region. South Lawrence Water and Birds-Pinkstaff Water supplies water to Lawrence County, Western Wayne Water District supplies water to Wayne County, Ellery Water Corporation supplies water to Edwards, White and Wayne Counties. RE Water supplies to Edwards County. Rural Wabash supplies to Wabash County. Jasper Waterworks along with Boyleston and New Hope Water District all supply water to unincorporated Wayne County. Brownsville Water supplies water to portions of White County.

Communications

The seven county Region understands the important role that technology places in the economic development of an area, and the quality of life that its citizens enjoy and come to expect. Access to current and future technology is essentially tied to the ability to send and receive information. In August 2010, Clearwave Communications, as part of the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership (IBOP), received one of only a handful of grants awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA's) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) to develop rural broadband. Headquartered in Harrisburg, Illinois, Clearwave has been providing southern Illinois with voice and data services since 1996.

With the help of these federal and state grants, as well as private funding, Clearwave will be building much needed middle-mile infrastructure to make broadband accessible in the rural areas of southern Illinois, as well as directly connecting colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, health care providers and public safety entities. By August 2013, the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership-Southern will have laid more than 740 miles of fiber optic cable through 23 counties, and connected 232 community anchor institutions to the next generation network.³ The project includes plans to offer points of interconnection for last-mile providers in the proposed service area. Additionally, the funding will provide the Counties of Southern Illinois Next Generation 9-1-1 (CSI NG911), a consortium of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), the network needed to facilitate the implementation of the nation's first standards-based NG 9-1-1 public safety system.

Clearwave Communications Broadband Expansion Map



Energy distribution systems

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, Ameren/CIPS, and Norris Electric Cooperative are the electric companies for the seven county Region. In 2010, Wayne-White Electric joined forces with Hoosier Energy. The new alliance provides new economic development tools to the White, Edwards, Wayne and Richland Counties. Hoosier Energy is a generation and transmission cooperative that provides economic development assistance to the counties that they serve. Ameren CIPS also provides benefits to their member counties. Ameren has an alliance with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and provides rebate programs for energy projects. Ameren also provides a program to economic developers to help them get their sites ready for new investment.

Railroads and Ports

The Region is connected by a system of railroads. In many instances, rail lies adjacent to the major highways in the region. Rail lines follow State Highway 15, State Highway 14, US 50 and US 45. Three major railroad systems- CSX Corp., Wabash and Ohio Railroad and Norfolk Southern Corp. serve the Tri-State's rail transportation needs. In addition, Indiana Railroad serves Crawford County.

Air Transportation

Several municipalities have small airports including Carmi, Fairfield, Lawrenceville, Robinson and Mt. Carmel. Evansville Regional Airport in Evansville, Indiana is the closest airport with daily passenger flights. They provide daily flights to national hub airports including Detroit, Memphis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Atlanta, and Dallas. The 140,000 square foot terminal features a restaurant, lounge, and car rental companies. The Evansville terminal is served by American Eagle and Delta Connection. Evansville Regional Airport provides over 24 daily departures to the 6 national hub airport locations previously listed.

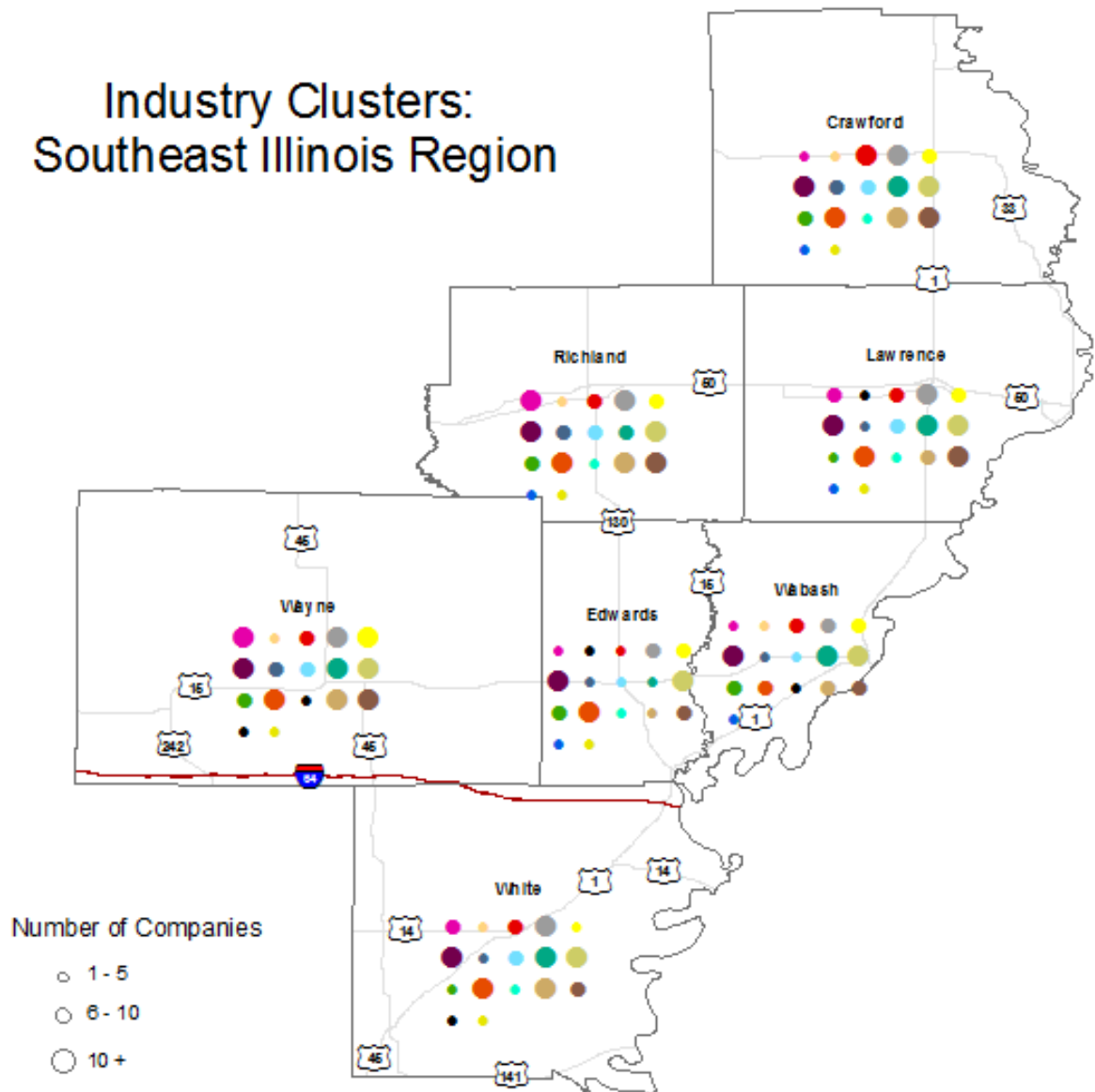
The Mid-American Air Center complex is a general aviation airport located in Lawrence County. It generated a total economic impact of \$14,676,028 in the year 2000 as determined by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The Center is publicly owned and employs over 600 employees. It is home to foreign trade zone #146, as well as the Vincennes University Flight Program.

Economic Clusters

Several economic clusters exist within the region including warehousing/distribution, mining, and plastics. However, the largest cluster in the Greater Wabash district is the automotive industry. There are several automotive related companies within the district including the following:

Company	Product or Service	County
Automotive Technology Systems, LLC	Interior Automotive Trim	Lawrence
BM Truck Equipment	Truck Equipment	Richland
Richland Mfg. Co.	Metal Stamps	Richland
Olney Manufacturing and Design	Tool and Die Equipment	Richland
Xenia Manufacturing	Parts for Automotive Lighting Systems	Richland
Champion Laboratories	Filters	Edwards
Willy's Carburetor and Dyno Shop	Carburetors	Wabash
Cooling Systems Technology, Inc.	Radiator Parts	Wabash
B & D Independence Inc.	Custom Mobility Lifts	Wabash
Trelleborg YSH	Rubber	White
Dana Sealing Products Corporation	Gaskets	Crawford
AirTex Products, Inc.	Fuel Delivery and Cooling System Products	Wayne
Hoosier Wheel & Stamping	Wheels	White

Industry Clusters: Southeast Illinois Region



Key to the Industry Cluster Grid:

Forest & Wood Products	Glass & Ceramics	Information Technology & Telecommunication	Transportation & Logistics	Manufacturing Supercluster
Business & Financial Services	Chemicals & Chemical Based Products	Defense & Security	Education & Knowledge Creation	Energy (Fossil & Renewable)
Advanced Materials	Agribusiness, Food Processing & Technology	Apparel & Textiles	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Visitor Industries	Biomedical/ Biotechnical (Life Sciences)
Mining	Printing & Publishing	No establishments in this County		

Map developed by the Indiana Business Research Center, December 10, 2010.

Talent and Workforce Development

Educational and workforce development efforts in the Greater Wabash region take several forms, and each length of the talent pipeline is vital to supporting a globally-competitive economy. The educational system ranges from early childhood to hands-on job training, networking and leadership development programs. The quality of services at every level influences the talent development, retention and attraction success of the region.

Workforce Development

Workforce development encompasses organizations at the national, state, and local levels that have direct responsibility for planning, allocating resources (both public and private), providing administrative oversight and operating programs to assist individuals and employers in obtaining education, training, job placement, and job recruitment. Included in this broad network are several agencies charged with providing specific education and/or training support and other labor market services such as labor market information. At the state and local levels the network includes state and local workforce investment boards, state and local career and technical education and adult education agencies, vocational rehabilitation agencies, recognized apprenticeship programs, state employment and unemployment services agencies, state and local welfare agencies, and/or sub-units of these entities. There exists a wide array of organizations that provide direct education, training, or employment services (e.g. technical schools, colleges, and universities, vocational rehabilitation centers, apprenticeship programs community based organizations, one-stop centers, welfare to work training programs, literacy programs, unions, and labor/management programs).

There are two workforce development regions within the Greater Wabash District. Southern 14 Workforce Development Board covers White, Edwards, Wabash and Wayne and Crossroads Workforce Development covers Richland, Crawford and Lawrence Counties.

Higher Education

The Greater Wabash Region is home to The Illinois Eastern Community College system, IECC. IECC includes four colleges, all located within the district. The IECC College System is a major asset to this region. The mission of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District 529 is to provide excellence in teaching, learning, public service, and economic development.⁵

The Illinois Eastern Community College researches labor market information/jobs in the district in order to develop the appropriate programs for the needs in the region. A few of the ways they go about matching workforce needs with program development are listed below.

1. When the District/colleges develop new career and technical education programs, degrees (60+ credit hours) or certificates (10-40 credit hours), a needs' analysis is the first step of the application. The analysis includes:
 - a. Input from Advisory Councils, which are comprised of business and industry representatives from the specific program field or career cluster

- b. labor market information collected for the College District (529), for the State, for the Local Workforce Investment Area, and usually for bordering states
- c. analyze current employment needs as well as projected needs (short-term and long-term)
- d. describe what the required skills and skill levels are- with input from the Advisory Councils
- e. analyze the cost of implementing the program versus expected enrollment.

2. Program reviews for all career and technical education programs are conducted on a 5-year rotating basis. The review, which is submitted annually to the Illinois Community College Board in a formal report, identifies quality, need, and cost of each degree and certificate program that is being reviewed during that cycle. If the program is no longer meeting labor market demand, or does not have updated equipment or facilities, lack of instructional staff, or has become too expensive to operate based on enrollment, completions, and job placements, then the program is withdrawn, revised, or deactivated pending further review.

3. This same program review process applies to the career and technical education programs that are listed on the State approved LWIA program list. IECC reviews these programs at least annually, and must ensure that these lead to sustainable employment/wages.

4. Assessment processes of the District also review program need based on student learning outcomes.

In summary, IECC works closely with business and industry, local workforce boards (23 and 26), k-12 school districts through federal programs such as Tech Prep and Perkins, dual credit programs, the LWIA Youth Council, etc. toward the continuous improvement of academic programs and services in order to better prepare our workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

The Region's Employers

The Greater Wabash region is home to many large employers including food industries, automotive equipment, health care, etc. A strength of the region is that the employment is diversified and can aid in the recruitment of new businesses to the area. A diversified business sector does not allow a certain label to be placed on the area and restrict the kinds of businesses that would be willing to locate in the area. The major employers in the Greater Wabash Region include the following:

Major Employers in Crawford County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
Hershey Chocolate USA	Candy	700
E.H. Baare	Wire	120
Marathon Petroleum	Refinery	600
Robinson Correctional Center	Corrections	300
Dana Sealing Products Corporation	Soft Gaskets & Engine Repair Kits	220
Crawford Memorial Hospital	Health Care	350
Community Schools/Colleges	Education	600
Fair-Rite Product	Electronic Shields	40
Tempco Products	Aluminum and Vinyl Doors and Windows	65
Data Max O'Neill	Labels	95
Lincolnland Agri-Energy	Ethanol	33
Illiana Cores	Cardboard Cores	17

Major Employers in Edwards County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
Champion Laboratories	Automotive Filters	1243
Wabash Valley Service Company	Agriculture Service	75

Major Employers in Lawrence County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
Automotive Technology Systems, LLC	Automotive Supplies	700
Mid-America Air Center	Air Services	600
Lawrence Correctional	Corrections	500

Center		
Golden Rule Insurance	Insurance	340
Community School Systems	Education	339
Rucker's Wholesale	Candy	135
United Methodist Village	Retirement Home	216
Lawrence County Memorial Hospital	Health Care	170
Global Wire Technologies	Wires	95
CLC Pine Lawn Manor	Retirement Home	83
Wal-Mart	Retail	85
Lawrence Community Health Care Center	Health Care	80
Red Hill Healthcare Center	Health Care	67
McKim's IGA	Retail Food	65
Lawrenceville Manor	Retirement Home	65
ERG Illinois	Energy	59
Pioneer Oil	Energy	55
Central Cigar & Candy Co.	Candy	30
AgriGold Hybrids	Agriculture Service	30
Team Energy, LLC	Energy	33

Major Employers in Richland County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
Wal-mart Food Distribution Center	Distribution Center	850
Richland Memorial Hospital	Health Care	450
East West School Districts	Education	388
Wal-mart Super-Center	Retail	300
Olney Central College	Education	226
Pacific Cycle	Bicycles	225
Schneider National Trucking	Transportation	178
Prairie Farms Dairy	Dairy	107
Weber Clinic	Health Care	100
Weinmann Sport	Bicycle Rims	96
Master Halco, Inc.	Vinyl/Steel Fencing	80
Richland Mfg. Company	Automotive Parts	70
Molding Systems Corp.	Plastic	62
Imperial Trailer Mfg. Inc.	Trailer Manufacturing	33

Major Employers in Wabash County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
Wabash Mine	Mining	250
Mt. Carmel Schools	Education	250
Wabash Valley College	Education	230
Wabash County Hospital	Health Care	200
Pacific Press and Shear Company	Metal Forming Equipment	65
Friendsville Mine	Strip Mining	55
Cooling Systems Technology, Inc.		53
Wabash Asphalt	Asphalt	30

Major Employers in Wayne County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
AirTex Products, Inc.	Automotive parts	750
Fairfield Memorial Hospital	Health Care	350
Web Printing Control	Service	75
Southern Illinois Primary Care Associates	Health Care	30
Wayne County Press	Newspaper/Press	35
Walters Buildings	Construction	25
Morton Buildings	Construction	17
Gordy's Machine and Tool	Service	17

Major Employers in White County

Company	Products or Service	Number Employed
White County Coal	Coal Mine	231
Martin & Bayley, Inc.	Food Distributor	112
Trelleborg YSH	Rubber	210
Wal-Mart Super-Center	Retail	200
Wabash Christian Retirement	Retirement Facility	160
First Bank	Banking	50
Hoosier Stamping	Automotive Parts	40
Elastec	Pollution Control	68
Wabash Area Development	Community Action Agency	140

Past, Present and Future Economic Development Investments in the Region:

Economic Development Administration Investments

Grantee	Year	Amount	Project
Crawford County	2010	\$1,493,000	Industrial Park Improvements
Lawrenceville	2010	\$1,776,846	Small Business Park Improvements
City of Fairfield	2009	\$1,200,000	Water Treatment Facility
Lawrenceville/Bi-State	2005	\$100,000	Floodplain Analysis
City of Grayville	2002	\$311,389	Industrial Park
City of Mount Carmel	1999	\$1,032,920	Water Tower/Industrial Park
Lawrence County	1999	\$1,109,900	Infrastructure Improvements
Lawrenceville	1998	\$1,031,057	Industrial Park Improvements
City of Olney	1994	\$516,250	Sewer/Water Line
City of Mount Carmel	1993	\$342,844	Roadway Extension and Improvement
City of Olney	1992	\$934,760	Industrial Park Development
City of Albion	1991	\$835,417	Water Well & Treatment Facility
City of Fairfield	1989	\$1,101,000	Water Transmission Line
City of Albion	1987	\$657,934	Access Road
City of Mount Carmel	1983	\$329,555	Access Road
City of Albion	1979	\$90,000	Water Tanks/Mains

Delta Regional Authority Investments

Norris City	2010	\$127,379	Bucyrus Road in Industrial Park
City of Carmi	2005	\$146,700	Upgrade Sewer Line

District SWOT

Strengths

Quality of Life

Quaint small town surroundings offer low crime, friendly neighborhoods - slower paced lifestyle and lower cost of living. The region is centrally located within driving distance of several larger cities.

Local incentives

Local incentives are offered to businesses such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Enterprise Zones, low-interest Revolving Loan Funds. Development costs are lower for the Greater Wabash district than other areas of the state. The region also has available land for development.

Education

The Greater Wabash Region is home to a system of community colleges. The four colleges are a major asset to this region. The college system is capable of working with the local workforce development offices to develop training specifically tailored for unemployed workers in the region as well as with companies to train employees for specific job skills.

Available Resources/ Energy/Agriculture

The region has an abundance of natural resources including Coal and Petroleum.

Weaknesses

Floodplains

Various portions of the Greater Wabash Region lie in floodplain areas that are adjacent to major water sources. These sources include the Wabash River, Bonpas Creek, Elm River, Fox River, Skillet Fork River, and the Little Wabash River. Floodplains can pose a serious constraint to economic development. There are a number of municipalities in the region that are at major or minor flooding risk due to their proximity to flood zones.

Population Decline

Within the Greater Wabash region, a major weakness that plays a significant role is the population decline. There has been a significant population loss over the last decade which can be viewed by referring back to Table 7. Some of this population loss can be attributed to “youth brain drain”. Brain drain occurs when the region loses college graduates to other areas with higher skilled job opportunities or more knowledge based economies. Another problem is that the population that remains in the region is aging. Referring back to Table 4, the number of 18-24 year olds in the region is startlingly low. Over the next several years, the population will consist mainly of retirement age. An aging population poses several problems and affects many areas including workforce, health care, and housing.

The region has been in a steady decline for some time. We are not creating high skill/high wage jobs and the traditional low wage/low skill jobs are moving overseas or being replaced by technology. According to the Illinois Workforce Investment Act Implementation there is a need for the analysis of skill shortage occupations that pay a good wage and analysis of the on-the-job factors which lead to a shortage. Once analyzed, influencing of education facilities to redirect training toward these shortage areas will be needed. Therefore, a plan is needed in the District to identify skill shortages and training needs. Other problems identified include low paying wages (entry average wages are at poverty level for a head of household and two children).

Business Assistance

Another major weakness of the District is the fact that the area does not have a developed small business incubator system. The atmosphere of the district is not as conducive to small businesses as other districts in the vicinity. This poses a big problem for economic growth in the District. A favorable business climate is fundamental for a healthy economy.

Health Care

There is a lack of local emergency care and hospital serves in two of the seven counties. White County is currently in the process of trying to restore emergency and hospital services. This can hinder development because of the travel time to emergency care. Some occupations require that emergency care be available immediately.

Cultural

There is a lack of social and cultural amenities that can be found in larger communities.

Opportunities

The Greater Wabash District has several strengths to rely on to create growth in the area. The District is strategically located in the Midwest with a major interstate highway that runs through it. This helps to attract potential industrial, commercial, and business development. The District also has the potential to have good broadband Internet technology and communication services through the new BTOP grant projects. Technology is continually being upgraded within the district. The District can also boast that it has a good quality of life, which is evident by low crime rates, less congestion, lower cost of living and a strong work ethic.

Opportunities with Industrial Parks

There are many opportunities for growth within the Greater Wabash District. However, industrial parks could be one of the biggest opportunities for growth in the Region. There are several industrial parks that are already developed and can accommodate businesses as well as several that are being developed. As evidenced by the figures in the Table 15, the Region has several industrial parks.

Table 14
Greater Wabash District Industrial Parks

Location	Name	Available Acres
Albion	Eastgate	54
Albion	Southgate	5
Bridgeport	Lawrence County Industrial Park	35
Carmi	East Industrial Park	11
Carmi	West Industrial Park	full
Fairfield	Hwy 45,South, Industrial Park	125
Fairfield	Southwest Industrial park	38
Fairfield	West Industrial Park	8
Grayville	Grayville Industrial Park	20
Lawrenceville	Lawrenceville Small Business Park	69
Lawrence County	Mid-American Air Center Industrial park	160
Mount Carmel	Mount Carmel Industrial Park	20
Mount Carmel	Southgate	15
Olney	West Industrial Park	50
Olney	South Industrial/AMF	70
Olney	Benton Site	80
Olney	US 50 Intermodal Logistics Park	194
Robinson	Ridgeway Industrial Park	80

One potential opportunity lies within the 371 acres in Lawrence County. The Mid-American Air Center Industrial Park is located within the airport, which has a total of 3000 acres making it the third largest airport complex in Illinois. There are more than 15 industries and businesses already located there, and Foreign Trade Zone #146 is based there. This presents a

tremendous potential for further development, especially for the aircraft industry. Since the Mid-American Air Center is such an integral part of the economic livelihood of the entire EDD, keeping it not only viable but competitive is a major goal. The Toyota plant at Princeton, Indiana, ATS at Lawrenceville, Illinois, and many other local industrial and business partners depend on the air service for both freight and movement of personnel. A recent assessment of the facilities indicated that a new terminal and hangers are needed to keep the airport competitive and to not only service current customers but to encourage new growth.

Opportunities with Energy

Coal: The existence of coal resources in the region, in combination with the proximity to one of the world's largest coal-fired power plants, presents favorable opportunities for coal mining in the region. As mentioned previously, Illinois coal is considered to be high sulfur coal. Coal with less sulfur content comes from other regions of the U.S., including western states. Although the high sulfur content has worked against Illinois coal, the recent surge in transportation costs is working for Illinois coal, as it is becoming increasingly costly to ship coal from distant states to the Midwest, thereby improving the feasibility for those consuming coal to justify the costs of utilizing higher sulfur coal. Another opportunity would be the Wabash Mine that is still closed but has the potential to be reopened and create jobs within the region.

Petroleum: The existence of crude oil resources in the region, in combination with the current supportive pricing of crude oil, presents favorable opportunities for crude oil production in the region. Use of Enhanced Oil Recovery techniques may serve as a boost to crude oil production in the region.

Biofuels: The existence of agricultural production in the region, including crops that support bio-fuels (e.g. corn to support ethanol and soy to support biodiesel), with the nation's need to produce liquid fuels to reduce reliance on foreign oil, and with the nation's need for renewable energy, bio-fuels may present favorable opportunities for this region.

Solar Power: With a respectable amount of sun available in this region, technological developments making solar power more cost-effective, and federal and state incentives that reward those who install clean energy technologies, solar power presents a favorable opportunity for this region.

Earth Energy- Geothermal Ground-source Heat Pump Technology: With a favorable climate-balance of hot and cold seasons in this region, geothermal ground-source heat pump technology presents a favorable opportunity.

Energy-from-Waste: With the considerable amount of landfill waste produced in this region, in combination with the need to reduce reliance on non-renewable sources of energy, energy-from-waste technologies has the potential to present a favorable opportunity for this region.

For the past few years, Connect SI has facilitated energy discussions throughout Southern Illinois, *Connecting with the Future of Energy*. A broad range of topics have been discussed: *The Promise of Coal Gasification; The Future of Coal Mining; Biofuels: Ethanol, Biodiesel and Beyond; Energy Sustainability; Wind Power in Southern Illinois; Energy & the Public Sector, Energy Savings Techniques for Local Government, New National initiatives; A Fresh Start for Energy Opportunities in Southern Illinois; and energy from the Heartland: The Role of Illinois in Biomass Feedstock Research and Production*. These energy discussions are an asset to the region and hopefully will continue to occur within the region.

Opportunities with Agriculture

Agricultural related opportunities always exist within the Greater Wabash region. There are several specialty crops that have been tried or are currently being tried including pumpkins, cantaloupe, tobacco, popcorn, lavender, grapes and canola. The region plays host to many types of agriculture including: watermelons, cantaloupes, pumpkins, popcorn, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, potatoes, popcorn, canola, gooseberries, hot peppers, peppers, gourds, mums, tomatoes, tobacco, green beans, white corn, cabbage, cucumbers, sweet corn, and strawberries. The Greater Wabash Region raises several varieties of livestock including pork, beef, chickens, turkeys, buffalo, catfish and goats.

During late 2006, a series of Connect SI Community of Interest asset mapping exercises were conducted within the region which led to the identification and analysis of dozens of animal and plant agricultural products available in Southern Illinois. The mapping results showed from the obvious (corn, soybeans, beef) to the obscure that Southern Illinois agriculture is remarkably productive and diversified. As part of the mapping crop/product strengths and weaknesses were identified. Strategies need to be developed to fully maximize the value of the region's diverse agricultural resources.

Opportunities with Broadband

The two regional projects that will be bringing "middle mile" broadband to the Greater Wabash region will bring ample opportunity for expansion of broadband services to the region.

The Clearwave project serves five of the seven counties in the Greater Wabash Region. The other two counties are being served by another broadband project.

Broadband Illinois, also known as Partnership for a Connected Illinois, is in the process of establishing a statewide network of Regional eTeams, which will be involved in convening broadband stakeholders, aggregating demand and identifying supply side solutions.

The existing overall broadband landscape in Illinois naturally falls into several regions. These are made up of existing regional initiatives and significant broadband infrastructure projects. The East Central Regional eTeam includes Lawrence, Crawford and Richland Counties. An East Central Regional eTeam Coordinator will be working closely with community leaders to assist in creating economic development opportunities through broadband planning, expansion, education, and use. The Southern Region eTeam is being facilitated by Connect SI and includes the Greater Wabash region counties of Wabash, Wayne, White, and Edwards. The Southern Regional eTeam will be working with existing initiatives, and aggregating demand in the area of adoption, while working with numerous Community Anchor Institutions.

Tourism

Tourism creates an opportunity within the Greater Wabash Region. Tourism development has been identified as one source of enhancing the economic potential of the Greater Wabash Region. The Southeastern Illinois Convention and Visitors Bureau produces a visitor guide which enhances tourism by highlighting the many festivals, parades, bed and breakfasts, and the historical sites located across this region. Each area's Chamber of Commerce, along with the Southeastern Illinois Convention and Visitors Bureau maintain a current calendar of events which are available to assist tourists.

Another opportunity for the Greater Wabash Region is the hunting/wildlife industry. Within the seven county region, there are several hunting outfitters bringing several hundred hunters to the region every year. These hunters bring additional revenue to the area and also could lead to the development of other businesses to accommodate this growing industry. There could be a potential for industry related retail stores, restaurants, and hotels if this industry continues to grow at the same rate. There are more than over ten hunting preserves/outfitters located in the Greater Wabash Region. These hunting outfitters provide year round hunting opportunities for deer, turkey and other wild game.

Connect SI is currently working on several tourism related project. One particular project involves the use of a website as a global web portal for all things Southern Illinois. This website will allow a packaging feature for those who live anywhere to purchase and pay for pre-packaged tourism experiences in Southern Illinois. An example would be an afternoon of golf, fine dining, visiting local wineries and a night at a local bed and breakfast. The website will allow locally owned, locally operated businesses to promote their goods and services in a cost effective way.

Connect SI is also working on a project to develop a customer service training within the Region. The training is proposed to make Southern Illinois a place that people enjoy to travel to. The training would turn ordinary employees into tourism professionals with excellent customer service skills.

Threats

Healthcare remains a vital industry within the region; however, millions of dollars is lost to neighboring states each year as people travel out of the area for services. Healthcare dollars need to be recaptured into Illinois.

Greater Wabash District Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: New Job Generation- Increase Employment while also maintaining the current employment base by promoting and attracting quality employment positions into the Region.

Objective: Create 1500 new jobs in the region before 2014¹

Action Plan:

- Continue to Diversify and increase opportunities in the industrial sector by working with local governments to help them provide needed resources to businesses.

- Provide technical support to area educational facilities in upgrading the skill level of the region's labor force.

- Pursue the development of business through the expansion of industrial parks and sites in the region.

- Expand the development of business through the development of TIF districts and Enterprise Zones in the region.

- Use the regional and local Revolving Loan Fund Programs and other state and federal business loan programs to Induce economic development within the district.

- Encourage Entrepreneurship within the region.

- Provide needed links between higher education and workforce development

- Develop a better understanding of the region's indigenous resources and how they can be used to the region's advantage.

- Promote crop diversification and cropping alternatives within the region.

- Leverage existing resources, energy resources (agricultural, coal, crude oil, natural gas, waste, land, sun) water and other resources, along with the area's infrastructure to develop economic opportunity.

- Promote the development of renewable energy production in the region

- Promote the utilization of energy-savings advancements to reduce energy consumption and to increase the disposable incomes of businesses and institutions.

¹The Jobs Created projection by the Illinois Department of Employment Security is 3.18% by the year 2016, this document is projecting 3.18% increase by the year 2014.

Goal 2: Modernization and Expansion of Community Facilities, Infrastructure and Housing.

Objective: Develop and maintain the Region's infrastructure. Help to provide assistance to at least two communities in the region per year with a federal or state grant for community facilities, infrastructure and housing.

Action Plan:

- Improve municipal water systems by continually assessing their status with respect to their ability to support the continued growth of the District.
 - Provide technical assistance to local government in identifying state and federal assistance programs to modernize their water supplies and transmission capabilities.
 - Improve rural water district's systems
 - Continually assess the status of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems and their ability to accommodate the region's growth.
 - Provide technical assistance to local government in identifying state and federal assistance to help finance wastewater collection and treatment system improvements.
 - Provide technical assistance to local government to aid in the financing of construction and/or upgrading of community centers and Jail Facilities
 - Assist in developing the electric utility grid infrastructure, to improve grid safety, efficiency and effectiveness, including accommodation of the Smart Grid System.
-

Objective: All Government Bodies within the region should develop a Master Community Capital Improvement Plan by the year 2016.

Action Plan:

- Provide education on the need for a community capital improvement plan and provide assist as needed.
-

Objective: Continually upgrade the region's housing stock by assisting at least one community by the year 2012 to receive funding for housing rehabilitation.

Action Plan:

- Promote the utilization of public housing to meet the public housing needs throughout the Region.
 - Promote housing rehabilitation projects for low-to-moderate income persons utilizing programs such as the Illinois Community Development Assistance Program.
-

Objective: Increase Broadband penetration rate to 100% by the year 2016.

Action Plan:

- Work with the providers to provide broadband to the area through the Federal grants that were made in 2010.
 - Work with providers to provide the "last mile" to area businesses and homes.
-

Goal 3: Maintain and modernize the District's transportation facilities that are essential for private-sector investment and community safety.

Objective: Make available a Regional Transportation Plan by the Year 2016.

Action Plan:

- Coordinate with the Illinois Department of Transportation to provide adequate roads within the region.
 - Insure there is unimpeded roadway access to critical care facilities within each community from all residential, school and employer facilities within and surrounding a community.
 - Provide technical assistance to local governments in coordinating efforts to build the region's rail system.
 - Continue to assist the District's airports in developing their services.
 - Promote and utilize the Region's Foreign Trade Zone
-

Goal 4: Strengthen Municipal and County Governments- Assist local units of government to stay abreast of new legislation and assist in the promotion of new technical improvements in order to provide the District’s residents with up-to-date police and fire protection.

Objective: Provide technical assistance to units of local government. Provide assistance to every county in applying for funding assistance for local government for at least one grant per year.

Action Plan:

- Provide yearly meetings with each county to keep them abreast of new programs and opportunities.
 - Act as a liaison to promote local needs at the state and federal level.
 - Work with local governments to obtain state and federal funding for community facility projects.
 - Promote County-wide 911 communications systems and networking for multi-county systems.
 - Promote the modernization of local fire fighter, ambulance, and police equipment.
 - Continue to provide technical assistance to firefighting and emergency service organizations within the district to identify state and federal funding assistance for trained personnel and modern equipment and facilities.
 - Promote the utilization of energy-savings advancements to reduce energy consumption and costs of operations of units of municipal and county governments.
-

Goal 5: Promote Tourism

Objective: Expand the area through the promotion of tourism. Provide technical assistance to every county in applying for funding for tourism related projects.

Action Plan:

- Coordinate with tourism groups to market the region.
 - Work with Southeastern Illinois Tourism and Convention Bureau
 - Provide technical assistance to units of local government to help them stay abreast of funding opportunities for tourism such as parks and recreation, boating, and walking trails through the Department of Natural Resources.
-

Community and Private Sector Participation

The CEDS was developed by the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission and the CEDS committee. A list of the current CEDS Committee can be found in the Appendix. The GWRPC staff traveled to each of the seven counties in the district to seek additional input into the CEDS document. The CEDS committee not only sought the input of the private sector but also will rely on them to help bring the suggested projects to reality. The public sector in the Greater Wabash District works very well with the private sector to help bring economic development to the region. There are currently several projects taking place that involve the public sector working actively with the private sector. Maintaining this relationship will be key to the success of the district.

Vital Projects

Business Assistance

The area industrial parks need to be complete with all infrastructure needed to attract and retain businesses.

Another vital project for the area would be a small business incubator. A small business incubator system is vital for entrepreneurship in the Greater Wabash District.

Broadband

Continuing to advocate for broadband services is a vital project. Examples of projects that are ongoing and will create major economic impact within the region include: www.iwantmybroadband.com, Clearwave Communications grant, Partnership for Connected Illinois Regional eTeams, Southern Illinois Online Nursing Initiative, and the Health Information Exchange of Southern Illinois.

Utilizing broadband, the Greater Wabash region hopes to stimulating the growth of technology based companies, decrease the population decline, and increase the total revenue for the region. In addition, knowledge based jobs generally tend to pay higher than typical manufacturing jobs which will increase the average wage within the region. Increasing the amount of broad band access within the region is a priority project.

Economic Development

Another vital project for the Greater Wabash Region would be an economic development/market study. This market study would help define the demographics of the region and determine where the residents spend their money. The information could be used to help attract new businesses or tailor the existing businesses to the needs of the communities.

The Region will continue to support the energy efforts and helping to facilitate discussions on energy related topics that could lead to economic development within the region. One example of this would be through the Connect SI Energy discussion series.

The Region will continue to work to develop strategies to utilize the agricultural resources available within the region.

The Region will continue to work with Connect SI on a regional tourism projects including the regional web portal and the regional customer service training.

Potential sources of funding for projects in the area include EDA, the State of Illinois (DCEO, USDA/RD), Delta Regional Authority, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

CEDS Plan of Action

The District has reformulated a multi-year District wide development strategy to increase the vitality of the seven county region. The goals of the Greater Wabash Region include new job generation, modernization and expansion of community facilities, strengthening local governments, promoting tourism, and maintaining transportation systems.

The Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission staff and board will participate in a joint effort with other local and state agencies to achieve the goals set forth in this CEDS document. The GWRPC staff will pursue funding for suggested projects and utilize the district's revolving loan funds to induce economic development.

Communication infrastructure is a critical component of the region's ability to move products. In addition, it can make the difference in a company's decision whether or not to locate or relocate or expand operations within the region. Investment in the digital economy will likely increase productivity and standards of living. The increase in technology will also help to attract Knowledge Based Enterprises (KBE) to the district. Therefore, GWRPC will continue to work with the *Connect SI* project to increase broadband penetration rates in the District and increase the number of technology-based jobs. The project will seek investment in physical infrastructure such as broadband and wireless technology.

The District will aid Workforce Investment Boards in developing a plan that identifies job skill shortages and training needs that are unique to the Greater Wabash District.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for the period of April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2014 will be as follows:

- ❖ The number and types of investments made in the area after the implementation of the CEDS. Including the amount of private sector investment in the region.
- ❖ The number of new KBEs (knowledge based enterprises) that develop in the district as a result of the broadband projects.
- ❖ Population numbers: at least maintain the population at the current level. Stop population decline.

Indicators to measure economic health and economic performance in the Greater Wabash Region will be as follows:

Median Household Income of a County, which is a general indicator of household's well-being and includes all sources of household income such as transfer payments, wages and investment income

Average wage in a County, which specifically measures the economic wellbeing of the working population. In addition, average monthly earnings reported to the Illinois Department of Employment Security will be utilized to measure performance.

Unemployment Rate, which is an indicator of excess labor supply and pressure on the job market.

Job Creation: Based on the IDES statistics.⁶

2011 Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy
Greater Wabash Region

Appendix

**Governance, Policy and Procedures for Implementation of the
Greater Wabash Economic Development District
CEDS
(Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy)**

Governance-

The Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission is the EDA- approved Economic Development District and CEDS organization for Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne and White Counties in Illinois. GWRPC is legally authorized and responsible for the implementation of the CEDS related activities.

The GWRPC Board of Directors will appoint a CEDS Committee that consists of the following:

For-Profit Enterprises*
Public Officials
Workforce Development
Community Leaders
Higher Education Representatives
Private Individuals

*The Majority of the committee will come from this category

Role of the CEDS Committee

The CEDS committee will meet quarterly to review and prioritize projects to be included in the Annual CEDS report. The projects will be solicited by Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission, herein referred to as GWRPC. GWRPC will contact all municipalities, counties, and economic development directors within the seven county region. An initial mailing will be followed up by emails and phone calls to thoroughly invite responses and submissions. A public meeting will be set up in each county following the invitation of projects to finalize submissions and solicit any new ideas.

Once all projects are gathered, GWRPC staff will compile all projects into economic development projects and non-economic development projects. If needed, additional information will be gathered on those projects that are categorized as economic development. All projects will be evaluated by the CEDS committee for relevancy and urgency in addressing regional needs and weaknesses.

The CEDS Committee may also review new proposals for projects for inclusion into the CEDS.

A quarterly CEDS report will be delivered by the GWRPC Executive Director or the CEDS committee chairman at the GWRPC Board of Directors meetings.

Developing Grant Applications

The CEDS Committee will meet quarterly in February, May, August and November.

GWRPC staff and the designated regional EDA administrator will begin working together to develop project applications in compliance with EDA regulations. Two types of grant applications can be submitted to EDA: 1.) Technical assistance grants to support EDA fundable feasibility or engineering studies; and 2.) Infrastructure grants to support projects that have a direct impact on job creation.

CEDS Project Criteria

To promote consistency in project evaluation, a labeling process will help to prioritize projects that are most important to the region. Each Strategy listed promotes one of the goals of the CEDS process:

- Strategy 1- Promote infrastructure readiness for job creation/retention
- Strategy 2- Promote workforce development/training
- Strategy 3- Facilitate a climate of business development support
- Strategy 4- New Job Generation emphasizing knowledge based employment or job retention
- Strategy 5- Promote an environment for higher quality of life to attract or retain population

All projects will meet the following requirements:

- A defined regional need:
 - the project is well documented and specific to an identified regional need
 - the project is appropriate and proportional to the identified need it is addressing
 - the project is consistent with local municipal and regional planning priorities
 - the project is in scale with the level of urgency associated with the identified need.
 - the project is consistent with other public funding sources currently being used or “applied for” to address the same need.
- Enhances Long-Term Development of the Regional Economy
 - the proposed project encourages innovation and long-term regional competitiveness – encourages a common vision among firms, universities and workforce development for cluster development and facilitation.
 - the project upgrades regional business infrastructure
 - the project supports technology-led economic development
- The Proposed Project has a high probability for Success
 - the project is market-based and will maximize private sector investment
 - the project encourages regional collaboration
 - the project will result in an environment where higher-skill, higher-wage job opportunities are created.
 - the proposed project is pro-active in nature and scope

- the project is long-term, and attempts to anticipate economic changes through diversification of the regional economy

CEDS Points Ranking System

Priority Level 1- (Economic Development) Utilities/Small Businesses/Primary Roads

Priority Level 2- Housing/Tourism/Secondary Roads/ Essential Community Facilities (police, fire, emergency services), Education/Schools

Priority Level 3- Community Centers/ Recreation/Natural Resources

Economic Development Criterion Points-

Regional Significance- (1-4)

4- 6 or more jurisdictions affected

3- 5 jurisdictions affected

2- 4 jurisdictions affected

1- 3 or less jurisdictions affected

County Per capita income- (0-3)

3- Per capita income <50% of national average

2- Per capita income 25%-49% of national average

1- Per capita income 1-25% of national average

0- Per capita income higher than national average

Private investment (1-5)

5- Direct private investment of >75% of the project cost

4- Direct private investment of 60-74% of the project cost

3- Direct private investment of 30-59% of the project cost

2- Private investment less than 30% of the total project cost

1-Private investment is outstanding but not yet committed

0-No Private Investment

Previous Investments

2- There has been significant previous investment on this or related projects by the participating jurisdictions or by grant monies

1- There have been small amounts of previous investment on this project or related projects

0-No Previous Investments

Readiness to initiate (0-5)

5- Commitment of Final plans

4- Preliminary plans with all necessary easements and permits

3- Preliminary plans but no permits

2- Engineer is working on plans

1-Spoken to engineer regarding the project

0- Beginning phase only, no plans

Public/Private Partnership (0-3)

3- Public government is working with private industry and providing incentives

2- Public government is working with private industry

1- Public government is willing to help but has not been hands on with industry

0- Public government is not involved

Investment relationship

3- Proposed Investment supports high skill high wage jobs

2- Proposed investment supports the environment for high skill high wage jobs

1- Proposed investment supports jobs or the environment for jobs but not necessarily high skill/high wage

Matching Funds

5- Secured

2- Application in process

0-Not Secured

Project has a letter of commitment secured from a new or expanding business

5-Yes

0-No

Project is included in the CEDS

5-Yes

0-No

Project will create private sector jobs totaling

5- 100+

4- 50-99

3-10-49

2-Less than 10

0-None

Reporting Requirements

An Annual GWRPC CEDS report is due to the Economic Development Administration every March 31st. The report will include a description of all activities of the GWRPC CEDS. Additional reports will be submitted to reflect any changes in the regional economy and/or additions to the CEDS project list. Revised project lists need to be approved by the EDA before any related grant applications can be submitted.

Every third year or when assigned by EDA, GWRPC must submit a new CEDS document. The CEDS committee will assist GWRPC in compiling additional data needed to submit a new CEDS document that meets all EDA criteria.

Adopted by the Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors this _____ day of _____, 2008

Chairman of the Board

Secretary of the Board.

2011 Greater Wabash EDD CEDS Committee

	Public Official	Economic Dev.	Workforce Dev.	Higher Ed.	For Profit
Susan Murphy (Fairfield Area Development)		X			
Bob Berty (Crawford County Development)		X			
Brandi Stennett (Richland County Development)		X			
Sandra Irvine (White County ED)		X			
Tim Taylor (Frontier Community College)				X	
Bob Stephenson (Crossroads Workforce)			X		
Matt Fowler (Wabash Valley College)				X	
David Jordan (City of Grayville)	X				
Ann Emken (Lawrence County Development)		X			
Tom Dersch (Dersch Energies)					X
Margaret Felts (Mt. Carmel PU)					X
John Evans- (B&D Independence)					X
Carl Price (Five P Drilling)					X
Phil Summers (Daily Republican Reg.)					X
Steve Mcgahey (Tempco Products)					X
Eric Mosbey (Lincolnland Agri.)					X
Mike Gill (Lamac Engineering)					X
Scott Berty (MW Transport)					X
Curtis Anderson (Kincaids Hardware)					X

**Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors
As of March 31, 2011**

GWRPC Board of Commissioners

Elected Private Education Workforce Chamber

Crawford County

David Fulling- *Elected Official- Crawford County Board*

Elected

John Suftin- *Elected Official- Crawford County Board*

Elected

Robin Guyer- *Elected Official- Crawford County Board*

Elected

Barbara Webster

Private

Angie Williams- *Lincoln Trail College Nursing Dept.*

Education

Bob Berty- *Crawford County Development Association Director- Elected Official Representative*

Elected

Edwards County

Don Woods- *Elected Official- Edwards County Board Commissioner*

Elected

Carson Rutger- *City of Albion Alderman*

Elected

Charlotte St. Ledger- *Fairfield Memorial Hospital- Private Representative*

Private

Suzie Moudy- *Private*

Private

Sam Arnold- *Elected Official- Edwards County Board Commissioner*

Elected

Don Cornelius- *Elected Official- Village of West Salem Councilman*

Elected

Lawrence County

Larry Stoltz- *Elected Official- Mayor Village of Sumner*

Elected

Kerry Emmons- *Elected Official- Lawrence County Board*

Elected

Bonnie Hann- *Elected Official Lawrence County Board*

Elected

Jim England- *Private*

Private

Rita Palmer- *Private*

Private

Ann Emken - *Lawrence County Industrial Development Director- Lawrence County Board Rep.*

Elected

Richland County

Greg Mullinax- Private		Private	
Randy Bukas- <i>City of Olney Manager</i>	Elected		
Rodney Ranes- <i>President, Olney Central College</i>			Education
Larry Miller- <i>Private</i>		Private	
Leo Ledeker- <i>Elected Official- Richland County Board Commissioner</i>	Elected		
Bob Stephenson- <i>Crossroads Workforce Development</i>			Workforce

Wabash County

Norm Brunson- <i>Elected Official- City of Mount Carmel Commissioner</i>	Elected		
Robert Dean- <i>Elected Official- Wabash County Board Commissioner</i>	Elected		
Phil Barnhard- <i>Private Representative- Mt.Carmel Public Utility</i>		Private	
Jim Pfeister- <i>Private Representative- Retired</i>		Private	
Don Price- <i>Private Representative- First Bank Loan Officer</i>		Private	
James Barger- <i>Private Representative</i>		Private	

Wayne County

Jerry Donoho	Elected		
Dr. Timothy Taylor- <i>President Frontier Community College</i>			Education
Richard Talbert- <i>Private</i>		Private	
Gary Sloan- <i>Wayne County Board</i>	Elected		
Royce Carter- <i>Southern 14 Workforce Development Board</i>			Workforce
Scott Merkle- <i>Private Representative- FNB Loan Officer</i>		Private	

White County

David Port- <i>Mayor, City of Carmi</i>	Elected		
Steve Hartsock- <i>The Navigator and Journal Register</i>		Private	
David Doshier- <i>Elected Official- White County Board Commissioner</i>	Elected		
Andy Brock- <i>City of Grayville Councilman</i>	Elected		
David Campbell – <i>Owner, Campbell Funeral Homes</i>		Private	
Roy Kissel- <i>Elected- Mayor Village of Norris City</i>	Elected		

22 16 3 2 0

Percentage of elected officials at least a majority 52%

Private, Post Secondary Education, Workforce Development, Chamber of Commerce 20

At least 35% 48%

District-Wide County Specific Strategic Projects and Activities

The following is a county specific listing of all suggested projects for the Greater Wabash District. Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission will provide assistance to all the counties for the potential execution of the suggested projects.

County Project List

County	Jurisdiction	Project Type	Project
Crawford	Crawford County	Community Facilities-	New HVAC at Commercium Building/ Business Offices
Crawford	Crawford County	Community Facilities- Recreation	Develop Forest Preserve
Crawford	Crawford County	Broadband	Increase Broadband availability
Crawford	Crawford County	Transportation	Extension of Crawford County Airport
Crawford	Crawford County	CF- Emergency	Generator for County Emergency Shelter
Crawford	Crawford County	Housing	Housing Rehabilitation (West York)
Crawford	Flat Rock	Utilities-Wastewater	Sewer plant expansion
Crawford	Flat Rock	Community Facilities- Recreation	Tear down old High School/build Community Center
Crawford	Hutsonville	Utilities- Wastewater	Storm Sewer System Repairs
Crawford	Hutsonville	Downtown Revitalization	New Library
Crawford	Hutsonville	Utilities- Wastewater	New Wastewater Treatment Plant
Crawford	Hutsonville	CF- Emergency	New Fire Department Building
Crawford	Oblong	Utilities- Water	Loop water lines for pressure
Crawford	Oblong	Housing	Housing Rehabilitation
Crawford	Oblong	Community Facilities- Recreation	New playground equipment
Crawford	Palestine	Utilities-Water	Replace water & sewer lines (Robinson/Palestine)
Crawford	Palestine	CF- Emergency	New Police Car
Crawford	Palestine	Community Facilities- Recreation	Recreation area for children
Crawford	Palestine	Community Facilities- Recreation	New Bike trails
Crawford	Palestine	Community Facilities- Recreation	Build Nature Center at boat ramp
Crawford	Palestine	Tourism	Opera House Restoration
Crawford	Robinson	CF- Emergency	New Police Car
Crawford	Robinson	Community Facilities- Recreation	Develop Recreational Areas
Crawford	Robinson	Business Development	Rain CII Carbon Project
Crawford	Robinson	Business Development	Treat sewer up to 20,000 gallons
Crawford	Robinson	CF- Municipal	Replace Boiler at City Hall
Crawford	Robinson	Downtown Revitalization	Downtown Revitalization
Crawford	Robinson	CF-Emergency	School Resource Officer

Edwards	Albion	Utility-Water	Build New Water Tower in Albion
Edwards	Albion	CF- Emergency	Albion Fire Department New Fire Station
Edwards	Albion	CF-Emergency	New Police Car
Edwards	Albion	Industrial Park	Build additional Industrial Park in Albion
Edwards	Bone Gap	Utilities- Water	Generator for water treatment plant
Edwards	Bunpas Creek Water District	Utility- Water	New Water Treatment Facility
Edwards	Edwards County	CF- Emergency	Rescue Equipment for Emergency Management Agency
Edwards	Edwards County	CF-Emergency	Back-up Emergency Operations Center
Edwards	Ellery Water Corporation	Utility- Water	Water Tower Upgrades/Replacement
Edwards	Ellery Water Corporation	Utility- Water	Alternate water sources/tie into other water Districts
Edwards	Ellery Water Corporation	Utility- Water	Water System Disaster Plan
Edwards	West Salem	CF- Municipal	Build New Animal Shelter
Edwards	West Salem	Community Facilities- Municipal	New Backhoe and Utility Vehicle
Edwards	West Salem	Utility- Water	New Water Pumping Station
Edwards	West Salem	CF- Emergency	New Fire Truck and equipment in West Salem
Edwards	West Salem	CF- Emergency	New Police Vehicle and Emergency Lights
Edwards	West Salem	Community Facilities- Recreation	Park Renovations/ New Playground Equipment
Edwards	West Salem	Community Facilities- Recreation	Create Lake Recreation Area/Boat Ramp
Edwards	West Salem	Community Facilities- Recreation	New Skate Park
Lawrence	Lawrence County	CF- Emergency	New County Jail
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Utilities- Water	Improved Water Systems/ New Storm Sewers
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Utilities-Water	Rural Water Project- Russell Township
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Utilities- Water	South Lawrence Water Tower
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Utilities- Water	Petrolia/Chauncey Water Project
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Utilities- Water	Hardinville Water project
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Community Facilities	New Animal Control Building

Lawrence	Lawrence County	Business Development	Develop Airport for Businesses
Lawrence	Lawrence County	Transportation	Develop Route 50 into 4 lane Highway
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Business Development	Repair and fix Levy on east side to help airport
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Transportation	Energy Efficient Stop Lights
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Community Facilities- Recreation	New Neighborhood Center/Recreation Area
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Construct River Walk
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Utilities- Broadband	Municipal Owned Internet
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Utilities-Storm Sewer	New Storm Sewers
Lawrence	Lawrenceville	Downtown Revitalization	Downtown Revitalization
Lawrence	St. Francisville	Utilities- Storm sewer	Storm Sewer Repairs
Lawrence	St. Francisville	CF- Emergency	Storm Warning Sirens
Lawrence	St. Francisville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Upgrade park and camping
Lawrence	Sumner	Community Facilities- Recreation	New community building
Lawrence	Sumner	Utilities- Wastewater	New Sewer Lines
Lawrence	Sumner	Utilities- Water	New Water Lines
Lawrence	Sumner	Utilities-Wastewater	Sewer treatment plant phase 3
Lawrence	Sumner	Community Facilities- Recreation	Update park with tennis courts, recreation
Lawrence	Sumner	Transportation	Sidewalk Improvements
Richland	Calhoun	Downtown Revitalization	Tear down old buildings
Richland	Noble	Utilities- Wastewater	Sewer System Extension
Richland	Noble	Utilities- Wastewater	Storm Sewer Upgrades
Richland	Olney	Business Development	Roof repair to City owned warehouse building leased to businesses
Richland	Olney	Community Facilities- Municipal	Build New Municipal Building
Richland	Olney	Utilities- wastewater	Storm Sewer Line Improvements
Richland	Olney	Downtown Revitalization	Downtown Rehabilitation
Richland	Olney	Housing	Upgrade Housing
Richland	Olney	Community Facilities- Recreation	Build Marina at East Fork Lake
Richland	Olney	Community Facilities- Recreation	Develop neighborhood parks
Richland	Olney	Community Facilities- Recreation	Develop softball fields and concession area at Musgrove Park
Richland	Olney	Industrial Park	Develop East Industrial Park
Richland	Olney	Utilities- Wastewater	Upgrade waste water treatment plant and collection system

Richland	Olney	Utilities- Water	Upgrade water treatment plant and distribution system
Richland	Olney	Transportation	Improvements to Olney/Noble Airport
Richland	Olney	Transportation	IL 50 and Whittle Ave. intersection upgrades
Richland	Olney	Transportation	Whittle Ave. Truck Route upgrade
Richland	Olney	Transportation	Improvements to Rt. 130 RR overpass
Richland	Olney	CF-Emergency	Police Dept. Equipment
Richland	Olney	Community Facilities- Emergency	New Police Station or upgrades to existing
Richland	Olney	Utilities- Wastewater	Storm water detention facility at Middle School
Richland	Olney	Community Facilities-Recreation	Indoor Tennis Court
Richland	Richland County	CF- Emergency	Improvements to Emergency Services Communications
Richland	Richland County	CF-Emergency	Courthouse Security System
Richland	Richland County	Utilities- Broadband	Upgrade Broadband and Communication Infrastructure
Richland	Richland County	Transportation	Rt 50 4 lane from Hwy 57 to Lawrenceville
Richland	Richland County	Transportation	Rt 130 Improvements
Richland	Richland County	Transportation	Extend IL 49 toRt. 50
Richland	West Liberty/Dundas	Utilities- Wastewater	Sanitary Sewer System Upgrades
Wabash	Allendale	Utilities- Water	New water lines
Wabash	Allendale	Housing	Housing Rehabilitation
Wabash	Allendale	Transportation	Safer sidewalks for school area
Wabash	Bellmont	CF- Emergency	Community Emergency Shelter
Wabash	Bellmont	Community Facilities- Recreation	Community Shelter House at Park
Wabash	Bellmont	Transportation	Sidewalks to Bus stops
Wabash	Bellmont	CF- Emergency	Thermal Imaging Camera for Fire Dept.
Wabash	Keensburg	Utilities- Wastewater	New Sewer Lagoon and backup water well
Wabash	Keensburg	Utilities- Water	New Water Tower and meter reading system
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Business Development	New Office Space
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Utilities- Wastewater	Repair Sewage inflow problems on the southside of town
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Utilities- Water	New Water Tower- IP and Residential
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Utilities- Water	Construct New Water Treatment Facility
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Utilities- Wastewater	Equipment at Wastewater Treatment Plant
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Community Facilities- Municipal	Geothermal Heat at City Hall
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Community Facilities- Emergency	Hospital Expansion, New Ambulances, Electronic Medical Records
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	Replace stop lights on Market St.

Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Industrial Park	Develop Infrastructure at IP on Empire St. / New Building
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Utilities- Wastewater	New Storm Sewers on 5th st.
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Utilities- Water	New Water meter system and readers
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	CF- Recreation	Park Pavilion
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	Bike path from 3rd to 9th and College Dr. to Outerpark
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	Develop Route #1 into 4 lane
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	Sidewalk on Oak St. for Elementary School
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	New Railroad Bridge overpass leading to Indiana
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	CF-	New levee pump system
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	New sidewalk at WVC on backside of campus
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Transportation	Connect Oak St. to Park Road
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Education	Incumbent Worker Training Mobile Lab- WVC
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	CF- Broadband	Develop Broadband Connections from middle mile provider to the businesses/ Industrial Park
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Education	Smart Park
Wabash	Mt. Carmel	Recreation	New Lights at Ball diamond
Wabash	Wabash County	Utilities- Water	Bring water to southside of Mt. Carmel along Rt#1
Wabash	Wabash County	CF-	New County Road Signs
Wabash	Wabash County	CF- Municipal	New Windows/Doors in Courthouse
Wabash	Wabash County	CF- Emergency	Reverse 911
Wabash	Wabash County	CF- Emergency	LiveScan/ boat/ vehicle for Sheriff's office
Wabash	Wabash County	CF- Emergency	New radios and Hazardous Materials Equipment
Wayne	Fairfield	Utilities- Water	Water Line replacements
Wayne	Fairfield	CF- Recreation	Bike Path through town
Wayne	Fairfield	Housing	Housing for Frontier Community College
Wayne	Fairfield	CF- Emergency	New City Police Cars and 4 wheel drive vehicle
Wayne	Fairfield	CF- Emergency	New Fire Station on South Side of town and new ladder truck
Wayne	Fairfield	Industrial Park	Develop Industrial Park on US Hwy 45
Wayne	Fairfield	Transportation	Upgrade Rosewood Lane and connect to Hwy 45
Wayne	Fairfield	Utilities- Water	Build new 5mgd Water Treatment Plant
Wayne	Fairfield	Utilities- Water	New Lake Reservoir (300-350 acres) for water supply
Wayne	Fairfield	Transportation	Municipal Airport Upgrades
Wayne	Fairfield	CF- Emergency	Renovate Armory building for Police Station
Wayne	Fairfield	Transportation	Airtex Road Project- Market St.

Wayne	Fairfield	Transportation	New Street lighting
Wayne	Fairfield	Education	Vocational Programs Classroom
Wayne	Sims	Utilities-Water	Water Line replacements
Wayne	Wayne City	Utilities- Water	Water plant upgrades
Wayne	Wayne City	Utilities- Water	New water lines
Wayne	Wayne City	CF- Emergency	New Police Officer
Wayne	Wayne City	Recreation	Full basketball court at park
Wayne	Wayne City	Utilities- Wastewater	New Storm Sewers
Wayne	Wayne County	CF- Recreation	Upgrade seating at fairgrounds
Wayne	Wayne County	CF- Emergency	New ESDA Building
Wayne	Wayne County	Transportation	Route 45 developed into 4 lane Highway
Wayne	Wayne County	Recycling	E-Recycling Project
Wayne	Wayne County	CF- Municipal	New County Highway Dept. Building
Wayne	Wayne County	CF- Emergency	New Road signs for 911 and Livescan for Sheriff
White	Carmi	Community Facilities- Municipal	Repair City Hall or Build New Building
White	Carmi	Utilities- Wastewater	Expand City Sewer to Edgewood Estates Subdivision
White	Carmi	Utility- Water	Storm Sewer Rehabilitation (Mann Addition)
White	Carmi	CF- Emergency	New Fire Station
White	Carmi	CF- Emergency	Upgrade Storm Warning Sirens
White	Carmi	Community Facilities- Recreation	Upgrade bathrooms at Bradshaw Park
White	Carmi	Community Facilities- Recreation	Develop Park Near River
White	Carmi	Community Facilities- Recreation	Develop Skate Park
White	Carmi	Downtown Revitalization	Updated lighting for downtown- Solar?
White	Carmi	Utilities- Wastewater	Wastewater Treatment plant upgrades
White	Carmi	CF- Emergency	Storage facility for Police Department
White	Crossville	Utilities- Water	Replace Water Lines
White	Crossville	CF- Emergency	New Police Car
White	Enfield	Utilities- Water	Water infrastructure upgrades and new water tower
White	Enfield	Utilities- Wastewater	Sewer infrastructure upgrades
White	Enfield	Community Facilities- Recreation	Scoreboard/Lighting at park
White	Enfield	Transportation	Street upgrades/ Sidewalk improvements
White	Grayville	Community Facilities- Education	Automate and Equip new library
White	Grayville	Utilities- Storm Sewer	Storm Water Management
White	Grayville	Utilities- Water	Replace waterlines
White	Grayville	CF- Emergency	Ambulance Upgrade or New Ambulance

White	Grayville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Acquire old high school and demolish building to create park or community center
White	Grayville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Wabash River erosion management
White	Grayville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Upgrade playground equipment at Park
White	Grayville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Amphitheater at City Park
White	Grayville	Community Facilities- Recreation	Riverfront Recreation
White	Grayville	Transportation	Rail Spur for Industrial Park
White	Grayville	Transportation	Industrial Park Truck Access Road
White	Grayville	Business Development	Sewer Line to businesses on Hwy1
White	LWFPD	CF- Emergency	LWFPD New Trucks and Equipment
White	Norris City	Utilities- Water	Water Line replacements and water plant improvements
White	Norris City	Utilities- Wastewater	Sanitary Sewer System Upgrades
White	Norris City	CF- Emergency	Hardening of Fire Station
White	Norris City	Recreation	Develop Walking Paths around Lake
White	White County	Business Development	Reopen Hospital
White	White County	Community Facilities	Improved facilities for officials located outside the courthouse
White	White County	CF- County	Build new Highway Dept. Building
White	White County	CF- Emergency	New Storage Facilities for Sheriff's Dept.
White	White County	CF- Emergency	911 Computer and System Upgrades
White	White County	Community Facilities- Recreation	Paved area for White County Fairgrounds and paved area near Floral Hall
White	White County	Transportation	Repave Burnt Prairie Blacktop
White	White County	Broadband	Expand Broadband Services
White	White County	Transportation	Improvements to Route 1 Highway
White	White County	CF- Emergency	New Ambulance
White	White County	Transportation	Rural Road Signs

References

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- ²<http://www.arlp.com/mines/illinois.htm>
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- ⁴<http://www.dot.state.il.us/restarea/restmap.html>
- ⁵ <http://www.iecc.edu/welcome/mission.html>
- ⁶http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/projections/ccd_proj.htm