

WABASH COUNTY

Strategic Investment Plan

Wabash County / City of Wabash / Town of North Manchester / Town of La Fontaine / Town of Largo / Town of Roann

WABASH COUNTY
**ON THE
BANKS**
of a STELLAR future



Submitted: November 1, 2024

Thursday, October 30, 2024



Dear OCRA and Indiana State Partners:

On behalf of Grow Wabash County and the communities of Wabash County, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for selecting Wabash County as a finalist in the Stellar Pathways program as well as providing the funding necessary to develop our Strategic Investment Plan.

This opportunity has not only inspired a renewed energy and excitement for countywide collaboration and innovation, but it has challenged our region to reflect on and refine our ambitions for the future of Wabash County.

Since being selected as one of the four finalists, this comprehensive strategic planning process has provided us with the structure and expert guidance needed to create a truly “stellar” vision that aligns the hopes and dreams, needs and wants of our community and regional partners.

In partnership with Wabash County, the City of Wabash, North Manchester, Roann, LaFontaine, and Lagro, we have collaboratively embraced the Stellar Pathways program to chart a sustainable and inclusive future. This experience has been invaluable, enabling us to get additional projects ready to go. The insights and partnerships we’ve continued to cultivate through this program are already making a transformative impact on our communities.

This process allowed us to once again reflect and review the countywide Imagine One 85 plan that was adopted in 2022 and remind us all that incredible things happen when the many communities of Wabash County come together to move united toward future growth and prosperity.

As a Stellar Pathways designation, this recognition in addition to the accompanying financial support for such a wide breadth of quality-of-life projects will be pivotal in achieving our long-worked-for goal of population growth.

Thank you for this opportunity and for your continued support in realizing our vision.

Sincerely,

Tenille Zartman

Tenille Zartman, President & CEO
Grow Wabash County

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"As a network of unique communities, Wabash County has the opportunity to pool its assets and leadership. With a shared vision, each community can play its role in advancing the plan toward the larger goal."

-Imagine One 85 Comprehensive Plan

CHAPTER 1

General Information

IN THIS SECTION:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
APPLICANT & POINT OF
CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROCESS OVERVIEW

In January 2024, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) launched the Stellar Pathways Program, building off of the previous reiterations of the Stellar Communities Program. The Stellar Pathways Program is a multi-agency, multi-million-dollar investment initiative created to provide resources for transformative quality of place improvements. This program promotes local and regional partnerships and is intended to assist two regions in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges faced by Indiana's rural communities.

In May 2024, Wabash County, including all five municipalities, submitted a Letter of Intent documenting our interest and qualifications for the program. On June 18, 2024, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced four regions as finalists for the 2024 Stellar Pathways Program.

As a finalist, Wabash County developed this Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) which identifies 14 projects and programs that would be completed during the five-year Stellar Pathways designation period. The Wabash County Strategic Investment Plan builds on the ideas and input generated from recent planning efforts including the Imagine One 85 county-wide comprehensive plan and Manchester Together, a College and Community Collaborative Initiative facilitated through the Lilly Endowment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Providing frequent and transparent ways to get involved and share input has been one of the primary tools for building our culture of collaboration and a sense of ownership in Wabash County. While our region understands and values the engagement process, the timeline of the 2024 Stellar Pathways program was such that several methods were needed to gather input quickly. Throughout this process, community engagement and outreach were primary goals; however, this strategic plan also relied heavily on past planning efforts.

A few key highlights from this SIP process includes –

- Members of the development team attended and distributed project materials at four community events during the month of September.
- An online survey, available in both English and Spanish, received over 300 responses.
- Nearly 300 people attended the public open house and Grow Wabash County Annual Celebration Dinner.
- Members of the development team facilitated stakeholder meetings with Spanish-speaking immigrants, the Amish community, and university students.

OUR GOALS & DESIRED ACHIEVEMENTS

As a region, Wabash County intends to use the Stellar Pathways designation to execute projects and programs that improve the quality of life and place as an approach to stabilizing the population. Wabash County has been acutely aware of the dangers of population loss in the region and the many negative effects that it brings.

- Declining school enrollment, which affects funding, programmatic offerings, and the tone amongst the students and staff, is a huge threat to the community.
- A shrinking workforce, coupled with macroeconomic shifts from a predominantly manufacturing-centric workforce has stressed our largest employment sector.
- A declining customer base for all the small businesses our region has come to enjoy and depend upon are struggling.

Furthermore, increasing taxes and fees burden those still here to pay for the necessary infrastructure, utilities, and services that a community needs. These ill effects of population decline are the biggest threat and challenge to Wabash County's resiliency.

Secondly, Wabash County intends to use the Stellar Pathways designation to execute projects and programs that make this region a welcoming place for all – regardless of demographics, socioeconomic status, and abilities. This designation would support the county's effort to provide more equitable and inclusive opportunities.

While our goals are shared, we recognize that each of our communities plays a unique role in advancing and achieving these accomplishments. Attracting and retaining residents and creating a welcoming place for all doesn't happen in a vacuum. There isn't one thing that will lead to success, but this designation would allow us to continue building momentum and capacity at both individual and county-wide scales. Together, we will use the resources and funding the Stellar Pathways program provides to implement initiatives that move the needle on the two regional accomplishments listed above.

OUR STELLAR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

At the kick-off of the strategic planning process, the development team prepared a list of 30 projects and programs. These projects were previously identified through community conversations and local leadership needs. This master project list was organized by "funding buckets" provided by the seven state agency partners. It quickly became apparent that the development team needed a methodology for narrowing down and prioritizing the master project list. This prioritization process included completing a feasibility matrix, reviewing funding source qualifications, vetting the projects with the public, and then classifying the projects.

Once the Stellar projects were identified, the development team wanted to find a way to showcase the other project and program ideas from the original master project list. It was important to the development team not to lose track of these ideas. With that being said, a classification system was created. This system classifies each initiative as one of three categories – a Stellar project, a supporting project, or a complementary project.

Through public engagement and a thoughtful prioritization process, Wabash County has identified 14 Stellar projects, 21 supporting projects, and 8 complementary projects. Our proposed projects and programs have been selected for their ability to improve quality of life and plan and provide more equitable opportunities for current and future residents. Wabash County has identified the following initiatives.

POINT OF CONTACT

LEAD APPLICANT

Grow Wabash County including six municipalities-

Town of La Fontaine
Town of Lagro
Town of North Manchester
Town of Roann
City of Wabash
Wabash County

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ELECTED OFFICIALS CONTACT

Please see page 9.

WABASH COUNTY: STELLAR PATHWAYS PROJECT OVERVIEW

The following table highlights Wabash County's proposed Stellar projects and programs.

Proposed Stellar Projects				
State Agency	Project Name	Project Location	Total Cost	Page Reference
OCRA	La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements	Town of La Fontaine	\$1,045,400	87
	Daniels Place Headquarters	103 W 7th Street - North Manchester	\$2,553,000	91
	Roann Park	520 Pike Street - Roann	\$811,493	95
	Living Well Renovations	239 Bond Street - Wabash	\$2,000,000	99
	Lagro Sidewalk Improvements	Davis Street / SR 524 - Lagro	\$49,500	103
INDOT	Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements	Market Street - North Manchester	\$1,450,000	109
	SR 114 Sidewalks	SR 114 between Meridian Street and West Street - North Manchester	\$650,000	113
IHCDA	Advantage Housing - Rental Rehab	599 S. Wabash Street - Wabash	\$ 343,710	119
	County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program	County-wide	\$1,240,000	123
DNR	Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension	City of Wabash	\$884,624	129
	La Fontaine Park Improvements	Cook-Crumley Park - La Fontaine	\$506,600	133
ISDA	Lagro Food Co-op	870 Washington Street - Lagro	\$538,826	139
	Impact Pantry Initiative (Back-up Program)	County-wide	\$85,000	143
ISDH	85 Hope	County-wide	\$282,000	149
TOTAL			\$12,440,303	

OUR ASK

We believe the proposed initiatives within this Strategic Investment Plan align well with our regional goals, the goals of the Stellar Pathways program, and the priorities and funding sources provided by the state agency partners.

Our proposed Stellar Pathways initiatives are estimated to invest just over \$12.4M in Wabash County. As a result of our region's responsible fiscal management, preparation for future opportunities, and development of strong regional partnerships, the municipalities and private investors are positioned to provide a match of over \$4.5M from leveraged resources.

The momentum provided as part the Stellar Pathways designation will serve as the needed catalyst to move the projects forward in a timelier manner. The Stellar Pathways program is value-added to the Wabash County region and will serve as a starting point, not an end destination. Each of our participating communities are committed to excellence and elevating the quality of life within our communities. This is evident by the resources we have identified and committed to support the proposed initiatives.

The completion of these projects will continue to leverage additional investment in our region, which will be further enhanced by the marketing and promotion of the projects post-completion.

Wabash County's recent success in pursuing various grant opportunities, the local units of government financial stability, facilitating public-private partnerships, and the enormous level of generosity from the philanthropic community allows Wabash County to make an immediate impact even without the resources from the Stellar Pathways Program.

While we are well-positioned to move initiatives through the implementation process, our region will be much stronger with the state agencies as our partners. Together, we can make a greater impact.

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WABASH COUNTY: PUBLIC FUNDS AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The following table provides a summary of committed and proposed funds.

Leverage Resource	Committed (C) or Proposed (P)	Amount	Designated Project
Town of La Fontaine	C	\$261,350	La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements
Daniel's Place Inc.	C	\$1,450,000	Daniel's Place Headquarters
Town of Roann	C	\$434,143	Roann Park
Town of Lagro	C	\$15,000	Lagro Sidewalk Improvements
Town of North Manchester	C	\$222,000	Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements & SR 114 Sidewalks
Advantage Housing Inc.	C	\$85,928	Advantage Housing Rental Rehab
City of Wabash	C	\$484,624	Riverwalk Trail Extension
Lagro Canal Foundation	C	\$212,327	Lagro Food Co-op
Purdue Extension of Wabash County	C	\$10,000	Impact Pantries
85 Hope	C	\$207,000	85 Hope
Manchester University	C	\$380,000	Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements
Habitat for Humanity	P	\$20,000	County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program
City of Wabash	P	\$20,000	County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program
Town of La Fontaine	P	\$253,300	La Fontaine Park Enhancements
Other (Co-op Fees and Philanthropic)	P	\$226,299	Lagro Food Co-op
Wabash County Council on Aging	P	\$300,000	Living Well Renovations
Total Amount Leveraged		\$4,581,971	
Total of Committed Funds		\$3,762,372	

WABASH COUNTY: BUDGET SUMMARY MATRIX

The following table provides the proposed budget summary for each project and program.

Stellar Project or Program Name	State Agency Partners						Local Partners			Total Project Cost
	OCRA	INDOT	IHCDA	DNR	ISDA	ISDH	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	
La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements	\$784,050							\$261,350		\$1,045,400
Daniel's Place Headquarters	\$1,103,000						\$500,000		\$950,000	\$2,553,000
Roann Park	\$377,700							\$434,143		\$811,843
Living Well Renovations	\$1,700,000						\$300,000			\$2,000,000
Lagro Sidewalk Improvements	\$34,500							\$15,000		\$49,500
Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements		\$920,000					\$100,000	\$150,000	\$280,000	\$1,450,000
SR 114 Sidewalks		\$578,000						\$72,000		\$650,000
Advantage Housing Rental Rehab			\$257,782				\$85,928			\$343,710
County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program			\$1,200,000				\$20,000	\$20,000		\$1,240,000
La Fontaine Park Enhancements				\$253,300				\$253,300		\$506,600
Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension				\$400,000				\$484,624		\$884,624
Lagro Food Co-op					\$100,000		\$212,327		\$226,299	\$538,626
Impact Pantries (Alternative Program Option)					\$75,000				\$10,000	\$85,000
85 Hope						\$75,000			\$207,000	\$282,000
Total	\$3,999,250	\$1,498,000	\$1,457,782	\$653,300	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$1,218,255	\$1,690,417	1,673,299	\$12,440,303



"I believe Wabash County is a relatively progressive community with many quality of life amenities not usually found in communities of our size and has leadership that continues to encourage growth."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 2

Current State of the Region

IN THIS SECTION:

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

REGIONAL VISION AND GOALS

REGIONAL ASSETS

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

By definition, an assessment involves the act of reviewing or judging the amount, value, quality, or importance of something. For Wabash County, the region has already seen the impacts of the Stellar Communities Program and recognizes the pivotal role that the 2014 Stellar Designation played in fostering growth and vitality within the City of Wabash. Because of this, all five incorporated areas were eager to join the county in preparing and submitting the Letter of Intent in early 2024.

This momentum has continued to build over the last several months as the region prepared the Strategic Investment Plan. Through this process, there have been both pivotal moments worth celebrating, and lessons learned worth documenting that have impacted the process, the regional goals and the identified projects. Each of these moments continue to improve the culture of collaboration and sense of ownership in Wabash County.

MOMENTS TO CELEBRATE

Selected as a Stellar Pathways Finalist

In June 2024, our region was designated as one of four Stellar Pathways finalists. This moment solidified all of the hard work our region has done over the last several years. This designation was earned by years of planning and preparing for an opportunity like this one. We wouldn't be where we are today without the leaders, organizations, and residents that have come together to improve quality of life and grow our population.

Established Partnerships

Imagine One 85, the 2021 county-wide comprehensive planning process brought each of our communities to the table, as well as our various community support organizations including Grow Wabash County, Community Foundation of Wabash County, Visit Wabash County, Manchester Alive, and our Main Street organizations. Because of this earlier collaborative process, our region had a development team established and actively working well before the 2024 Stellar Pathways Finalists were announced. This leadership group has been meeting monthly since 2022.

Project Preparedness

The development team came to the first Stellar Pathways meeting with a list of 30 potential projects and programs already identified from past planning and public engagement efforts. The list provided a starting point for the team to begin collecting additional public input and vetting these initial ideas once again. This alone demonstrates that our region possesses the leadership and structure necessary to successfully execute projects that have an immediate and long-lasting impact on the region's future.

Project Fairness and Distribution

Wabash County has cultivated a culture of mutual respect and shared goals, which ensures that every partner in every corner of Wabash County has the opportunity to benefit from the planned growth and investment proposed for the region. Because the City of Wabash has already gone through this process once, they have experienced firsthand the impacts of the program. Through this education and experience, the City of Wabash is advocating for improvements and investment elsewhere. Our communities and regional partners recognize that growth anywhere in the county benefits all of us.

Identification of a Common Theme

Members of our development team attended the Ball State ICI Workshop on August 12, 2024. This workshop encouraged our region to think about projects in terms of community capital and asset mapping. These exercises led to a “light bulb” moment for our team. Through the collaborative activities offered during the Workshop, the development team identified that all of the proposed projects being considered for the Stellar Pathways Program within Wabash County were related to supporting our residents - especially under-served groups. This common theme became the ribbon that tied the story together for Wabash County.

LESSONS LEARNED

Scheduling

Because our development team includes a diverse group of community officials and organizations, finding a convenient time to meet has proven to be difficult. The development team has done three things to combat this challenge. First, meetings are offered in both in-person and virtual formats. Second, all meetings are summarized and distributed to the team. Input did not stop at the end of the meeting; if an individual had additional thoughts to share, the consultant team was always available. Lastly, the development team set up recurring meetings that happened on the same day and time to help make coordination and meetings a bit more predictable.

Importance of Project Champions

A project champion can be anyone who wants to advocate for, and support, the development of an initiative. In most instances, each participating municipality had several project champions which significantly impacted the project’s momentum and feasibility. In instances where the project, or community, did not have a strong set of project champions, the region was more apprehensive about its ability to succeed. To combat this challenge, the development team brainstormed potential partnerships for projects that could use additional support. Identifying and engaging project champions is key to successful project implementation.

ONE

REGION

SIX

MUNICIPALITIES

31,000

RESIDENTS

3.6/5

RATING FOR
COUNTY-WIDE
COLLABORATION BY
SURVEY RESPONDENTS

\$420M

SECURED IN PRIVATE
INVESTMENT BETWEEN
2019-2023

REGIONAL VISION AND GOALS

In June 2019, a coalition of leaders from all sectors joined in an unprecedented county-wide collaboration called Imagine One 85. This group, and the larger initiative, focuses on Wabash County and includes the City of Wabash and the Towns of North Manchester, Roann, Lagro, and La Fontaine, along with all unincorporated land. Imagine One 85 was a community-driven effort that established a strategic vision for the people of Wabash County and developed a road map for growth and investment for decades to come.

After two years of a rigorous community-wide strategic planning process, Imagine One 85 casts a vision for the future of our entire County and outlines strategies to make our community a more attractive place to live, ultimately reversing our population decline. Through the Imagine One 85 planning process, the region gathered input from over 1,000 community stakeholders across the County that shaped the vision, goals, and action items that work towards Wabash County being the best place to call home. The county-wide vision and four topic area themes identified within the plan serve as the foundation for this strategic investment plan (SIP).

VISION STATEMENT

The following statement outlines the unified aspirations for the quality of life and place across all of the communities:

"We are Mighty Wabash County Rising... We, the communities of Wabash County, are connected, resilient, and growing. We are open, welcoming, and prosperous. Our spirit, like our natural resources, is flourishing and vibrant. Leadership shines bright in our county. We produce and attract energetic and capable young citizens. Wabash County is a great place to live, work, and learn. Residents and visitors thrive here."



REGIONAL GOALS

The following statements outline intended outcomes expressed in simple terms.

GREAT PLACES

A range of diverse and beautiful environments – thriving town centers, productive agricultural lands, verdant natural spaces – that, collectively, define Wabash County.

PEOPLE & PROSPERITY

A strong and growing network of communities built through their commitment to competitive and lifelong education, support for entrepreneurs and local businesses, and investment into bold projects and initiatives.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

A healthy housing system with a wide range of options, safe and attractive neighborhoods, and choices for residents of all ages and lifestyles.

FOUNDATIONS

A reliable base of enabling infrastructure helps to connect, grow, and protect our communities, while also supporting logical investments that expand opportunities for residents and businesses.

IMPLEMENTATION

A commitment to the people of Wabash County to realize the vision and goals of the Imagine One 85 process through strategic investment, logical sequencing, and ongoing monitoring and maintenance.

Without intervention we'll continue to lose population and suffer the related consequences. But together, we've worked hard to imagine an alternative and established a plan to move our communities forward. Population decline is the challenge, this is our collective response.

-Imagine One 85 Comprehensive Plan

ALIGNING GOALS AND INITIATIVES

The Stellar Pathways Program calls for communities to come together to work towards identifying projects and programs that focus on quality of life and placemaking projects that promote the region as a more desirable place to live, work, and play. Because of our prior work of Imagine One 85, the Wabash County region has been at the same table working together to accomplish the very goals the present Stellar Pathways Initiative sets out to achieve.

Furthermore, each one of the agency partners participating in Stellar Pathways has its own unique focus and purpose that directly correlates with our region's goals. Whether it's an infrastructure focus from INDOT or attainable housing from IHCD, these agency partners are looking for specific projects and programs that align with their unique purpose and intent.

The following table illustrates how the region has been proactively planning for, and implementing, initiatives that support not only the priorities of the partner agencies but also the Stellar Pathways Program as a whole.

REGIONAL GOALS	State Agency Focus Areas							Stellar Pathways Program Goals		
	OCRA Infrastructure, Blight Elimination, and Revitalization	IHCDA Affordable Housing	ISDA Access to healthy food	IDDC Branding & Marketing	INDOT Vehicular and Pedestrian Infrastructure	ISDH Rural Health and Wellness	IDNR Outdoor Recreation & Amenities	Transforming Quality of Place	Promoting Community Wellness	Strengthening Local Economies
GREAT PLACES A range of diverse and beautiful environments – thriving town centers, productive agricultural lands, verdant natural spaces – that, collectively, define Wabash County.	X	X	X				X	X		X
PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY A strong and growing network of communities built through their commitment to competitive and lifelong education, support for entrepreneurs and local businesses, and investment into bold projects and initiatives.				X		X		X	X	X
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY A healthy housing system with a wide range of options, safe and attractive neighborhoods, and choices for residents of all ages and lifestyles.		X						X		X
FOUNDATIONS A reliable base of enabling infrastructure helps to connect, grow, and protect our communities, while also supporting logical investments that expand opportunities for residents and businesses.	X				X		X	X	X	X



REGIONAL ASSETS

Wabash County is rich with assets – ranging from Manchester University and the Honeywell Center to covered bridges and recreational areas - that provide a high quality of life for people who call it home. With prosperity being one of the region's primary goals, it is clear that embracing an asset-based, regional approach is at the forefront of Wabash County's roadmap for the future. **Our region recognizes that we are far more powerful when we work collectively and inclusively to build capacity, leverage existing assets, and coordinate resources.** Using the goals identified within the Imagine One 85 process, the region has identified a comprehensive – and growing – list of regional assets that inspire Wabash County to continue building from within.

Great Places

Competing for success means creating great places where residents, workers, and businesses want to locate, invest, and grow. These assets or amenities come in various shapes and sizes – recreational facilities, entertainment destinations, historic sites, and natural features. The following assets are unique to Wabash County and can be used to attract and retain residents and businesses.





OUR ASSETS

RECREATION. ARTS & CULTURE. HISTORY.

HISTORIC ASSETS

Downtown Wabash Historic District
East Wabash Historic District
Kerr Lock Historical Monument
Hanging Rock
La Fontaine Historic District
Manchester College Historic District
Nickle Plate Caboose
North Manchester Covered Bridge
North Manchester Historic District
North Wabash Historic District
Paradise Springs
Roann Covered Bridge
Roann Historic District
Stockdale Mill
West Wabash Historic District

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

13-24 Drive in Theater
Cordier Auditorium
Eagles Theatre
Honeywell Center
Manchester Symphony Orchestra
Trolley No. 85 Tours
Downtown Wabash Arts and Culture District

TRAILS

Asherwood Nature Preserve
Charley Creek Trail and Gardens
Hanging Rock Trail
Mississinewa Lake Trails
Kokiwane Acres Land Trust
Lost Sisters Trail
Three Falls Trail
Kissing Falls Trail
Parkview Trails
Paradise Springs River Trail
Salamonie Reservoir Trails
Wabash River Trail
North Manchester Chester Heights Trail

RECREATION & NATURAL FEATURES

Agricultural land
Alley Cat Outfitters
Asherwood Nature Preserve
Broadmoor Park
Charley Creek Falls and Garden
Cook-Crumley park
Eel River Fish Ladder
Frantz Park
Friendship Hill Inclusive Park
Glenn Ruppel Sports Complex
Halderman Park
Hanging Rock
Hanna Park
Hathway Preserve at Ross Run
Honeywell Golf Course
Honeywell Park and Pool
Izaak Walton League
John Crook Memorial Bike and Skate Park
Kissing Falls
Koklwane
Mississinewa Lake
Morrett Sports Complex Field of Dreams
NM Barks and Rec Park
Northern Indiana Aviation
Ogan's Landing - Kayak and Canoe Launch
Paradise Springs Historic Park
Salamonie Reservoir
Southside Park
South Mill Street Pavilion
The Waldo Golf Course
Town Life Center
Wabash City Park
Wabash City Park Disc Golf
Wabash Dog Park
Wabash River Trail
Warvel Park
White Rock Recreation

People & Prosperity

Building capacity allows for economic growth that is powered and strengthened by each community's unique needs and assets. People are oftentimes one of the key pillars of prosperity. Local and regional leaders, organizations, and institutions know what makes our community special and serve as regional assets to Wabash County.





OUR ASSETS

ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

GOVERNMENT

Wabash County Council
Wabash County Advisory Planning Commission
Wabash County Redevelopment Commission
Wabash City Council
Wabash City Economic Development Commission
City of Wabash Plan Commission
North Manchester Council
North Manchester Plan Commission
North Manchester Economic Development Commission
Roann Town Council
Lagro Town Council
Lagro Redevelopment Commission
La Fontaine Town Council

HOUSING

Advantage Housing
Wabash County Habitat for Humanity
Wabash County Development Corporation
Grow Wabash County

TOURISM

Visit Wabash County
LiveIN Wabash
Honeywell Arts and Entertainment

DEVELOPMENT

Community Foundation of Wabash County
Grow Wabash County
Downtown Wabash Inc.
Manchester Alive
Roann Main Street Organization
Lagro Canal Foundation
La Fontaine Main Street Organization

SERVICES

Honeywell Foundation
Wabash Kiwanis Club
North Manchester Kiwanis Club
Wabash Rotary Club
North Manchester Rotary Club
Lions Club
Elks Lodge
Eagles Lodge
Masonic Lodge
The Moose Club

The Legion
Young Professionals of Wabash County

EDUCATION

Heartland Career Center
Ivy Tech Community College
Learn More Center
Manchester Community Schools
Manchester University
Metropolitan School District of Wabash County
Wabash City Schools
Josiah White's
Saint Bernard School
Emmanuel Christian School

LICENSED CHILDCARE

Busy Bee Hive
Cradles, Cribs, & Crayons Childcare
First Friends Childcare Ministry
L. H. Carpenter Early Childhood Center
La Fontaine Learning Community
Little Hands Big Hearts
Little Knights
Little Norse Preschool
Manchester Early Learning Center
Manchester Elementary School
St. Paul's Countyline Child Care Ministry
The Montessori School at the Presbyterian Church
Westminster Pre-School
Wabash County YMCA

STATE AGENCY PARTNERS

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)
Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC)
Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD)
Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA)
Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH)
Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)

Housing & Community

Housing and neighborhood services work to create vibrant neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for residents. The availability of diverse housing options is a key component to growing our population. The following assets are critical to expanding access to safe and affordable housing that meets the needs of current and future residents.





OUR ASSETS

HOUSING. INDUSTRY. GOVERNMENT.

HOUSING

Advantage Housing
Club 720
Grow Wabash County
Wabash County Habitat for Humanity
Pathfinders Services
Wabash County Development Corporation

GOVERNMENT

Wabash County Council
Wabash County Advisory Planning Commission
Wabash County Redevelopment Commission
Wabash City Council
Wabash City Economic Development Commission
City of Wabash Plan Commission
North Manchester Council
North Manchester Plan Commission
North Manchester Economic Development Commission
Roann Town Council
Lagro Town Council
Lagro Redevelopment Commission
La Fontaine Town Council

PUBLIC FACILITIES

La Fontaine Town Hall
Lagro Town Hall
North Manchester Town Hall
North Manchester Public Library
Roann Paw Paw Township Public Carnegie Library
Roann Town Hall
Troyer Memorial Library
Wabash Carnegie Public Library
Wabash County Courthouse
Wabash County Fairgrounds

INDUSTRY

Wabash NE Business Park
Wedcor Industiral Park
North Manchester Industrial Park
Arc Light Business Park
Morrett Business Park

Strong Foundations

Providing well-maintained roads, internet access, pedestrian connectivity, and other key infrastructure and services works to attract people, talent, and opportunities. Because infrastructure connects goods to markets, workers to industries, and people to services, these assets play a vital role in fostering economic growth.





OUR ASSETS

INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICE PROVIDERS

ACCESSIBILITY & MOBILITY

Access to Interstate 65
Access to Interstate 69
Norfolk Southern Rail
US Highway 24
Wabash Municipal Airport
Fort Wayne Airport (45 miles)
Indianapolis Airport (100 miles)

BROADBAND PROVIDERS

Allconnect
AT&T
DirecTV
DirecTV (Spanish)
DISH Network
Frontier Internet
Frontier Internet (Spanish)
Heartland REMC
HughesNet Gen 5 Internet
Mediacom
Metronet
REMC/Omnicity
Viasat Satellite Internet
WildBlue

ELECTRICITY PROVIDERS

AEP/Indiana Michigan Power
Duke Energy
Heartland REMC
Wabash Valley Power Alliance

NATURAL GAS PROVIDERS

CenterPoint Energy
NIPSCO

WATER AND WASTEWATER PROVIDERS

City of Wabash
Indiana-American Water
Town of North Manchester Water and Wastewater
Town of La Fontaine Water and Wastewater
Town of Roann Water and Wastewater
Town of Lagro Water and Wastewater
Long Lake Wastewater

STATE AGENCY PARTNERS

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)
Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)
Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED)
Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)



"Wabash County offers an exceptional quality of life, with a low cost of living complemented by a wide range of amenities. The area's low crime rate, diverse employment opportunities across various skill levels, and proximity to major metropolitan areas make it an ideal place to live and thrive."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 3

Current Momentum

IN THIS SECTION:

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CURRENT PROJECTS

IMPLEMENTING OUR GOALS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As a region, Wabash County intends to use the Stellar Pathways designation **to execute projects and programs that improve the quality of life and place as an approach to stabilizing the population.** Wabash County has been acutely aware of the dangers of population loss in the region and the many negative effects that it brings.

- Declining school enrollment, which affects funding, programmatic offerings, and the tone amongst the students and staff is a huge threat to the community.
- A shrinking workforce, coupled with macroeconomic shifts from a predominantly manufacturing-centric workforce has stressed our largest employment sector.
- A declining customer base for all of the small businesses that our region has come to enjoy and depend upon are struggling.

Furthermore, increasing taxes and fees burden those still here to pay for the necessary infrastructure, utilities, and services that a community needs. These ill effects of population decline are the biggest threat and challenge to Wabash County's resiliency.

Secondly, Wabash County intends to use the Stellar Pathways designation **to execute projects and programs that make this region a welcoming place for all – regardless of demographics, socioeconomic status, and abilities.** This designation would support the county's effort to provide more equitable and inclusive opportunities.

While our goals are shared, we recognize that each of our communities plays a unique role in advancing and achieving these accomplishments. Attracting and retaining residents and creating a welcoming place for all doesn't happen in a vacuum. There isn't one thing that will lead to success, but this designation would allow us to continue building momentum and capacity at both individual and county-wide scales. Together, we will use the resources and funding the Stellar Pathways program provides to implement initiatives that move the needle on the **two regional accomplishments** previously identified.

What does each municipality want to achieve?

There are a variety of methods for attracting and retaining residents and businesses. Our region is striving to provide high-quality programs, infrastructure, housing, and quality of life amenities as an approach to growing our population. While each of our communities would love to have the resources to expand and enhance all of the elements previously listed, our region recognizes the benefit of prioritizing and focusing efforts. Through public engagement efforts, we were able to pinpoint specific goals and priorities for each community. The table below highlights what each community hopes to achieve. While each community has its own desirable achievements, all of the priorities highlighted in the table are directly related to the broader regional goals.

“Through public engagement efforts, we were able to pinpoint specific goals and priorities for each community.”

REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We hope to execute projects and programs that:

- Improve the quality of life and place as an approach to stabilizing the population; and
- Promotes our region as a welcoming place for all – regardless of demographics, socioeconomic status, and abilities.

MUNICIPALITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS		Expand Support Services and Programs	Improve Utility Services and Infrastructure	Enhance Pedestrian Connectivity	Increase access to Healthy Food	Expand Housing options	Expand Parks and Recreation
	Wabash County	X				X	
	City of Wabash	X		X		X	X
	Town of North Manchester	X		X		X	
	Town of Roann					X	X
	Town of Lagro			X	X	X	
	Town of La Fontaine		X			X	X

CURRENT PROJECTS | WABASH COUNTY

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Arc of Wabash County	The Arc of Wabash County provides a wide variety of programs and services that meet the needs of adults with disabilities. This organization is building a new headquarters facility that will allow the organization to expand services, while all being under one roof.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	Due Diligence Phase			\$3,500,000	Ongoing
Early Awards Scholarship Program / Imagine Early	This program was developed by the Community Foundation in an effort to nurture young students and help them connect their efforts in school with their ability to attend technical school or college.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$400,000		\$400,000	Ongoing
First Five Alliance	First Five Alliance is a county-wide collaboration to share services to provide better quality and more affordable early childhood education.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
				\$1,150,000	Ongoing
Honeywell House Renovation	The Honeywell Foundation is actively planning the renovations of the Honeywell House in order to accommodate additional overnight guests. The Honeywell Arts Academy and other traveling artists bring top-talent to Wabash County creating unparalleled entertainment to the community.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	Due Diligence Phase			\$1,378,049	2027
LiveIN Wabash County	LiveIN Wabash County is a county-wide branding initiative in partnership with Visit Wabash County. This initiative is an active marketing/communications strategy for targeting specific demographics about why they should live in Wabash County. These segments include high school and college students as well as adults 22-35.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$70,000	30,000		\$100,000	On-going

CURRENT PROJECTS | WABASH COUNTY

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
MakeMyMove	MakeMyMove is a county-wide program aimed at moving remote workers into the community. This was a partnership with local partners, IEDC, and MakeMyMove.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$130,000	\$50,000		\$180,000	2027
Wabash County Broadband Task Force	This county-wide broadband deployment initiative aims to bring high-speed internet service to nearly 4,000 unserved and under-served addresses in the county.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$1,500,000	\$3,500,000		\$5,000,000	2026
Wabash County Development Corporation	This county-wide housing and mixed-use nonprofit development corporation supports projects and programs that create affordable residential development opportunities. On projects that lack private developer interest, the WCDC will fill the role of developer.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	Due Diligence Phase			\$3,500,000	On-going
Wabash County Fellowship Program	The Wabash County Fellowship Program was birthed out of our comprehensive plan, Imagine One 85. This Program was created to establish a new talent pipeline to support local employers, while exposing college students to the best the Community has to offer.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$68,750	\$126,400		\$195,150	On-going
CFC Distributors	CFC Distributors / Granit Parts, located at 8555 N State Road 15, Roann purchased a new Lonestar 6KW Laser used in the process of cutting metal.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$275,000		\$275,000	2024

CURRENT PROJECTS | WABASH COUNTY

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Imagine One 85 Implementation	This county-wide comprehensive strategic plan was adopted in 2021 and includes 85 recommendations specifically aimed at arresting and reversing over 40 years of population decline.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$189,000	\$183,500		\$372,500	On-going
Stellar Pathways Finalist	Wabash County received a planning grant from OCRA to create this Strategic Investment Plan.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$50,000			\$50,000	2024
Venture Hub NIIC Grant	Software for startups and entrepreneurs from NE Indiana Innovation Center				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$1,500		\$1,500	2024
Wabash Municipal Airport	The Wabash Municipal Airport is updating safety features such as a fence around property.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$2,000,000			\$2,000,000	2025

CURRENT PROJECTS | CITY OF WABASH

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
East Market Street Development	The East Market Street development will provide new townhomes in the heart of downtown Wabash.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	Due Diligence Phase			\$4,500,000	2028
Fulton Street Development	The Fulton Street development will provide 100 new apartment units along the Wabash River in downtown Wabash.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	Due Diligence Phase			\$22,211,000	2030
General Tire Site Development	This development will re-purpose an old brownfield site. With a developer secured, this site will provide new affordable apartments.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	Due Diligence Phase			\$12,000,000	2028
Legacy Heights Housing Development	Our region received funding through READI to construct a 44-unit housing development in the City of Wabash				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$4,000,000	\$7,000,000		\$11,000,000	2027
Ash Street Homes	This is an infill housing project spearheaded by a private citizen. This will add multiple new single-family homes to Wabash County with a price point that will be accessible to current and future Wabash County residents.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$15,000		\$15,000	2029

CURRENT PROJECTS | CITY OF WABASH

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Bionutrients Ag, LLC	An agricultural manufacturer that uses animal byproducts and waste to create fertilizer. This project was the result of collaboration between a local company, MPS Egg Farms, and an international company, Hello Nature (Italian).				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$1,780,000	\$39,420,000		\$41,200,000	2024
Bulldog Battery	Bulldog Battery, with two facilities located in the City of Wabash, purchased two new pieces of equipment –a MAC Industrial Stacker and a Lightning DS 612 Laser Cutter to reduce a production bottleneck, which will allow them to repurpose three employees to elsewhere in their process while also increasing their efficiency and production.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$606,000		\$606,000	2024
Duke Site Readiness Program	Grow Wabash County was one of 4 sites in US to receive the Duke Site Readiness program and grant in 2024 for due diligence on 232 new industrial acres.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$10,000		\$10,000	2024
Ford Meter Box	After consideration that included building out of state, Ford Meter Box Company decided to invest \$300M to create a new foundry and add hundreds of new jobs in Wabash County. Ford Meter Box has operated in Wabash County for over a century and their decision to continue to expand and invest in Wabash County is a testament to our business community's commitment to generating growth locally.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$84,843,882	\$215,156,118		\$300,000,000	2029
Kentner Creek	This housing project is being led by a private citizen to construct executive housing on the north side of the City of Wabash. This is one of many project aimed at expanding and diversifying the local housing stock to attract and retain residents.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$2,250,000			\$2,250,000	2030

CURRENT PROJECTS | CITY OF WABASH

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Machinery Girl Trucking	This company purchased 5.02 acres in NE Business Complex (Wabash) for \$98,916 and plan to build a nearly 7,000 SF building for trucking distribution center.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$550,000		\$550,000	2030
Wabash City Park Renovation	New playground at City Park				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$325,000	\$25,000		\$350,000	2024
Real Alloy Recycling	Real Alloy is in talks with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) to receive up to \$67.3M in funding to construct the first zero waste salt slag recycling facility in the United States.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$67,000,000	\$83,000,000		\$150,000,000	2030
Revive Materials, LLC	This manufacturer takes old tires, breaks them down and uses all parts of the tires to create manufacturing supplies (i.e. rubber mats, etc.). On the same campus as BioNutrients Ag, these two businesses are a testament to Wabash County's commitment to innovative and sustainable manufacturing practices.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$9,979,933		\$9,979,933	2025
SPEC Building	Grow Wabash County and the City of Wabash have entered into a partnership with Logan Properties and Nuway Construction to build multiple speculative (spec) buildings in the Wabash NE Business Complex.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$2,994,702		\$2,994,702	2026

CURRENT PROJECTS | CITY OF WABASH

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Wabash Bedford Building LLC	Renovated vacant building and now has apartments fully rented and commercial space still being built out ready to be rented.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$480,000		\$480,000	2030
Wabash Valley Power Grant Site Readiness	Grant funding provided for due diligence on 232 acres of new industrial land to add to the Wedcor Industrial Park since the county has had two record breaking years of business investment.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$58,900		\$58,900	2024
Walnut St Homes	This is an infill housing project spearheaded by a private citizen. This will add multiple new single-family homes to Wabash County with a price point that will be accessible to current and future Wabash County residents.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$5,001		\$5,001	2026
Wedcor Industrial Park Expansion	Redevelopment Commission of City of Wabash purchased 232 acres to add to Wedcor Business Park for future industrial growth.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$5,654,000			\$5,654,000	2030
Wabash Carnegie Public Library Renovation	New space will offer a wider range of diverse services, with external sources playing a more significant role in generating activities and programming. The library maintains a strong commitment to promoting reading and literature, with a particular emphasis on youth in our community.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$3,500,000	\$1,500,000		\$5,000,000	2025

CURRENT PROJECTS | NORTH MANCHESTER

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
College Row	This development, located across from Manchester University, will include 20 new townhome units. This project was a recipient of the Lilly Endowment's College and Community Collaboration grant.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$900,000	\$6,600,000		\$7,500,000	2028
Cultural Facility Improvements	Manchester University is beginning design and renovations on two arts and cultural facilities on their campus. The newly renovated spaces will serve as a community-hub for arts and culture in partnership with the Honeywell Foundation. This project was a recipient of the Lilly Endowment's College and Community Collaboration grant.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$6,850,000		\$6,850,000	2027
Downtown Revitalization Plan for the Town of N. Manchester	The town is refreshing its Downtown Revitalization Plan in order to begin planning for the future now that there will be over \$40M in new projects in or around downtown North Manchester in the next 5 years.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$46,000			\$46,000	2024
Eel River Commons	Eel River Commons is a new riverfront park in the heart of downtown North Manchester along the Eel River. This project was a recipient of the Lilly Endowment's College and Community Collaboration grant.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	3,200,000	\$6,800,000		\$10,000,000	2028
Manchester Mile	The Manchester Mile is a complete streetscape connector that connects Manchester University's campus to the downtown and Eel River Commons. This project was a recipient of the Lilly Endowment's College and Community Collaboration grant.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$1,300,000	\$960,000		\$2,260,000	2028

CURRENT PROJECTS | NORTH MANCHESTER

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Main Street Bridge Replacement	The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is in the process of replacing the gateway bridge into North Manchester that will include pedestrian-friendly features and a large sign display.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$3,500,000			\$3,500,000	2026
Market Street Bridge Replacement	Wabash County is in the process of replacing a gateway bridge into North Manchester that will include pedestrian-friendly features.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$10,800,000			\$10,800,000	2026
The Coop	Manchester Alive purchased & renovated a historic Downtown building to create a small business incubator in North Manchester.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$150,000	\$600,000		\$750,000	2028
HF Group	Purchased machinery for new printing capabilities and installed to expand their range of services offered to customers and make their production systems more efficient. Project will retain 183 jobs.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$565,000		\$565,000	2024
HF Group	HF Group has purchased machinery purchased and installed to expand its range of services offered to customers and make their production systems more efficient. This project will retain 183 jobs.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$887,482		\$887,482	2024

CURRENT PROJECTS | NORTH MANCHESTER

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Intertech Products	Intertech Products purchase and install an additional extruding coating line. This new equipment will allow for Intertech Products to expand its services and output, but it will also safeguard current and future operations. This project will create 8 new jobs.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$3,000,000		\$3,000,000	2025
Precision Medical Technologies	PreMedTech has purchased a PVD coating system to add thin-film coatings to medical instruments. This will increase the quality of the products they manufacture and sell to their clients. This project will retain 63 jobs.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$1,293,240		\$1,293,240	2024
S&T Investment Group	Milford-based S&T Investment Group has purchased the historic 88,700 square feet building in North Manchester. The vacant building was remodeled and now home to several industrial and distribution companies.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$1,650,000		\$1,650,000	2025
Springfield Plastics	This company purchased 13.84 acres in North Manchester Business Park sites 8 & 9 for a distribution facility that should break ground soon.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$600,000		\$600,000	2030

CURRENT PROJECTS | LAGRO

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Town of Lagro Economic Development Plan	The Town of Lagro is finalizing its first ever Economic Development Plan to continue to capitalize on the momentum from the Wabash River Trail, as well as plan for the type of growth they'd like to see in the future.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$46,000			\$46,000	2024
Lagro Canal Foundation (Main Street Organization)	The Lagro Canal Foundation is a diversified group of people who share a common goal of wanting to inspire and foster positive changes in the community. This group is in the process of becoming a designated Main Street Organization.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$150,000		\$150,000	On-going

CURRENT PROJECTS | LA FONTAINE

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
La Fontaine Community Alliance (Main Street Organization)	The Community Alliance is a dedicated group of volunteers, residents of La Fontaine, working together and in partnership with community leaders to provide a place where the community can gather. This group is working on becoming a designated Main Street Organization.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$500	\$,9050	\$250	\$9,800	On-going
La Fontaine Wastewater Project	The town is working to reline old pipes to prevent leaks, add new manhole covers, and update the lift stations with state of the art electronics . This will improve the efficiency of the entire wastewater system.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	\$2,528,000			\$2,528,000	2024
La Fontaine WaterWorks	This project includes a variety of improvements ranging from the construction of a new water filtration treatment plant to a new level control and monitoring system within the towns existing elevated storage tank and replacement of all existing customer meters and target service lines.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
	4,275,800			4,275,800	2024
TD La Fontaine Biogas LLC	TD La Fontaine Biogas has entered into an agreement with a local dairy farmer to lease land and utilize the methane emitted from the animals in an anaerobic digester which synthesizes the gas in ways that allow for reuse and more sustainable farming practices. Additionally, this company has also contributed \$5,000 to the Town of La Fontaine's efforts to establish a Main Street Organization.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$7,000,000		\$7,000,000	2030

CURRENT PROJECTS | ROANN

The following table represents current quality of life initiatives and capital projects that will be completed in the next five-years.

Project Name	Project Description				
Chippewa Street Improvement	The town is installing new sidewalks with pedestrian lights along Chippewa Street between W 600 N and Pike Street.				
	Public	Private	Other	Total	Estimated Completion Date
		\$218,700		\$218,700	2024

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ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

HOW WILL THE STELLAR DESIGNATION ENABLE THE REGION TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE REGION'S GOALS?

Since the adoption and early implementation efforts of Imagine One 85 Plan, Wabash County has posted three consecutive years (2021-2023) of positive net migration and demonstrated progress in over 80% of the action agenda items from the comprehensive plan, but there is still more work to do. With the additional support and funding provided by the Stellar Pathways program, the Wabash County region would have the resources to execute several of the projects and ideas that were born out of the Imagine One 85 Plan to make an immediate and long-lasting impact on the future of Wabash County.

REGIONAL GOAL #1 | GREAT PLACES

A range of diverse and beautiful environments – thriving town centers, productive agricultural lands, verdant natural spaces – that, collectively, define Wabash County.

Within the county's comprehensive plan, there are 26 supporting action items identified under this goal. This designation would enable the region to complete, or make progress towards, seven specific action items that work to enhance community character and physical connections. The following action items are directly related to one of the projects or programs identified within this SIP.

Implementable Action Items –

- Support continued reinvestment in Downtown Lagro.
- Pursue the North Manchester Riverfront redevelopment project.
- Continue to build access and use of the Eel and Wabash Rivers.
- Study the impact of tile drainage on local flooding.
- Build a community park in Roann.
- Continue to support the County's commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community for all.
- Improve connections between the University and Main Street in North Manchester.

REGIONAL GOAL #2 | PEOPLE & PROSPERITY

A strong and growing network of communities built through their commitment to competitive and lifelong education, support for entrepreneurs and local businesses, and investment into bold projects and initiatives

Because of the nature of these topics, the majority of the action items are programs and/or planning related tasks. While the action items aren't directly related to the proposed built projects, each of the Stellar projects strive to address two key objectives that fall under this goal including:

- Elevate an environment to develop, attract, and retain talent.
- Advocate for improving personal prosperity, health, and safety.

REGIONAL GOAL #3 | HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

A healthy housing system with a wide range of options, safe and attractive neighborhoods, and choices for residents of all ages and lifestyles.

Within the county's comprehensive plan, there are 18 supporting action items identified under this goal. This designation would enable the region to complete, or make progress towards, four action items. The following action items are directly related to one of the projects or programs identified within this SIP.

Implementable Action Items –

- Expand housing options for students and workers.
- Align resources and regulations to support infill development.
- Establish a county-wide Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).
- Identify opportunities for quality affordable housing.

REGIONAL GOAL #4 | FOUNDATIONS

A reliable base of enabling infrastructure helps to connect, grow, and protect our communities, while also supporting logical investments that expand opportunities for residents and businesses

Within the county's comprehensive plan, there are 15 supporting action items identified under this goal. This designation would enable the region to complete, or make progress towards, four action items. The following action items are directly related to one of the projects or programs identified within this SIP.

Implementable Action Items –

- Increase funding for maintenance of local roads and bridges, and continue pursuing matching funds.
- Pursue a phased approach to improving downtown streetscapes in Wabash and North Manchester.
- Increase wastewater capacity and utility access.
- Improve County Road 1200 N (SR-114) in North Manchester to include complete street accommodations.

Our region has demonstrated progress in over **80%** of the action items, but there is still more to do.

This designation would help us implement **15** additional action items from our county-wide comprehensive plan.



"The county is coming together in some effective and cohesive ways, and the access and aggressive seeking of public funding to support growth and new development is commendable."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 4

Regional Capacity

IN THIS SECTION:

CAPACITY OF PARTICIPATING
ENTITIES

PAST SUCCESSES

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

COMPLETED PROJECTS

CAPACITY

FISCAL CAPACITY

Even with the county's declining population trends, the region has a history of generously supporting projects that add value to our local communities. We recognize that achieving our long-term goals will require the creative use of limited public dollars and the willingness to implement new and alternative revenue sources. The Imagine One 85 Plan includes a fiscal review of each municipality and recommendations for how the county can grow its tax base and revenues.

Successful strategic investment plans require an understanding of a community's fiscal capacity to ensure that a realistic action plan is recommended for the future. Highlights from the Imagine One 85 fiscal review are provided below:

Assessed Value

Overall, each municipality (except for Lagro) has seen an increase in the average annual tax base between 2015 and 2022. While the average annual increase ranges from 0.8% to 2.0%, Lagro has experienced a net reduction in tax base since 2016. Slow tax base appreciation limits the town's ability to generate new revenues without increasing property taxes.

Year End Cash

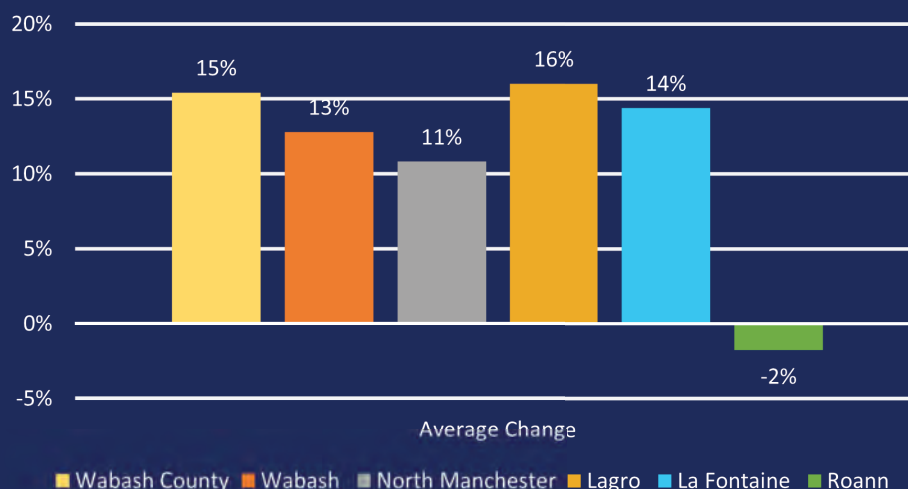
A strong year-end cash balance allows municipalities to meet cash flow needs, complete scheduled projects, and provide resources in the case of an emergency or disruption in revenue. Looking at the past five years, each municipality (except for Roann) has experienced an average increase ranging from 11-16% per year in its year-end cash balance. On average, Roann has experienced a 2% decrease each year since 2018.

Fulfilling Match

All participating communities, The City of Wabash, and towns of North Manchester, Lagro, Roann, and La Fontaine, are aware of the match commitments and understand their requirements to fulfill any funding matches required for their community. Wabash County has demonstrated a strong track record of fulfilling all match requirements in a wide variety of Community initiatives. Within the last 3 years, we have successfully facilitated 29 state and federal grants that have total over \$7.7M in funding. A detailed list of completed projects is provided on page 57.

2018 - 2023

Average Change in
Year End Cash



Funding Sources

Economic pressures and declining population trends cause local community and county budgets to be constricted making it challenging to plan for and incorporate long-term capital improvements and maintenance expenses. To combat these challenges, the leaders of Wabash County and the municipalities are continually seeking traditional and alternative funding and implementation tools. The list below provides a high-level assessment of the types of federal, state, local, and private funding opportunities that have been used to close the gaps in recent years.

- **State and Federal Funding and Technical Resources** - These tools include but are not limited to tax abatement, tax credits, tax increment financing, and revolving loan funds.
- **Local Public Funding and Technical Resources** - These tools include but are not limited to bonds, capital improvement planning, impact fees, and user rates.
- **Local Private and Philanthropic Fundings** - These tools include but are not limited to public / private partnerships, donations and capital campaigns, and sponsorships.

Wabash County also has two local endowments that provide critical philanthropic funds to our community. The Honeywell Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing arts, education, and entertainment to all. This organization led the rehabilitation of the Eagle's Theater - one of Wabash's 2014 Stellar Projects. The Community Foundation of Wabash County is another foundation with a permanent and accessible endowment for charitable purposes dedicated to the betterment of the community.

LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

Grow Wabash County

Grow Wabash County, the county-wide economic development and chamber of commerce, is serving as the lead entity for the Stellar Pathways Program and will continue to be the thread that pulls all these partners and programs together alongside Imagine One 85 and the development team. Their leadership in staffing and project management will ensure the successful execution of identified projects and programs from the Strategic Investment Plan. With a staff of five individuals and a board of 15 members, Grow Wabash County is committed tackling the big-picture challenges facing Wabash County. Between 2023 and 2024, this organization secured nearly \$500,000 in private investment.

Imagine One 85 Director

In 2022, the county created a position specifically for community engagement and plan implementation. If selected as a Stellar Pathway designee, the Imagine One 85 Director can take on a similar role for the Stellar process. This type of leadership position is unique to our region and ensures an individual is dedicated to moving projects forward.

Development Team

Serving under Grow Wabash County and Imagine One 85, there is a development team made up of 10 individuals with representation from each participating municipality. This leadership group was tasked with guiding the development of the Strategic Investment Plan and will continue to meet monthly through the five-year designation period. The development team serves as the liaison between the lead entity and the municipalities.

This organizational structure illustrates our region's commitment to maintaining transparency in decision-making, providing opportunities to strengthen our regional participation, and providing equitable opportunities for enhancements across the county.



SUPPORT BEYOND OUR BORDERS

Just as important as our local partners, it is critical to sustain partnerships with neighboring regions and state agencies.

Regional Partnerships

Wabash County has been a regional partner in northeast Indiana for over a decade – this is evident through our participation in the state’s Regional Cities Initiative, Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), READI 2.0, and the Strategic Development Commission.

Northeast Indiana (NEI) is a public-private regional economic development organization representing and serving 11 counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley. Our communities have proudly supported and participated in various efforts with this organization over the last several years.

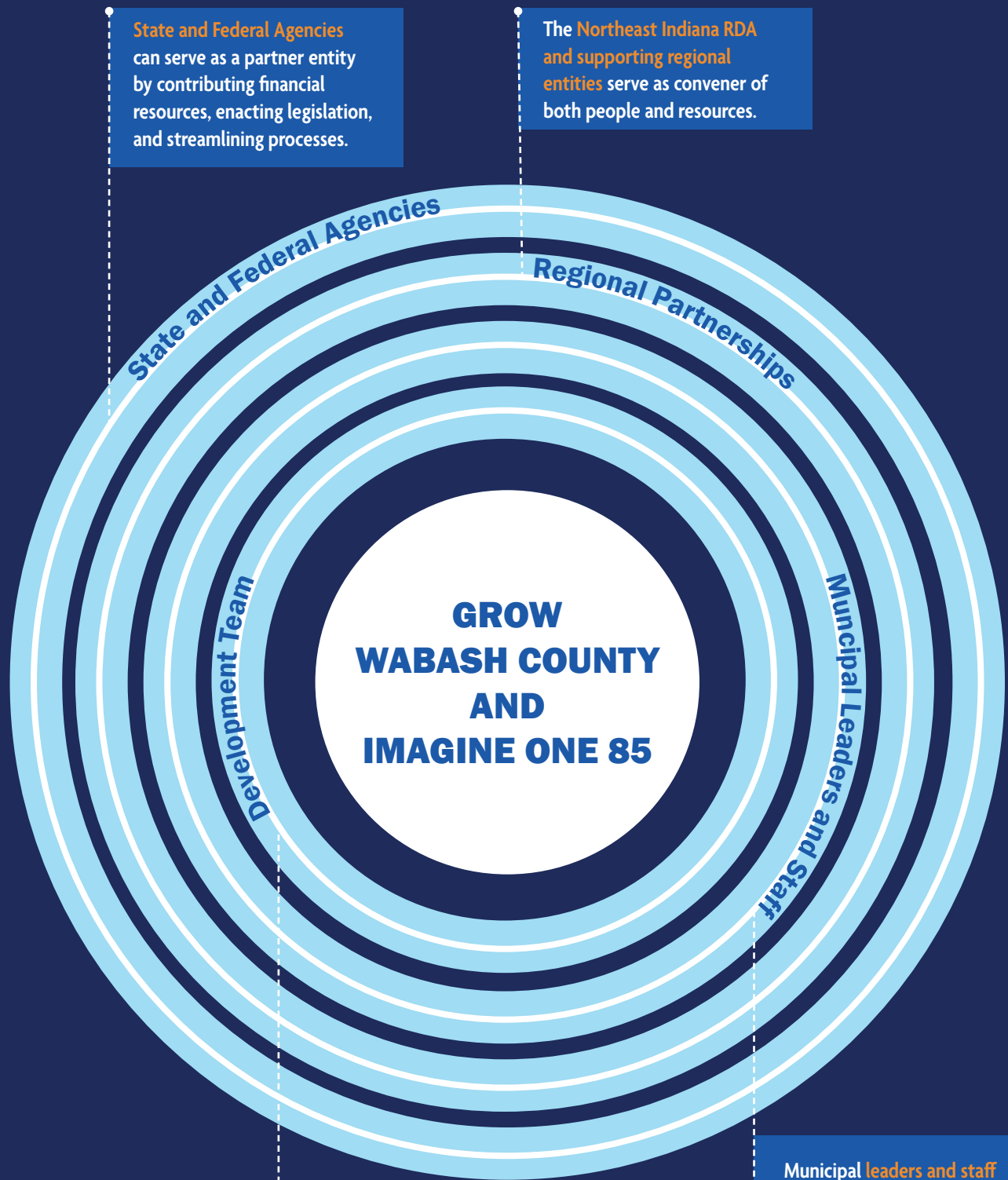
- In 2015, the region came together to create the Northeast Indiana RDA to apply for funds available through the state’s Regional Cities Initiative. The result was the Road to One Million (RTOM) plan that emphasized population growth as an economic catalyst. Because of the RTOM plan, Northeast Indiana was awarded \$42 million through the initiative, which aimed to make Indiana a magnet for talent attraction by funding transformative quality-of-place projects.
- In 2021, the Northeast Indiana region came together again to update its regional development plan, Growing with Vision, in response to the state of Indiana’s Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) program. This effort led to \$18M in funding for six specific projects. One of the six projects was located in Wabash – Legacy Heights, a workforce housing development.
- In 2023, READI 2.0 was announced to continue funding economic development projects for regions around the state. The Northeast Indiana region submitted a proposal in early 2024 which led to an additional \$45M in funding.

The Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission (NEISDC) was created by the Indiana legislation in 2021 to provide strategic framework for how Northeast Indiana will raise wages, grow the population, and increase the number of residents with college degrees or credentials. It serves as the conduit for \$30 million in state funding to be deployed in the region. While built projects were prioritized using READI funds, these funds are allocated for quality of life programmatic efforts.

State and Federal Agencies

Addressing complex problems requires collaboration across multiple sectors and jurisdictions. Intergovernmental collaboration is vital to maximizing resources, closing gaps, and creating innovative solutions to local challenges. Without the support of State and Federal partnerships, Wabash County would not be where it is today. Our region is committed to nurturing these partnerships and resources to continue meeting the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Wabash County has a long history of partnering with state and federal agencies to implement initiatives that strive to achieve not only our regional goals, but also statewide goals. This history is documented in the “Record of Completed Projects” list on page 57. **Within the last 3 years, we have successfully facilitated 29 state and federal grants totaling over \$7.7M in funding.**



State and Federal Agencies can serve as a partner entity by contributing financial resources, enacting legislation, and streamlining processes.

The Northeast Indiana RDA and supporting regional entities serve as convener of both people and resources.

The development team serves as the liaison between the lead entity and the municipalities.

Municipal leaders and staff are often times the project champion and should provide sound management of financial resources and public services.

HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

2019

The kick-off of the county-wide collaboration known as Imagine One 85. Each member of the development team was directly involved in this process.

2020
2021

The development team played a vital role in promoting and assisting in the facilitation of community engagement efforts.

2022

After the Imagine One 85 plan was complete, the development team quickly switched their focus to implementation. This group began meeting monthly to continue the collaboration and hired a Director of Imagine One 85.

2023

The Director of Imagine One 85, tasked with leading the implementation of the strategies outlined in the comprehensive plan, gained momentum.

2024

All five incorporated areas were quick to join the county in preparing and submitting the Letter of Intent in early 2024. The development team came to the first SIP meeting with a list of 30 projects and programs already identified.

PAST SUCCESSES OF THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Our team

The development team is responsible for guiding the development of the Strategic Investment Plan and serves as the liaison between the lead entity and the municipalities. This 10-person committee is represented by each municipality and the three primary economic development agencies in the county – Grow Wabash County, Imagine One 85, and the Community Foundation of Wabash County. Each representative was directly involved in the Imagine One 85 planning process adopted in 2022.

The development team includes –

- Kristie Bone - Town of Lagro
- Jeff Dawes - Wabash County
- Alex Downard - Imagine One 85
- Bob Ferguson - Town of Roann
- Patty Grant - Community Foundation
- Tracie Hensley - Town of La Fontaine
- Scott Long - City of Wabash
- Sam McFadden - Community Foundation
- Adam Penrod - Town of North Manchester
- Tenille Zartman - Grow Wabash County

Our Experience Working Together

As a true testament to the county's commitment to collaboration and the implementation of plans, we can once again look to the county-wide comprehensive plan, Imagine One 85.

After facing 40 years of declining population, Wabash County leaders banded together to organize the Imagine One 85 initiative to arrest population loss and grow Wabash County. Spanning nearly two years of work, during a pandemic, the planning process culminated in the creation of a county-wide comprehensive plan. The plan represents the synthesis of citizen ideas and expert technical analysis for growth in Wabash County. The process was a stimulating exercise that allowed citizens of the county to examine the communities we all live in, the roles we play as residents of these communities, and ultimately what citizens imagine the future of Wabash County to be. This example showcases our success in two areas – public engagement and implementation.

Public Engagement

Even in the depths of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Imagine One 85 project team found creative ways to engage the public. In the early visioning stages of the plan development, more than 250 people participated in a Focus on the Future discussion and, together, generated thousands of comments and ideas. Later in the process, more than 200 people gathered at the Honeywell Center Plaza to celebrate the communities' strengths and progress, and to provide feedback on the development of the comprehensive plan.

Implementation

Imagine One 85 is more than a planning document that guides the focus of our community. The planning process established a culture of collaboration and built a contagious spirit of ownership in the future of Wabash County. That collaboration and spirit of ownership are what guided the implementation of the plan that established that culture within our community.

Since the Imagine One 85 plan has been adopted in July 2022, Wabash County has continued building momentum by:

- **Hiring a Director** - The Imagine One 85 steering committee was determined not to let the plan sit on the shelf. Therefore, a collective decision was made to hire a Director of Imagine One 85, tasked with leading the implementation of the strategies outlined in the comprehensive plan.
- **Gathering monthly** - Each of our communities, county government officials, community support organizations, and private sector partners are around the same table every month working to move projects and programs forward.
- **Marking off items on our to-do list** - We believe that our demonstrated progress in over 80% of our action agenda items is evidence of our unwavering commitment to not only the prior planning work of Imagine One 85 as a foundation for our future and its implementation efforts but the commitment to collaboration and execution on future transformational initiatives, such as the Stellar Pathways Program.
- **Achieving positive net migration** - Since the adoption and early implementation efforts of Imagine One 85, Wabash County has posted three consecutive years (2021-2023) of positive net migration and predicted to grow by 0.1% by 2028.

Another recent example is the Manchester Together Plan, through the College and Community Collaborative (CCC) Initiative. In August 2024, the Lilly Endowment awarded North Manchester University a \$12.1M grant to improve community assets and amenities. Members from this development team served as advisory committee members and stakeholders in this successful planning process.



COMPLETED PROJECTS

PAST SUCCESSES WITH THE GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Wabash County has partnered with Kleinpeter Consulting Group to oversee the grant process by providing administrative and technical support from pre-award planning to final reporting. Mike Kleinpeter is an OCRA-certified grant administrator with extensive knowledge of the applicable regulations and policies needed to execute CDBG grants and other awards successfully. Local municipalities are actively working on two planning studies facilitated through Kleinpeter Consulting Group including the North Manchester Downtown Plan and the Lagro Economic Development Plan.

Experience using State and Federal Grant Funds

Wabash County has demonstrated a strong track record of fulfilling all match requirements in a wide variety of community initiatives. It is common practice for Wabash County, and the five other municipalities, to utilize state and federal funds to execute projects, programs, and planning studies. The following table, Record of Completed Project, documents the projects completed in last three years using state and federal grant funds. Within the last 3 years, we have successfully facilitated 29 state and federal grants totaling over \$7.7M in funding.

Record of Completed Project
(Using State/Federal funds in the past 3 years)

Location	Funding Source	Award Date	Award Amount	Status
Wabash County	IEDC	2022	\$55,000	On-going
Wabash County	OCRA - COVID 19	2020	\$250,000	Complete
Wabash County	OCRA - COVID 19	2020	\$140,000	Complete
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2024 - 1	\$779,829.44	On-going
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2023-2	\$868,501.98	On-going
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2023-1	\$130,207.85	On-going
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2022-2	\$455,894.71	Complete
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2022-1	\$505,290.65	Complete
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2021-2	\$389,327.88	Complete
Wabash County	INDOT CCMG	2021-1	\$863,913.53	Complete
City of Wabash	INDOT - CCMG	2023 -2	\$236,379.74	On-going
City of Wabash	INDOT - CCMG	2023-1	\$509,043.67	On-going
City of Wabash	INDOT CCMG	2022-1	\$264,426.50	Complete
Town of North Manchester	OCRA – CDBG (Downtown Revitalization Plan)	Dec-23	\$40,000	On-going
Town of North Manchester	INDOT CCMG	2023-2	\$510,674.99	Complete
Town of North Manchester	INDOT CCMG	2022-2	\$417,000.00	Complete
Town of North Manchester	INDOT CCMG	2022-1	\$18,609.90	Complete
Town of North Manchester	INDOT CCMG	2021-1	\$520,814.26	Complete
Town of Lagro	OCRA – CDBG (Economic Development Plan)	Dec-23	\$40,000	On-going
Town of Lagro	INDOT CCMG	2023-1	\$76,637.21	On-going
Town of Lagro	USDA (Tractor)	2022	\$33,600.00	Complete
Town of Lagro	USDA(Truck)	2022	\$40,900.00	Complete
Town of Lagro	INDIANA ALLIANCE (Apprentice for water operator)	2021	\$116,711.58	Complete
Town of Lagro	INDIANA PLACEMAKING (Lighting)	2024	\$4,700.00	On-going
Town of Lagro	COVID-ARPA	2020	\$91,840.70	Complete
Town of La Fontaine	INDOT CCMG	2023-1	\$138,882.00	On-going
Town of Roann	USDA (Town Truck / Snow Plow)	2021	\$72,658	Complete
Town of Roann	USDA (Town Marshal Vehicle)	2022	\$51,421	Complete
Town of Roann	COVID - ARPA	2020	\$101,823.41	Complete



"In my 8-plus years living here, I have been astounded by the level of engagement demonstrated by the Wabash County community. It is par for the course for the majority of Wabash County residents to be involved in SOME way in their community whether serving on a board, volunteering for programs and projects or rallying around a project or cause that would ultimately benefit Wabash County as a whole."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 5

Community Engagement

IN THIS SECTION:

OUR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT
TIMELINE
COMMUNICATIONS
FUTURE EFFORTS

OUR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Providing frequent and transparent ways to get involved and share input has been one of the primary tools for building our culture of collaboration and a sense of ownership in Wabash County. While our region understands and values the engagement process, the timeline of the 2024 Stellar Pathways program was such that several methods were needed to gather input quickly. Throughout this process, community engagement and outreach were primary goals; however, this strategic plan also relied heavily on past planning efforts.

TRIED AND TRUE METHODS

The development team used the following engagement opportunities and tools to educate, engage, and excite the 31,000 residents of Wabash County.

Mobile Engagement Display

Our region capitalized on the various community events that were occurring throughout September 2024. The benefit of this engagement method was that the development team could meet people where they were instead of asking people to come to a project-specific meeting. The project team created a tabletop display that provided an overview of the Stellar process, defined the region, and outlined ways to stay informed, get involved, and connect with the development team. This mobile engagement tool also included an interactive component that asked people to share their one wish for the region. This mobile display was available at the Grow Wabash County office for people to “check out” for community events. Members of the development team were encouraged to staff the Wabash County: On the Banks of a Stellar Future booth.

The mobile engagement display was present at the following events:

- Roann Festival (September 5th – 7th) - It is estimated that 4,000 people attended this community event in the Town of Roann throughout the weekend.
- Hispanic Heritage Festival (September 13th) - It is estimated that 1200 people attended this community event on Market Street in North Manchester.
- Founders Day Festival (September 13th -14th) - It is estimated that 1,000 people attended this community event at Paradise Spring Historic Park in Wabash.

Project Website & Online Survey

The project website (tswdesigngroup.com/Wabashcounty) served as the home base for the plan so that community members know where to look for project updates and ways to get involved in the process. The website was one of many ways the region promoted the online survey and public events. An online survey was available through most of the SIP planning process. This survey was available in both English and Spanish and received over 300 responses. This survey was promoted via press release, social media campaigns, postcards in local restaurants, and school newsletters.



Public Open House & Community Event

The project team facilitated two public events on October 10, 2024. The first event was in North Manchester from 12:00 – 2:00pm. Nearly 20 people stopped by The Coop on Main Street to review and share ideas related to the proposed project ideas. On the evening of October 10, 2024, the project team attended the Grow Wabash County Annual Dinner at the Honeywell Center in Wabash. There were nearly 300 people at this event to celebrate the businesses and leaders that help grow our communities every day. Attendees were encouraged to provide input on the proposed project ideas during the cocktail hour.

Stakeholder Meetings

Members of the development team facilitate monthly meetings with various stakeholders through Wabash County. We used these meetings as an opportunity to inform stakeholders about the Stellar Pathways program, the SIP process, and collect input from these specific representatives. These stakeholders included student focus groups, the Hispanic and Amish population, and community programming partners.

CHALLENGES

The only major challenge related to engagement stemmed from the condensed timeline of the strategic investment plan. The process of scheduling and preparing materials, collecting information, reviewing ideas, and generating a consensus is often lengthy. Replicating these efforts across municipal boundaries and amongst varying stakeholders takes a significant amount of time. Our region is fortunate to have many years of planning processes and community input already collected to build on. These past planning efforts, which include extension public engagement strategies, are outlined on the regional engagement timeline on the following pages.

PARTICIPATION

One of our primary goals for engagement was to reach people of all ages and all areas of the county. We were able to track this effort by asking specific questions about the respondent's age and residence in the online survey. While the majority of the survey participants lived in North Manchester, each community and the unincorporated area of the county were represented. We also received a diverse range of respondents based on age except for youth. While we would have liked to engage this demographic more, youth were heavily involved in previous planning efforts as key stakeholders. We did attempt to reach this demographic more by asking the school to share the survey link in an email blast to encourage students and families to participate.

In terms of in-person events, it is more difficult to track demographics, but our development team made a strong effort to provide engagement opportunities in a variety of locations throughout the region to make it convenient for residents to participate. The development team did a phenomenal job at coordinating attendance at each community event to ensure someone was available to help educate and engage the community.

ACCESSIBILITY

Our region acknowledges that inclusive community engagement creates better outcomes. It is an intentional process about empowering individuals as active participants in shaping the decisions that impact their lives. The success of community engagement hinges on our ability to identify potential barriers and then create a strategy to overcome those barriers. Our efforts to make engagement more accessible and inclusive are highlighted below.

We prioritized meeting people where they were.

As previously mentioned, our development team focused heavily on meeting people where they were by attending community events and providing online engagement opportunities to make it as easy and convenient as possible. Not all community groups have sufficient time, capacity, and resources to attend and respond to all engagement requests. Our community members did not have to seek out an opportunity to provide input. Instead, the development team brought the information to them. This minimizes logistic barriers, such as the location or timing of the engagement opportunity.

We leveraged both digital and traditional media channels to help spread the word. A fundamental obstacle to community engagement is the lack of awareness or understanding of the opportunities available or the importance of involvement. The planning process and engagement opportunities were promoted by press releases in the local newspapers and social media channels.

We explored strategies to overcome language

barriers. It's important to understand that various languages are spoken within a community. Our engagement strategies included multilingual services so that people could engage with materials in their preferred language and a stakeholder meeting with Spanish-speaking individuals. A local Hispanic resident taught members of the development team key phrases in Spanish for the Hispanic Heritage Festival. Our region also provided a Spanish version of the online survey and prepared advertisements in Spanish.

REPORTING

In an effort to be transparent, the online survey and public engagement events were summarized and published on the project website for the region to review throughout the planning process. Furthermore, all raw survey data and summarized data are included in Appendix B: Community Engagement Summary.

PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

The timeline on pages 64-65 illustrates how Wabash County has engaged all four corners of the region over the last 5 years and summarizes the past planning efforts that served as a foundation for this effort.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

**2019-
2022**

Imagine One 85 County-wide Comprehensive Plan

- Over 1,000 residents participated in the conversation about how the County should grow.
- An outreach committee comprising 100 individuals played a pivotal role in amplifying community voices.
- Eight virtual workshops, attended by 300 individuals, provided a platform for meaningful dialogue about the county's future.
- A staggering number of comments received—over 2,100—pertaining to growth and development.

2023

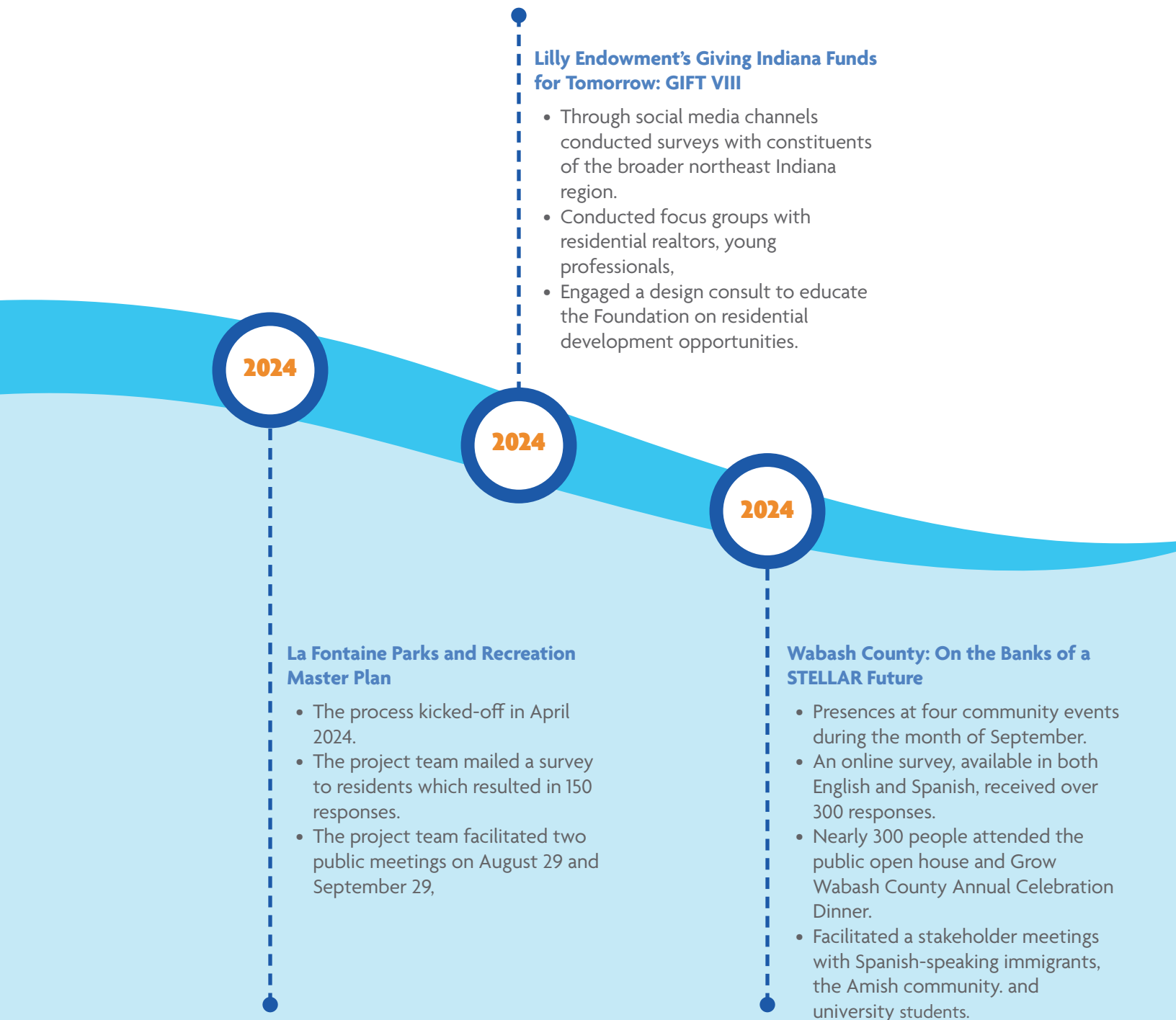
Manchester Together - The College and Community Collaboration Initiative

- Over 100 distinct ideas were gathered from stakeholders.
- Over 200 participants gathered to confirm the project ideas.
- This process used a modified application of the Racial Equity and Inclusion Action Guide prepared by the Annie E Casey Foundation. Eleven 30-minute interviews were conducted to understand how people may be adversely affected by the proposed projects.

2024

Level-up Lagro Economic Development Plan

- Fifteen stakeholders were interviewed
- Twelve people attended the community workshop
An online survey was open from April 2024 – August 2024 and received 97 responses.



COMMUNICATIONS

At the launch of the strategic planning process, the project team crafted a Communications and Engagement Plan centered around three key goals – educate, engage, and excite. This plan outlined specific tools and activities that were deployed throughout the planning process. The communications plan not only became a useful tool for sharing and collecting information, but it also held the development team accountable. Each of the following tools and activities that were originally identified back in July 2024 were implemented.

GOAL #1: EDUCATE

The following efforts aimed to educate the Wabash County residents, businesses, organizations, and leaders of the Stellar Pathways Program and the process for completing the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

BRANDING & PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

We created a cohesive visual identity that resonates with the region.

The project team developed a unique identity for the planning process to help community members remember and recognize the project. The team also ensured that all project materials complement each other and consistently used the logo, colors, and fonts.

PROJECT DASHBOARD – WEBSITE LANDING PAGE

We established an online platform that served as the home base for all things related to the SIP process.

A project-specific landing page was developed using Wix to provide an online platform for the Strategic Investment Plan. The website served as the home base for the plan so that community members know where to look for project updates and ways to get involved in the process. A link to the landing page was added to all major websites within the county.

PRINTED MATERIALS

We used printed materials to distribute information and help raise awareness.

A series of promotional materials were created and distributed to help raise awareness of the planning process. These materials include a FAQ sheet, promotional postcards for upcoming engagement opportunities, and other branding materials such as a table cloth with the project logo for events.

GOAL #2: ENGAGE

The following efforts aimed to engage Wabash County residents, businesses, organizations, and leaders in the planning process. Identifying projects and programs with community consensus was critical to creating a successful plan. Due to the condensed nature of the Stellar Pathways timeline, this planning effort depended significantly on past engagement efforts. Additional efforts were focused on vetting the proposed projects that the region hoped to submit within this SIP.

PAST ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

We carried forward the work that has already been done.

Wabash County has been working together to collect and advance ideas for quite some time. The following efforts served as the foundation for this Strategic Investment Plan.

Imagine One 85

Between November 2020 and July 2021, the Imagine One 85 project team and committee facilitated a series of engagement efforts that were used to outline a county-wide vision and craft a detailed action agenda. The first round of efforts, Focus on the Future, included fourteen stakeholder group interviews, five in-person workshops, and four virtual workshops. More than 250 people participated in the discussion and, together, generated thousands of comments and ideas.

Later in the process, more than 200 people gathered at the Honeywell Center Plaza to celebrate the Communities' strengths and progress, and to provide feedback on the development of the comprehensive plan. More than 400 ideas were shared during the Growth Summit with 42 identified as MIGHTY Ideas by group members.

Manchester Together

In late 2023, the Town of Manchester and Manchester University embarked on a planning process to create the Manchester Together initiative through the College and Community Collaboration Initiative. Over 200 community members participated in this process.

Level up Lagro

In May 2024, the project team facilitated three stakeholder meetings, one in-person public workshop, and an online survey.



DEVELOPMENT TEAM / ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We appointed a diverse group of individuals to guide the development of the SIP.

Even before Wabash County was nominated as a Stellar Finalist, the region had already established a working group of ten individuals that met monthly to collaborate. The project team used this committee to guide the development of the SIP. This development team met bi-weekly throughout the planning process.

INTERACTIVE TOUR WITH PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

We visited locations in the county that are relevant to the SIP to observe the built environment and have informal conversations with stakeholders.

As an informal approach to engagement, the project team toured the county and was introduced to key stakeholders at each location. This provided stakeholders with an opportunity to meet the project team and share high-level details about the potential project or program.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES - ONLINE SURVEY

We developed and promoted an online survey to confirm the prioritization of key themes.

An online survey was used to confirm the region's top priorities using the key themes or topics that emerged during the first committee meeting. This input was one of the several ways the projects were evaluated to determine which projects move forward as a proposed Stellar project in the SIP. The online survey was live from August 12, 2024 – October 15, 2024 and received over 300 responses.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We utilized existing social media platforms to distribute information.

The development team is made up of ten critical community entities or organizations. Each of these representatives had their own social media platforms with an existing following. The project team developed and distributed a social media campaign for September – November to promote the SIP process and share updates with the general public.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP | COMMUNITY EVENTS

We invited the general public to provide feedback on the draft plan.

The project team facilitated an in-person workshop to vet the county's priorities and project list. This engagement opportunity was used to ensure the county's plan accurately reflected the needs of Wabash County residents, businesses, and organizations. The project team also developed a mobile tabletop display that traveled to various community events.

GOAL #3: EXCITE

The following efforts aimed to build excitement around the Stellar Pathways Program and the process for completing the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

MARKETING PACKET

We crafted a creative Wabash County packet to highlight the process and projects identified within the SIP.

Not only does this packet promote the planning process, but it can also be used to market the participating communities and overall county to attract residents and businesses. This packet is envisioned as a 5–10-page brochure that graphically depicts and summarizes key aspects of the process and projects identified.

PRESENTATION MESSAGING

We worked to ensure the message is consistent across all speakers.

While the presentation message and materials were developed by the project team, the team also facilitated practice sessions, and prepared scripts for speakers to ensure a consistent message was conveyed.

STATE PRESENTATION VIDEO

We used a video to tell the story of Wabash County.

The committee worked with a videographer to produce an exciting overview of the Wabash County process and projects. This video will be used during the State Presentation in early December but could also be broken down into smaller clips for social media. The project team facilitated the content development and talking points for the video to ensure consistency in content and messaging.

FUTURE EFFORTS

CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM

Being selected as a Stellar Pathways designee is not the end destination. Rather, our region views this opportunity a catalyst for additional regional investment and collaboration. Project implementation and community engagement is a continuous thread that ties all of our collaborative efforts together. Wabash County recognizes the power of collaborative efforts, guided by leadership and fueled by the collective aspiration of our residents. We will leverage the proven strategies and numerical successes of the Imagine One 85 and other past planning efforts, to continue the momentum for our region. These proven strategies, many of which are outlined in this chapter, pave the way for sustainable development and inclusive growth, enriching the fabric of our community for generations to come.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Even after a decade, the City of Wabash is still reaping the benefits of the 2014 Stellar Communities designation. Our region has seen firsthand the unprecedented impacts of the program. While funding is a primary incentive for the program, we cannot deny the impact this program can have on marketing and promotion.

Amplified marketing and promotion started the moment that Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch announced that our region was one of four Stellar Pathways finalists. This process signifies to current and future residents, businesses, developers, investors, and state and federal agencies our commitment to improving quality of life, growing our population, and becoming a more inclusive community.

Our region will use three marketing strategies to continue promoting Wabash County, and the five participating communities.

- Grow Wabash County, in partnership with the Imagine One 85 Director and development team, will create and execute a communications plan to showcase our progress, provide updates, and promote existing and future opportunities within each municipality.
- Our region will leverage an existing branding initiative, LiveIN Wabash County, to further promote our region as an attractive place to live, work, or own a business.
- Our region will work with the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) to create a distinct marketing campaign as part of the Stellar Pathways designation.

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"I think we need to invest more time and resources in those entities that are focused on helping us evolve into a more open and inclusive county."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 6

Project and Program Identification

IN THIS SECTION:

PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEFINING THE NEED

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMS

PRIORITIZATION

PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

At the kick-off of the strategic planning process, the development team prepared a list of 30 projects and programs. These projects were previously identified through community conversations and local leadership needs. This master project list was organized by each “funding bucket” provided by the six state agencies. It quickly became apparent that the development team needed a methodology for narrowing down and prioritizing the master project list. The process used to prioritize projects is outlined below.

STEP 1: FEASIBILITY MATRIX

The consultants used the first in-person meeting with the development team to start the prioritization process, which included completing a project feasibility matrix for all projects on the master list. This exercise was intended to help the development team understand how far along each project was in the development process.

This matrix included the five topics from OCRA’s feasibility matrix and three additional topics that were added by the project team. The five OCRA topics included financing, site control, environmental review, schematic design, and architecture and preliminary engineering documentation. The development team answered complete, in-progress, or not started for each topic.

The development team also considered the impact of the project ranging from neighborhood, community, or regional impact and additional questions such as:

- Does this project have supporting data to illustrate the need?
- Does this project leverage additional resources?
- Can this project be completed in the five-year designation time frame?

This matrix was altered to accommodate both built projects and programming efforts. This initial prioritization method revealed that several projects weren’t as far along as the others. The consultant team then used the results of the matrix to create a scoring system for the projects. This scoring system revealed which projects may be most feasible for the Stellar Pathways program.

STEP 2: FUNDING QUALIFICATIONS

The State Agency Day at the end of August was an informative experience and allowed the development team to ask specific questions regarding the qualification of projects related to each funding source. Through these conversations, the development team removed some projects that may not meet the funding requirements and also added a few new ideas to the project list. Following this event, Wabash County was able to solidify which projects would be presented to the public for consideration.

STEP 3: VETTING WITH THE PUBLIC

In addition to the online survey, the development team facilitated two public engagement events in North Manchester and Wabash. Attendees were invited to review the proposed projects and asked to share their feedback. The development team was most interested in how the community would rate the level of impact the projects would have on improving the quality of life and growing the population. Attendees were also encouraged to share general, open-ended comments related to the proposed projects and/or additional ideas to consider moving forward. Through this process, Wabash County was able to vet the projects with the general public.

STEP 4: PROJECT CLASSIFICATION

Once the Stellar projects were identified, the development team wanted to find a way to showcase the other 20+ project ideas from the original master project list. It was important to the development team to not lose track of these ideas. With that being said, a classification system was created to organize the projects. This system classifies each project in one of three categories – a Stellar project, a supporting project, or a complementary project.

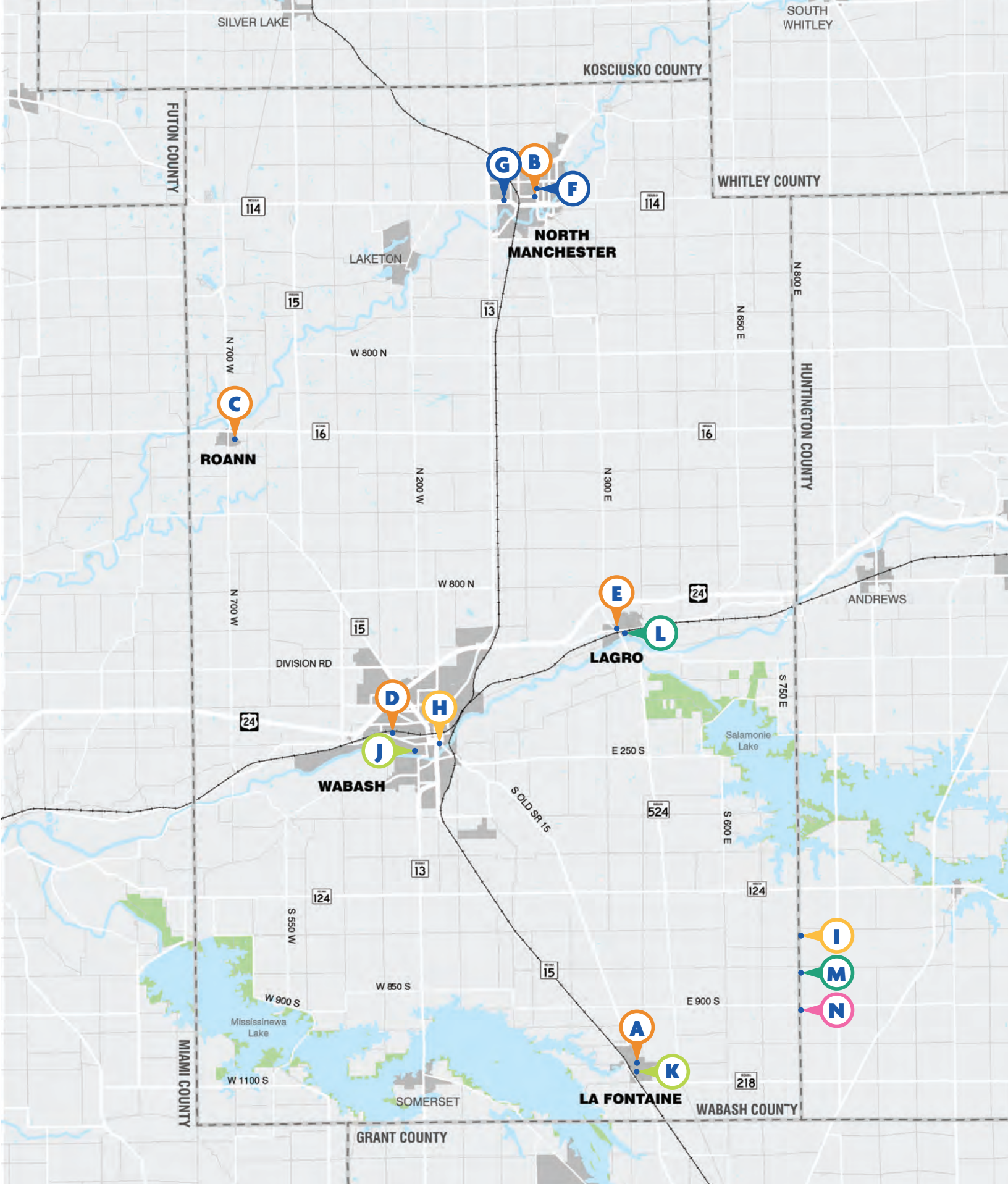
- **Stellar Projects** – These projects are efforts that Wabash County feels are most appropriate and feasible for the region to move forward with in the next five years. These projects closely align with the goals of the Stellar Pathways program and meet the necessary funding requirements.
- **Supporting Projects** – These projects and programs are current and/or on-going efforts that illustrate the community's current momentum. Supporting projects are highlighted on the key map for each Stellar project.
- **Complementary Projects** – These projects are future efforts that could complement and continue building the momentum following the implementation of the Stellar projects. Complementary projects are also highlighted on the key map for each Stellar project.

Using this prioritization process and classification system, Wabash County has identified **14** Stellar projects, **21** supporting projects, and **8** complementary projects.

WABASH COUNTY: STELLAR PATHWAYS PROJECT OVERVIEW

The following table and regional map highlight Wabash County's proposed Stellar projects.

Proposed Stellar Projects				
State Agency	Map Label	Project Name	Project Location	Total Cost
OCRA	A	La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements	Town of La Fontaine	\$1,045,400
	B	Daniels Place Headquarters	103 W 7th Street - North Manchester	\$2,553,000
	C	Roann Park	520 Pike Street - Roann	\$811,493
	D	Living Well Renovations	239 Bond Street - Wabash	\$2,000,000
	E	Lagro Sidewalk Improvements	Davis Street / SR 524 - Lagro	\$49,500
INDOT	F	Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements	Market Street - North Manchester	\$1,450,000
	G	SR 114 Sidewalks	SR 114 between Meridian Street and West Street - North Manchester	\$650,000
IHCDA	H	Advantage Housing - Rental Rehab	599 S. Wabash Street - Wabash	\$ 343,710
	I	County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program	County-wide	\$1,240,000
DNR	J	Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension	City of Wabash	\$884,624
	K	La Fontaine Park Improvements	Cook-Crumley Park - La Fontaine	\$506,600
ISDA	L	Lagro Food Co-op	870 Washington Street - Lagro	\$538,826
	M	Impact Pantry Initiative (Back-up Program)	County-wide	\$85,000
ISDH	N	85 Hope	County-wide	\$282,000
TOTAL				\$12,440,303



DEFINING THE NEED

As described in chapter three (see pages 29), our region intends to use the Stellar Pathways designation to execute projects and programs that improve the quality of life and place as an approach to stabilizing the population; and promotes our region as a welcoming place for all – regardless of demographics, socioeconomic status, and abilities.

Each of our communities has prioritized specific types of projects that not only support the larger regional effort but directly fill a gap or need in their community. These project types include:

- Support Services and Programs
- Utility Services and Infrastructure
- Pedestrian Connectivity
- Access to Healthy Food
- Housing Options
- Parks and Recreation

The following section documents the level of need for these six project types.

Support Services and Programs

Social services are a range of public services intended to provide support and assistance to particular groups. With an aging population, senior adults are at the forefront of our priorities. In 2022, Wabash County's median age was 42.8 which is over 4 years older than the state of Indiana's median age. Other data revealed in a 2023 Wabash County Market Potential Analysis indicates that 50% of households in Wabash County are empty nester's and retirees. Senior Centers provide a welcoming environment for social interaction, offer meal assistance, and help maintain a good quality of life.

Individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers, have also been identified as a top priority for our region as they are often an under-served population. According to the Census Brief on Disability Status, 19% of Indiana residents, 5 years of age and older, experience some level of disability. Considering only self-care statistics, there are over 700 of our neighbors in Wabash County who rely on a caregiver in need of respite. Wabash County has one of only two organizations that provides this type of respite, care that is outside of the home, in a non-institutionalized environment. Because of this, our local facility, Daniel's Place is in high demand.



What did we hear?

Nearly 90% of survey respondents feel it is important for the county, and its partners, to provide facilities for under-served populations such as people with disabilities, low-income residents, and/or senior citizens.

Utility Services and Infrastructure

Aging Infrastructure is a common challenge for any community, but smaller, rural communities depend on state and federal resources to move the needle on this ongoing battle. Failing infrastructure or insufficient capacity can lead to safety, health, and financial burden on the community. For La Fontaine, the infrastructure dates back to the 1960s when the original sanitary system was installed. The typical life expectancy of stormwater pipes is about 50 years, depending on soil conditions and other factors. During a previous rain event in 2019, two homes were destroyed and approximately \$2,000,000 in damage occurred near the bridge at Parker Street. This level of need is documented further in a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) completed in June 2024.



What did we hear?

Nearly 93% of survey respondents feel it is important for the county and towns to invest in infrastructure improvements. Participants ranked utility improvements as a top priority for La Fontaine.

Pedestrian Connectivity

Pedestrian connectivity and safety have become a widespread priority for communities across the nation. While sidewalks and trails were once viewed as a luxury amenity, this infrastructure is now a standard. Residents and businesses expect this alternative mode of transportation to be accessible. North Manchester has two major anchors one-mile apart and no obvious, desirable route to move between them. It is believed and confirmed through rigorous stakeholder engagement that students, faculty, and staff would be more likely to spend time in downtown North Manchester if there was a more visible route that was attractive, safe, and authentic. Lagro is also facing similar challenges related to pedestrian connectivity. The town has expressed the desire to connect the new investment downtown with the activity along the riverfront.



What did we hear?

The Manchester Together planning process confirmed that students, faculty, and staff would spend more time downtown if there was a more obvious, safe, and attractive route. Community members have also expressed the desire for better connectivity between downtown North Manchester and the west side of town. A significant amount of comments received from the survey directly reference sidewalk improvements ranging from repairing existing infrastructure to expanding the network.

Access to Healthy Food

One of the challenges that comes with living in rural areas is the lack of access to healthy, affordable food. The USDA provides data related to low-income low access to healthy food and tracks the change in access to unhealthy options such as fast food establishments. In 2015, nearly 3,500 residents had low access to grocery stores which represented a 25% increase since 2010. As of 2016, there were 7 grocery stores but nearly 30 fast food establishments available in the 412 square miles of Wabash County.



What did we hear?

Just over 83% of survey respondents feel the residents of smaller communities would benefit from access to a more convenient grocery store. Furthermore, nearly 70% of survey respondents feel that residents of smaller communities would benefit from a food service program.

Housing Options

Providing diverse, affordable housing options is a critical component to growing our population. In 2023, Wabash County completed a Residential Market Potential Analysis to determine the annual market potential and optimum market position for new affordable, workforce, and market-rate rental and owner-occupied housing units in Wabash County. This analysis indicates an annual average of 1,770 households of all incomes represent the potential market for new and existing housing units within Wabash County each year over the next five years. Housing preferences would primarily be single-family detached units followed by multi-family rental units.



What did we hear?

Public engagement data confirmed that community members feel that providing attainable housing is the number one priority for addressing population decline in Wabash County. When we asked how likely are you to recommend living in Wabash County to a friend or family member, over 70% of respondents answered likely or very likely. Of the participants who answered neutral or unlikely, the primary concern was related to housing. While housing was relatively affordable, demand outweighed supply.

Parks and Recreation

Every five years, the state of Indiana updates its Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan provides quantitative and qualitative analysis of outdoor recreation supply and demand statewide. With a total of 15,899 recreational acres, our region has some room to grow in terms of meeting the statewide recommendations. Wabash County has a total of 549 acres of local park and recreation space. This acreage does not meet the recommended amount of local park acres based on population. In terms of state and federal recreational acres, our region has over 15,300 acres which does meet the recommended amount of state and federal acres. Furthermore, the SCORP summarized the Indiana Visionary Trail System. It is important to note that the Wabash Riverwalk Trail is a key piece of the Indiana Visionary Trail System.



What did we hear?

Over 90% of survey respondents feel the residents of smaller communities would benefit from additional parks and recreational opportunities. The residents of Roann have expressed their strong desire for a new park facility for several years now and have given generously to support this project idea.

Survey data also revealed that people are very proud of the Wabash Riverwalk Trail and other recreational opportunities.

“For a small community, we have several things to be proud of, Honeywell Center, State Parks, River Trail, and a vibrant downtown. Citizens seem to get along well and support each other in times of need.”

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

Before reviewing more detailed project and program information, it is important to understand the organizational structure of this chapter. Chapter Six: Project and Program Information is broken down into six sections – one for each funding bucket provided by the state agencies.

Each section has an introduction page with a summary table for that specific funding source. For quick reference, refer to the following pages:

- Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) starting on page 85.
- Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) starting on page 107.
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) starting on page 117.
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) starting on page 127.
- Indiana Department of Agriculture (ISDA) starting on page 137.
- Indiana Department of Health (ISDH) starting on page 147.
- Indiana Destination and Development Corporation (IDDC) – while there isn't a specific project identified for this partnership, Wabash County recognizes a marketing packet is an important contribution to the Stellar Pathways program and will complement our existing marketing initiative LiveIN Wabash County.

Each of the 14 Stellar projects has a four-page “project dashboard” that communicates key facts with supplemental information in the appendix. In addition to the project information, this chapter strives to demonstrate how the proposed projects align with the fundamental theme of ***Wabash County – A place for All*** and the pathway goals of the Stellar Pathways program.

Each Stellar Pathways goal has a specific icon representing the goal. If the square surrounding the icon is **BLUE** then we believe the proposed project directly aligns with that goal. If the square is **GRAY**, the proposed project may not have a direct influence on that particular goal.



Enhancing Quality of Place

Project examples include housing, streetscapes, facades, trails, sidewalks, roads, bridges, stormwater, drinking water and wastewater improvements, gateway beautification, etc.



Promoting Community Wellness

Project examples include mental health initiatives, health and wellness, healthy food markets, substance use and abuse initiatives, physical activities, etc.



Strengthening Local Economies

Project examples include business retention and expansion, economic gardening, small business revolving loan fund development, entrepreneurial ecosystem development, skills for success, work-ready youth program, etc.

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OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & RURAL AFFAIRS

OCRA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Up to \$4M | No Match Required

OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that OCRA has set aside \$8,000,000 for the Stellar Pathways Program meaning that each designated region can receive up to \$4,000,000. We understand that funding is from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which is federal funding. Through discussions with OCRA during the State Agency Day, our region was informed that Stellar designees did not need a match to receive the CDBG funding.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wabash County region is proposing to use the funding provided by OCRA to implement FIVE strategic initiatives - one in each municipality. These five initiatives total **\$6.4M** in investment and leverage funding from private investment, local dollars, and other grant sources. **With support from the Stellar Pathways program, our region can improve stormwater infrastructure, assist a non-profit with expanding respite care services, provide additional recreational opportunities, enhance our senior center, and improve pedestrian connectivity for current and future residents.** We invite OCRA and the other six state agency partners to join us in achieving our goals of growing our population and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community! The following pages provide an overview of each of the five proposed projects.

Proposed CDBG Projects					
Project Name	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap	Total Cost
La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements		\$261,350		\$784,050	\$1,045,400
Daniel's Place Headquarters	\$500,000		\$950,000	\$1,103,000	\$2,553,000
Roann Park	\$418,643	\$15,500		\$377,700	\$811,843
Living Well Renovations	\$300,000			\$1,700,000	\$2,000,000
Lagro Sidewalk Improvements	\$49,500	\$15,000.00		\$34,500	\$49,500
TOTAL	\$1,218,643	\$291,850	\$950,000	\$3,999,250	\$6,459,743



OCRA PROJECT #1
LA FONTAINE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR SMALL TOWN LIVING
- A PLACE FOR ALL.

OCRA Project #1

La Fontaine Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements

LOCATION

Town of La Fontaine

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$1,045,400

GRANT REQUEST

\$784,050 (75%)

MATCH

Not required for Stellar Pathways designees but we have 25% committed.

PROJECT LEAD

Town of Fontaine

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

OCRA

Commonwealth Engineering Contractor

Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town of La Fontaine is located in the southeast quadrant of the county with a population of just under 900. With stormwater infrastructure dating back to the 1960's, the town has noted frequent ponding and significant flooding during rain events. In July 2024, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was conducted to evaluate the entire system to identify viable alternatives for addressing the town's needs. This report proposed four key improvements including –

- Increase Basin #2 Storm Sewer Capacity
- Increase Basin #6 Storm Sewer Capacity
- Western Ave Storm Sewer Extension
- New Storm Sewer at Alley between E Grant Street and Meadow Drive

With support from the Stellar Pathways program, the town could address the ongoing safety, health, and financial burden of the inadequate and aging infrastructure.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

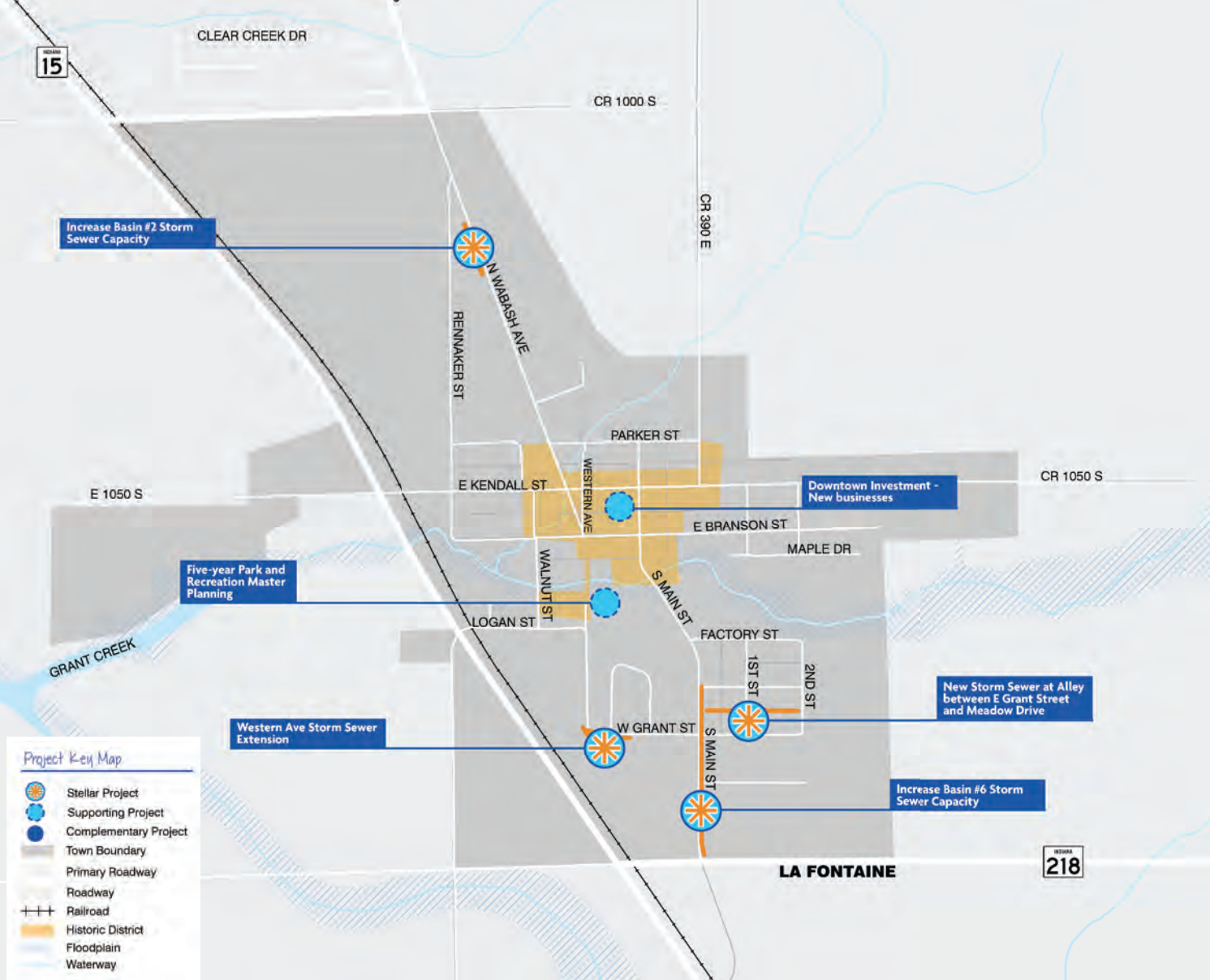
According to the PER, Phase 1 of the stormwater improvements would cost \$800,400 for construction and \$245,000 for non-construction-related costs, totaling \$1,045,400. With support from the Stellar Pathways Program, La Fontaine would cover 25% of the cost by issuing a bond with a monthly rate increase. Assuming OCRA could assist with 75% of the total, rates would only increase by \$1.88 per user.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The Public Works department is responsible for the operations and management of the public stormwater utility. Currently, the town has \$80,000 in the stormwater account that isn't accounted for within the local leverage line item. While this isn't much, the Town of La Fontaine would continue tracking and submitting for state and federal grants for future improvements.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$1,045,400		\$261,350		\$784,050



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

The following projects and programs are current and/or on-going efforts that illustrate the community's current momentum.

- Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan** – The Town of La Fontaine is in the process of completing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This planning effort began in summer of 2024 and is anticipated to wrap up by the end of 2024.
- La Fontaine Main Street Organization** – The La Fontaine Community Alliance was created and granted a nonprofit 501c3 status. This group is in the process of becoming a Main Street Organization (Affiliate level).
- New Business Investment** – Within the last year, La Fontaine has gained a new restaurant and liquor store in the downtown area. Additionally, an existing Wabash company, Eclectic Shoppe, moved from Wabash to La Fontaine.



PROJECT TIMELINE

OCRA Project #1

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				
Notes Preliminary Engineering Report was completed in June 2024.				

WHAT WE HEARD

Utility infrastructure was ranked in the top three priorities for having the greatest impact on addressing population decline by survey participants.

When asked how important it was for the county and towns to invest in utility improvements, 92% of survey respondents said very important or important.

Attainable housing and utility infrastructure improvements were the top two priorities identified for the Town of La Fontaine.



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Town of La Fontaine	OCRA USDA



OCRA PROJECT #2
DANIEL'S PLACE HEADQUARTERS
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND
THEIR CAREGIVERS - A PLACE FOR ALL.

OCRA Project #2 Daniel's Place Headquarters

LOCATION

103 W. 7th Street
North Manchester, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$2,553,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$1,103,000 (43%)

MATCH

Not required for Stellar
Pathways designees but we
have 57% committed.

PROJECT LEAD

Town of North Manchester
Daniel's Place Inc.

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

OCRA
United Way of Grant County
Contractors
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Daniel's Place is a nonprofit organization focused on providing respite care across the lifespan of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities. Daniel's Place gives short-term care to people whose disabilities are such that they need continual assistance. Respite allows for time off from care-giving responsibilities while providing a safe, comfortable place for loved ones. Daniel's Place is one of only two providers in Northern Indiana that offer this type of care.

Daniel's Place operates inside Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Manchester. Although the current location is cost-effective, its location, size, and resources significantly impact the organization's ability to provide the level of care that aligns with its mission and values. The new facility will allow Daniel's Place to serve more clients and expand the services offered. The large fenced-in yard will provide a safe environment for outdoor activities and bedrooms will allow guests to stay overnight. Daniel's Place owns three parcels of land in North Manchester, one of which has an existing structure. This project will consist of demolishing the existing building and constructing a new 5,190-square-foot building for day and overnight care.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The total project cost includes \$2,053,000 for construction and \$500,000 for an operational endowment. The private investment is committed funds from Daniel's Place that has been raised over the last year or so. In the summer of 2024, Daniel's Place was awarded a \$950,000 grant from Indiana United Way to help construct the facility. With support from the Stellar Pathways program, Daniel's Place would be able to begin construction on its new facility.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Daniel's Place has been operating from inside the church since 2018 with an annual operating budget of \$211,326. The organization's major sources of revenue include individual construction (18%), special event income (5%), program income (10%), business contributions (27%), and other individual contributions (35%). The organization's financial plan is to have \$180,000 in a property maintenance reserve for future repairs and maintenance. There is also a plan to create an endowment for ongoing maintenance costs.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$2,553,000	\$500,000		\$ 950,000	\$1,103,000



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

- **North Manchester Downtown Plan** – The town is in the process of completing a downtown plan funded through OCRA.
- **Mill Street Improvements** – The town is constructing new sidewalks along Mill Street to enhance pedestrian connectivity between downtown and Ogan's Landing.
- **The Coop** – Located in downtown North Manchester, The Coop is a new business incubator and mini-mall for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- **Manchester Mile** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, Manchester Mile is a complete streetscape connecting the downtown to Manchester University.
- **Cultural Facility** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this effort will expand Cordier Auditorium and Winger Hall for 21st-century arts education and entertainment.

- **College Row Housing** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this housing endeavor will offer newly constructed townhomes, a missing housing type in North Manchester.
- **Eel River Commons** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this marquee downtown park will offer vibrant and engaging outdoor environment aimed at supporting both large-scale events and individual experiences.

COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

- **South House** – Peabody is a retirement community located near downtown North Manchester with underutilized space. This space provides the opportunity for a potential hotel.
- **Thrift Shop** – This existing business is plan to double its footprint in downtown North Manchester to expand services for low-income residents.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

Daniel's Place received a grant from the Statewide Capital Projects Initiative administered by Indiana United Ways.

WHAT WE HEARD

Over 90% of survey respondents feel it is very important for the county, and its partner, to provide facilities for under-served populations such as people with disabilities, low-income residents, and/or senior citizens.

"Wabash County needs to be more inclusive of disabled citizens." - Survey Participant

"My one wish is to have robust services, support, and clear representation for people with disabilities, and especially people with intellectual and developmental disabilities." - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Daniel's Place Inc.	Daniel's Place Endowment



OCRA PROJECT #3
ROANN PARK

Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN - A PLACE FOR ALL.

OCRA Project #3 Roann Park

LOCATION

430 E Pike Street
Roann, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$811,843

GRANT REQUEST

\$377,700 (47%)

MATCH

Not required for Stellar
Pathways designees but we
have 53% committed.

PROJECT LEAD

Town of Roann

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

OCRA
Roann Main Street
Design Consultant
General Contractor
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town of Roann owns three parcels on the east side of town making up just over 7 acres of land. In 2023, the town worked with an engineer and design consultant to provide conceptual designs and construction documents for the future park. This project builds on an existing baseball field by adding the following amenities:

- Basketball and pickleball courts
- Fitness Stations
- New pavilion and restroom facilities
- Playgrounds
- Splashpad
- Expanded parking lots

With a population of 400, recreational amenities are limited. The town currently offers one small play area near the proposed park with a residential-grade play structure and a metal swing set. This future park will not only serve the residents of Roann, it will become a regional attraction for recreation and better support the downtown businesses in the community.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

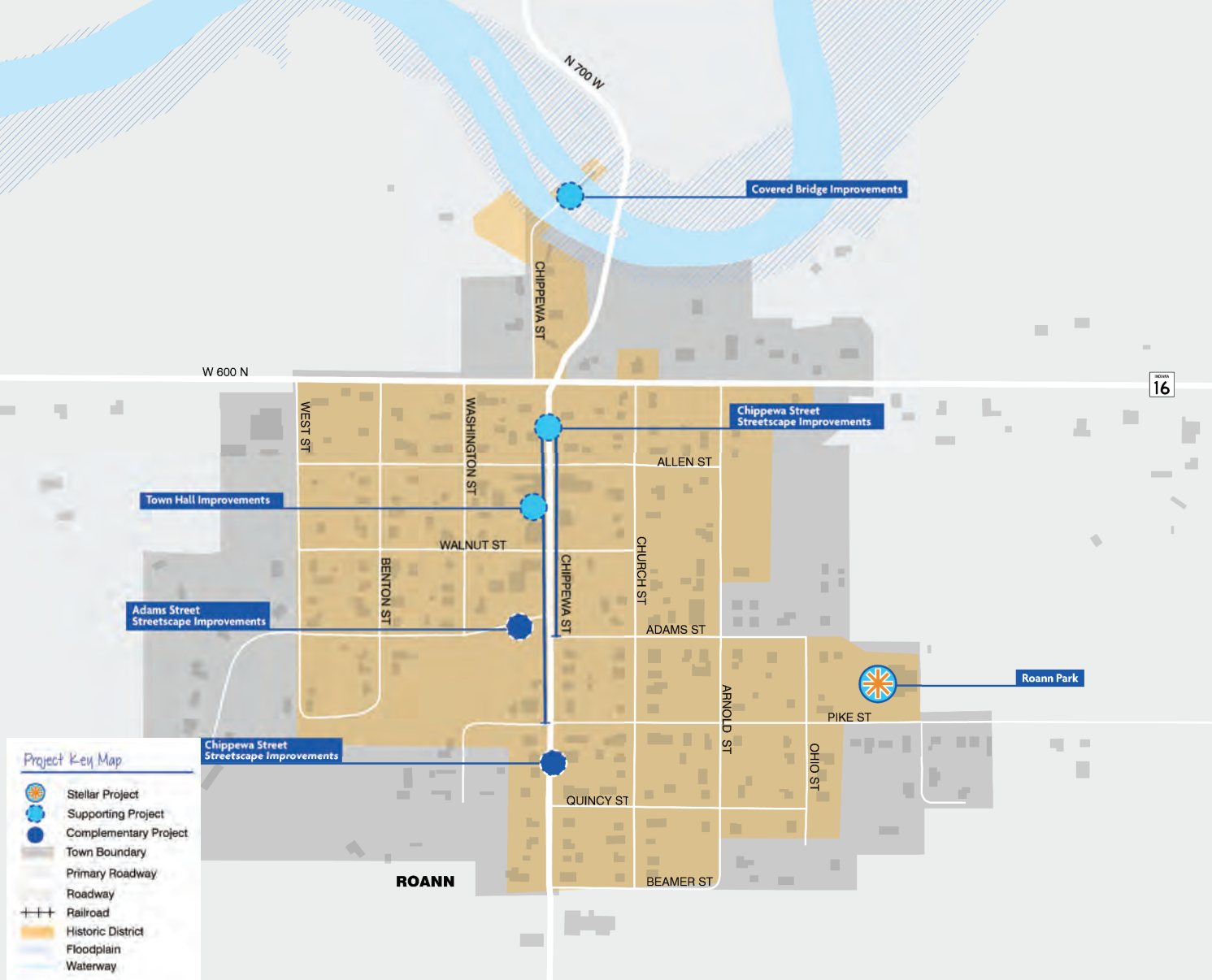
The total project costs include \$796,343 for the park improvements and \$15,500 for the land and survey costs. The public investment dollars have been raised through community donations and efforts completed by the Park Committee and dollars spent on the land and survey which has already been incurred. With support from the Stellar Pathways program, the Town of Roann would be ready to begin construction on this 7-acre park.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The Town of Roann has two full-time maintenance staff and an active volunteer group that will assist the community in the on-going maintenance of the park facility. The Roann Park Committee is committed to continue raising funds for future improvements. This organization, and the community, is very interested in this project and has already raised over \$400,000 over the last year.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$811,843		\$434,143		\$ 377,700



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

The following projects and programs are current and/or on-going efforts that illustrate the community's current momentum.

- **Covered Bridge Improvements** – The Town of Roann recently completed updates to the historic covered bridge including a new roof and exterior painting.
- **Chippewa Street Improvements** – The town is installing new sidewalks with pedestrian lights along Chippewa Street between W 600 N and Pike Street.
- **Town Hall Improvements** – The town recently repainted the exterior of its town hall.

COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS

The following projects are future efforts that could compliment and continue building the momentum following the implementation of the Stellar projects.

- **Chippewa Street Improvements (Phase 2)** – This project would extend sidewalk infrastructure and pedestrian lighting to the town boundary to the south at Beamer Street.
- **Adams Street Streetscape Improvements** – The current Adams Street alignment does not provide direct access over Chippewa Street. This project would straighten the alignment between Washington Street and Chippewa Street.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

The Town of Roann has worked with a design consultant to develop concept renderings and high-level cost estimate for marketing and fundraising purposes.

WHAT WE HEARD

Nearly 80% of survey respondents feel that residents of the smaller communities in Wabash County would benefit from additional park and recreational opportunities.

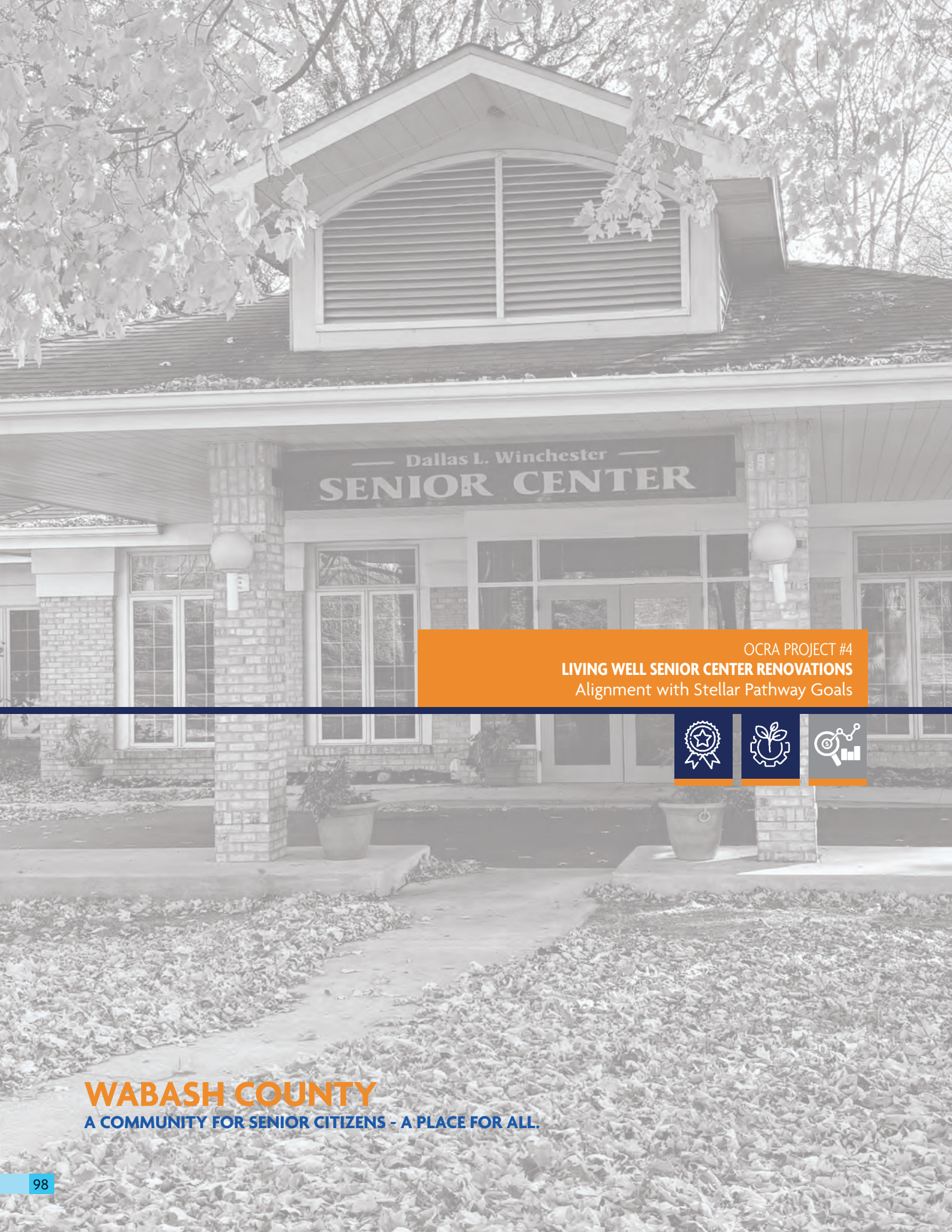
A new park facility was ranked in the top three most desirable improvements for the Town of Roann.

“My one wish for Wabash County is a nice park in Roann with pavilions and playground equipment, a nice restroom and a nice convenient family outing. This has been a dream of mine for years. My kids didn't have that.” - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Town of Roann	Capital Campaigns IHCDA - Placemaking Grants IDDC - Placemaking Grants



Dallas L. Winchester
SENIOR CENTER

OCRA PROJECT #4
LIVING WELL SENIOR CENTER RENOVATIONS
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - A PLACE FOR ALL.

OCRA Project #4 Living Well Senior Center Renovations

LOCATION

239 Bond Street
Wabash, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$2,000,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$1,700,000 (85%)

MATCH

Not required for Stellar Pathways designees but we have 15% committed.

PROJECT LEAD

City of Wabash
Wabash County Council on Aging

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

OCRA
Parks Department
Department of Natural Resources
Design Consultant
Contractor
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2010, the Wabash County Council on Aging created a task force to identify the vision and long-term goals of the Living Well Senior Center. Since then, the organization has been working to improve the function and appearance of the building and expand programs. This project includes a total renovation of the existing footprint. The current building footprint is just over 8,200 square feet with several offices, a large multi-purpose room, kitchen, living room, and food pantry. The proposed floor plan reconfigures the existing space to accommodate additional administrative and classroom spaces, new restroom facilities, a larger kitchen with a separate dining room, and additional storage.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

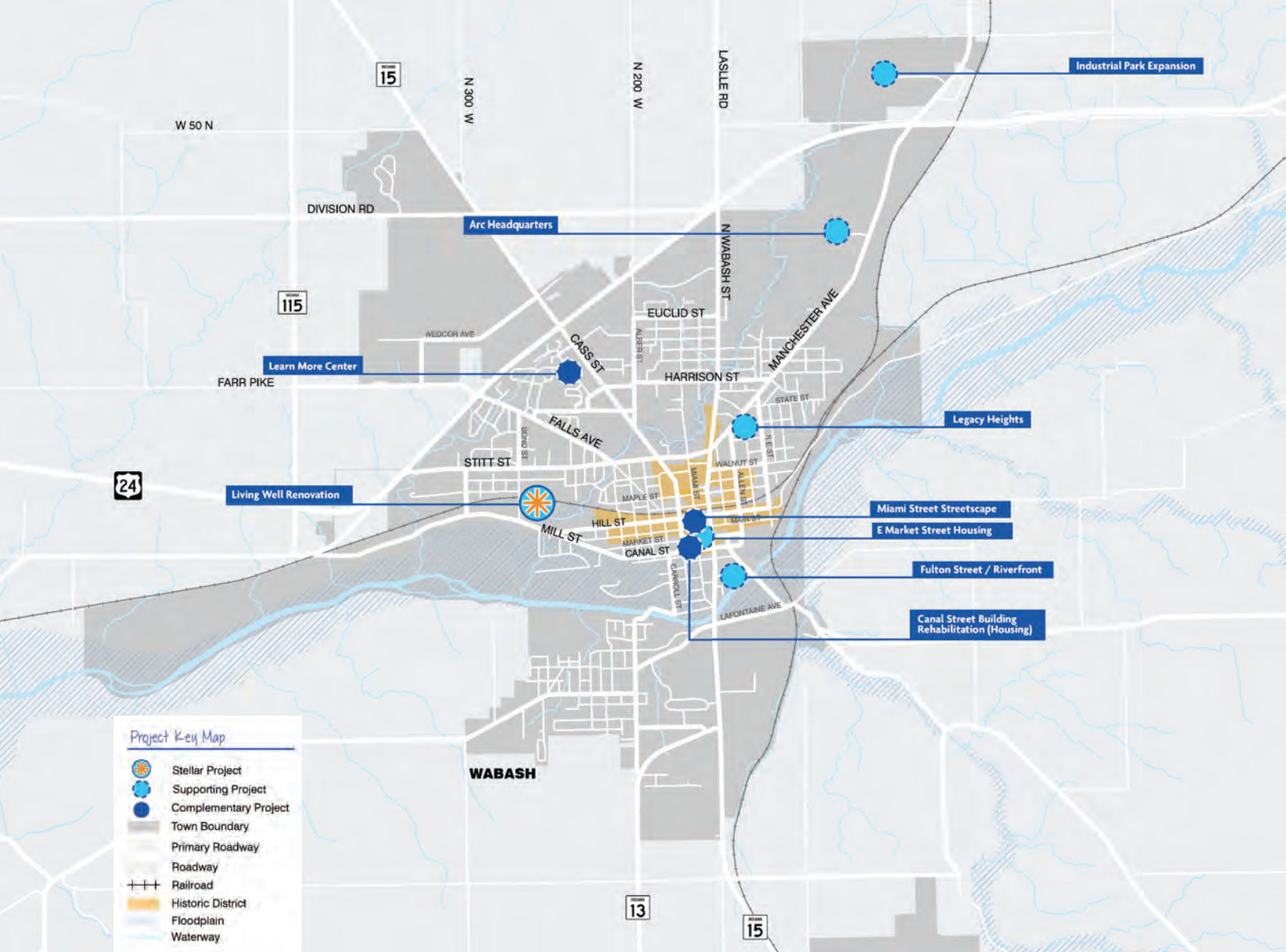
The total project cost includes \$2,000,000 for renovating Wabash County's senior center, known as Living Well. This project total represents a high-level planning cost that would require working with a qualified contractor to finalize the design and cost for construction. This initial cost estimate was created using a cost per square foot based on similar projects. The proposed budget breakdown suggests that the Wabash County Council on Aging would be responsible for \$300,000 identified within the private investment category. The organization is open to phasing the construction of the renovation to meet budgetary and operational goals. With support from the Stellar Pathways program, Living Well could update its facility to accommodate more people and programs.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Following construction, the Wabash County Council on Aging would be responsible for the on-going maintenance and sustainability of the facility expansion. The Living Well facility as an annual operating budget of \$869,989 with an annual revenue of \$760,000 and other endowments and investments providing an additional \$400,000 that could support the long-term sustainability of this facility expansion.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$2,000,000	\$300,000			\$1,700,000



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

- **Industrial Park Expansion** – Two new spec buildings are in progress of being constructed at the Wabash Business Complex and an additional 232 acres were just purchased for future industrial growth in the Wedcor Business Park.
- **Legacy Heights** – One of the county's READI projects, Legacy Heights is a housing development that received \$2.4 million in READI funding to help establish infrastructure and expedite the home building and home buying processes for the project.
- **Arc Headquarters** – The Arc of Wabash County is a non-profit organization focused on provided programs and services for individuals with disabilities. This organization is in the process of opening a new headquarters facility in the Morrett Business Park.
- **E Market Street Development** – This housing project is part of a long endeavor to expand housing options in Wabash County and create row house downtown living opportunities.

- **Fulton Street Development** – This mixed-use riverfront developer would include multi-family residential apartments, commercial uses, and recreational opportunities.

COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS

- **Miami Street Streetscape** – The City of Wabash is interested in enhancing the streetscape along Miami Street with brick pavers, pedestrian lighting, and other improvements allowing the street to easily be closed off for festivals and community celebrations.
- **Canal Street Building Rehab** – This redevelopment project focuses on the historic buildings along the southwest corner of Canal Street and Wabash Street in downtown Wabash.
- **Learn More Center** – The Learn More Center is opening a new adult education center where educational and workforce partners will create a life-long learning center in early 2025.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

The organization will continue to engage donors to bring this project to life.

WHAT WE HEARD

Just over 90% of survey respondents feel it is very important for the county, and its partner, to provide facilities for under-served populations such as people with disabilities, low-income residents, and/or senior citizens.

"My one wish would be for Wabash County to invest in non-profits that provide services and programs that greatly enhance life in Wabash County." - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Wabash County Council of Aging	Community Foundation Wabash County, Wabash County United Fund, Parkview Wabash Hospital, Area Five Agency on Aging & Community Services, Inc.



OCRA PROJECT #5
LAGRO SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR PEDESTRIANS - A PLACE FOR ALL.

OCRA Project #5 Lagro Sidewalk Improvements

LOCATION

SR 524 / Davis Street
Lagro, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$49,500

GRANT REQUEST

\$34,500 (70%)

MATCH

Not required for Stellar Pathways designees but we have 30% committed.

PROJECT LEAD

Town of Lagro

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

OCRA

INDOT

Contractor

Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project includes replacing the sidewalk on Davis Street / SR 524 between Main Street and Washington Street. Davis Street is the main thoroughfare through the town connecting two popular Airbnb's, Firehouse Café, 950 Speakeasy, and several other local businesses.

The cost of these improvements includes removing existing sidewalk, pouring new concrete, and installing four new ADA ramps with detectable warnings. The ADA ramps would be installed at each crossing within the study area. These enhancements would improve connectivity and safety for residents and visitors while also linking the new investment in downtown Lagro. Furthermore, this project would improve pedestrian access to another potential Stellar project, the Lagro Grocery Store, located at the intersection of Davis Street and Washington Street.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The total project cost includes \$49,500 for the installation of one block of sidewalks and four ADA ramps with detectable warnings. The Town of Lagro has committed \$15,000 from its annual CCMG line item to provide local leverage. With support from the Stellar Pathways program, the Town of Lagro would be working to improve pedestrian connectivity and ADA compliance.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Davis Street is a state road owned and maintained by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The Town of Lagro will be responsible for future sidewalk maintenance or improvements and will coordinate with INDOT as needed.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$49,500		\$15,000		\$34,500



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

The following projects and programs are current and/or on-going efforts that illustrate the community's current momentum.

- **Riverfront Development** – The riverfront in Lagro has a kayak launch with an outfitters office and retail shop.
- **Primitive Camping** – There is a 5-acre island in the Wabash River just off the riverbank. The town is working to make this area access for primitive camping on the island.
- **Level-up Lagro Economic Development Plan** – The town is in the process of completing an OCRA funded economic development plan.

COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

The following projects are future efforts that could compliment and continue building the momentum following the implementation of the Stellar projects.

- **Lagro Town Hall Improvements** – The Town of Lagro has a community facility that serves as the town hall. This building needs various repairs and updates.
- **Lagro Food Co-op** – Identified as a potential Stellar project, this redevelopment opportunity works to address the food desert challenge faced by residents.
- **Infill Opportunities** – There are several residential infill opportunities within town limits that could be part of another potential Stellar project, the county-wide owner-occupied infill program.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

The town received a cost estimate from a local paving and concrete company in September 2024.

WHAT WE HEARD

Countless comments received from the survey directly reference sidewalk improvements ranging from repairing existing infrastructure to expanding the network.

The town has expressed the desire to connect the new investment downtown with the activity along the riverfront.



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
INDOT Town of Lago	Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) Program



PROPOSED PROJECTS

Indiana Department of Transportation
Up to \$1.5M in funding | 10-20% match

WHAT LEVEL OF IMPACT WOULD
THESE PROJECTS HAVE ON
IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE AND
GROWING THE POPULATION?
PLACE A DOT STICKER BELOW.



**PROJECT A
MANCHESTER MILE SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS**
Marker Street - North Manchester, IN

In summer of 2024, Manchester University has received a grant of \$0.3 million from Lilly Endowment and Community Collaboration (CCC). Manchester Mile was one of three key project ideas. Manchester Mile is a transformative multi-use trail project that connects the Manchester University campus to the city of Manchester. Building on the Manchester Mile project, the safety enhancements include the addition of a buffer zone and pedestrian-scale lighting along Marker Street between University and Main Street, and/or trail from vehicular traffic to increase pedestrian safety.

**PROJECT B
SR 114 SIDEWALKS**
SR 114 Main Street - North Manchester, IN

SR 114 is a commercial corridor that runs through the Town of North Manchester. The project includes the construction of sidewalks along the corridor to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. The project also includes the installation of street lighting and the installation of benches along the corridor. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

INDOT

RURAL FEDERAL AID PROGRAM

Up to \$1.5M / 10-20% Match

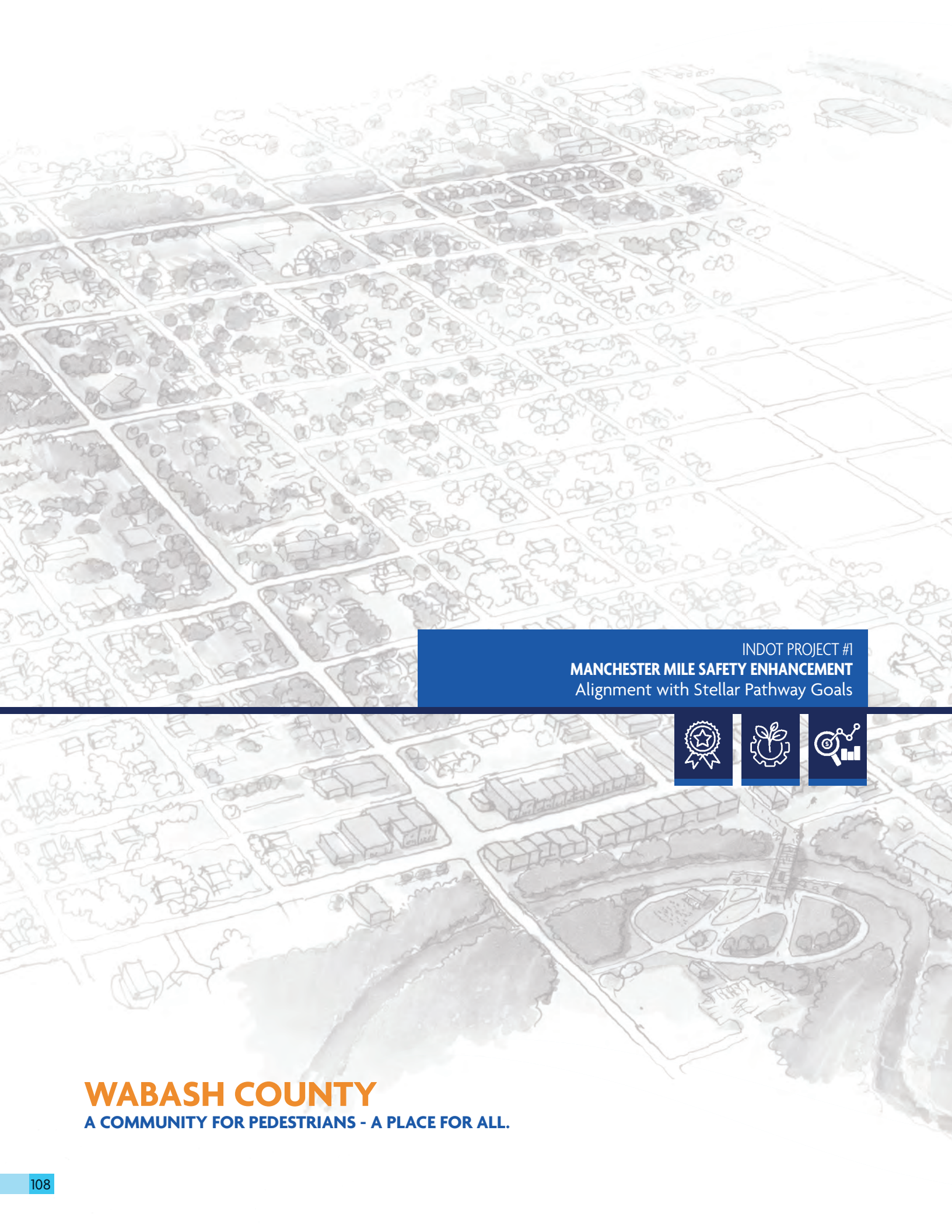
OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that INDOT has set aside \$3,000,000 for the Stellar Pathways Program, meaning that each designated region can receive up to \$1,500,000. We understand that funding is from the Rural Federal Aid Program which requires a 20% local match. Funding can be used on trails, roads, sidewalks, safety, and bridge projects. Through discussions with INDOT during the State Agency Day, our region was informed safety enhancement projects could come from a safety program that requires a 10% match. For this reason, our proposed budget tables reflect a 10% match for both projects. We understand that federal aid funding can only be used on a minor collector or higher roadway and our communities must use an INDOT qualified consultant. We also understand that if these projects are funded, the community can't apply for any other federal dollars for the five year Stellar designation period.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wabash County region is proposing to use the funding provided by INDOT to implement TWO strategic initiatives - both located in the Town of Manchester. These two initiatives total **\$2.1M** in investment and leverage funding from private investment, local dollars, and other grant sources. **With support from the Stellar Pathways program, our region can leverage the dollars received from the Lilly Endowment to enhance the Manchester Mile project and improve pedestrian connectivity on the west-side of town.** We invite INDOT and the other six state agency partners to join us in achieving our goals of growing our population and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community! The following pages provide an overview of each proposed project.

Proposed INDOT Projects					
Project Name	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap	Total Cost
Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$280,000	\$ 920,000	\$1,450,000
SR 114 Sidewalks		\$72,000		\$ 578,000	\$ 650,000
TOTAL		\$222,000	\$380,000	\$1,498,000	\$2,100,000



INDOT PROJECT #1
MANCHESTER MILE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR PEDESTRIANS - A PLACE FOR ALL.

INDOT Project #1 Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements

LOCATION

Market Street between College Ave and Main Street - North Manchester

TOTAL PROJECT COST

1,450,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$920,000 (63%)

MATCH

530,000 (37%)

PROJECT LEAD

Town of North Manchester

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

INDOT
Manchester University
Lilly Endowment
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In September 2024, Manchester University was awarded \$12.1M from the Lilly Endowment through the College and Community Collaboration Initiative. Manchester Mile is one of four community initiatives focused on enhancing quality of life for all people. The Manchester Mile is a transformative multi-use trail project that connects the Manchester University campus with Main Street in downtown North Manchester. This multi-use path will be installed along College Avenue and Market Street.

The Manchester Together plan proposes that the Mile be largely funded by the Town of North Manchester through INDOT Community Crossing grant funding. The University has committed supplemental funding of \$100,000 to the Mile to enhance the quality of life and place, particularly where INDOT Community Crossing funding does not apply. Our hope is that the resources provided by the Stellar Pathways program could be used to enhance the Manchester Mile project by funding the installation of a 2-foot wide pedestrian buffer with barriers.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

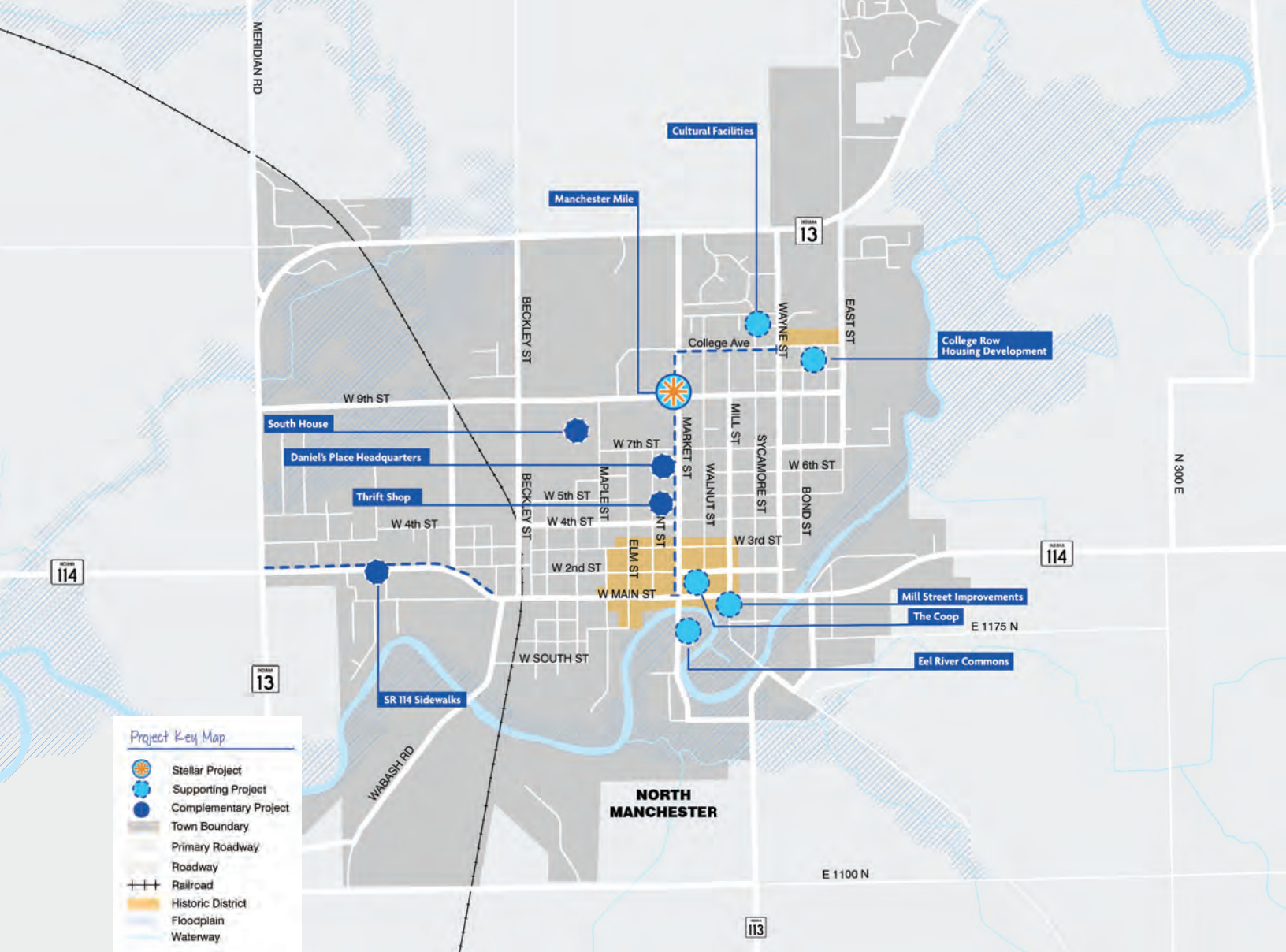
The total project costs include \$1,450,000 for an asphalt pedestrian buffer and bollards to separate and protect bicyclists from the vehicular traffic. The Town of North Manchester has committed \$150,000 for the local match. The town will work with Manchester University to leverage \$380,000 from the Lilly Endowment funding through the College and Community Collaboration Initiative. With the support from the Stellar Pathways program, the Town of North Manchester can strengthen the Manchester Mile project by incorporating pedestrian safety enhancements.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The Town of North Manchester will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and repairs of the Manchester Mile projects.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$1,450,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$280,000	\$920,000



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

- **North Manchester Downtown Plan** – The town is in the process of completing a downtown plan funded through OCRA.
- **Mill Street Improvements** – The town is constructing new sidewalks along Mill Street to enhance pedestrian connectivity between downtown and Ogan's Landing.
- **The Coop** – Located in downtown North Manchester, The Coop is a new business incubator and mini-mall for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- **Cultural Facility** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this effort will expand Cordier Auditorium and Winger Hall for 21st-century arts education and entertainment.
- **College Row Housing** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this housing endeavor will offer newly constructed townhomes, a missing housing type in North Manchester.

- **Eel River Commons** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this marquee downtown park will offer vibrant and engaging outdoor environment aimed at supporting both large-scale events and individual experiences.

COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

- **South House** – Peabody is a retirement community located near downtown North Manchester with underutilized space. This space provides the opportunity for a potential hotel.
- **Daniel's Place Headquarters** – Proposed Stellar Project
- **SR 114 Sidewalks** – Proposed Stellar Project



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				
Notes				

WHAT WE HEARD

"My one wish is for a walking trail connecting Manchester University with the North Manchester downtown."
- Survey Participant

"I would continue to develop the connection between North Manchester and its natural recreational resources - river access, walking trails, etc." - Survey Participant

"I would like to have a bike trail / walking path to encourage more outdoor activity." - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Town of North Manchester	Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG)



INDOT PROJECT #2
SR 114 SIDEWALK EXTENSION
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR PEDESTRIANS - A PLACE FOR ALL.

INDOT Project #2 SR 114 Sidewalk Extension

LOCATION

SR 114
North Manchester, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$650,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$578,000 (88%)

MATCH

\$72,000 (12%)

PROJECT LEAD

Town of North Manchester

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

INDOT
Engineer and Contractor
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

State Road 114 is a commercial corridor running east and west through the Town of North Manchester. Currently, the only pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor is located within the downtown core of North Manchester. This project would cover the construction costs for 4' sidewalks along the north side of SR 114 between Meridian Street (SR 13) and West Street. The Town of North Manchester has received countless requests for a sidewalk in this area so pedestrians can safely access the businesses and restaurants on the west side of town. It is not uncommon to see people walking in the grass or along the edge of this busy highway.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

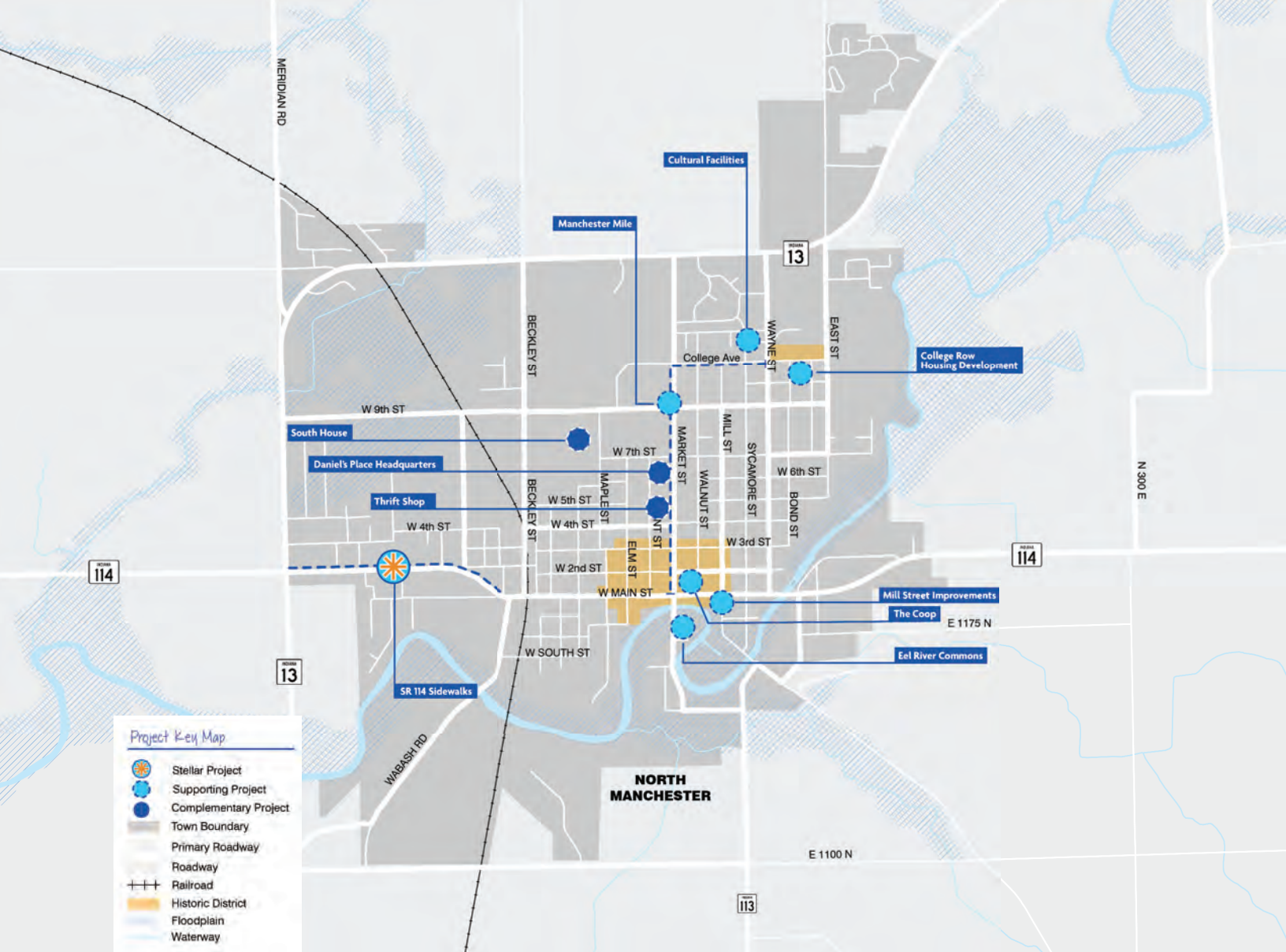
The total project cost includes \$650,000 for the installation of 4' sidewalks along SR 114. The Town of North Manchester has committed \$72,000 which would cover the required match and then some. The match source would likely be from CEDIT, RDC, and/or a sidewalk program.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

This project will be financially supported by the town's municipal leaders. The Town of North Manchester will assume the maintenance responsibility as the project will be within the public right of way and on the streets. Public tax funds will financially support the maintenance activities.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$ 650,000		\$72,000		\$ 578,000



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

- **North Manchester Downtown Plan** – The town is in the process of completing a downtown plan funded through OCRA.
- **Mill Street Improvements** – The town is constructing new sidewalks along Mill Street to enhance pedestrian connectivity between downtown and Ogan's Landing.
- **The Coop** – Located in downtown North Manchester, The Coop is a new business incubator and mini-mall for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- **Manchester Mile** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, Manchester Mile is a complete streetscape connecting the downtown to Manchester University.
- **Cultural Facility** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this effort will expand Cordier Auditorium and Winger Hall for 21st-century arts education and entertainment.

- **College Row Housing** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this housing endeavor will offer newly constructed townhomes, a missing housing type in North Manchester.
- **Eel River Commons** – Submitted as part of the College and Community Collaboration Initiative, this marquee downtown park will offer vibrant and engaging outdoor environment aimed at supporting both large-scale events and individual experiences.

COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

- **South House** – Peabody is a retirement community located near downtown North Manchester with underutilized space. This space provides the opportunity for a potential hotel.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

The Town of North Manchester received a pre-design construction cost estimate in September 2024.

WHAT WE HEARD

A significant amount of the comments received from the survey directly reference sidewalk improvements ranging from repairing existing infrastructure to expanding the network.

"My one wish would be to have full sidewalk and bike lanes from intersection of SR 13 & SR 114 in North Manchester, to at least the downtown and maybe northward." - Survey Participant

"We need bike lanes and sidewalks all the way through town." - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Town of North Manchester INDOT	Public Tax Dollars Community Crossing Matching Grant (CCMG) Program



INDIANA HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

IHCDA

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Up to \$1.5M | 25% match for Renter | No match for Owner

OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that IHCDA has set aside \$1,500,000 for each Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) as part of the Stellar Pathways Program. We understand that funding is from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program which applies to renter-occupied and owner-occupied units. Through discussions with IHCDA during the State Agency Day, our region was told the homeownership program did not require any match but the rental program did require a 25% match. We understand that this funding source comes from federal dollars so we will have to follow HUD requirements. We also understand that this program focuses on providing habitable and affordable housing for low and moderate-income persons.

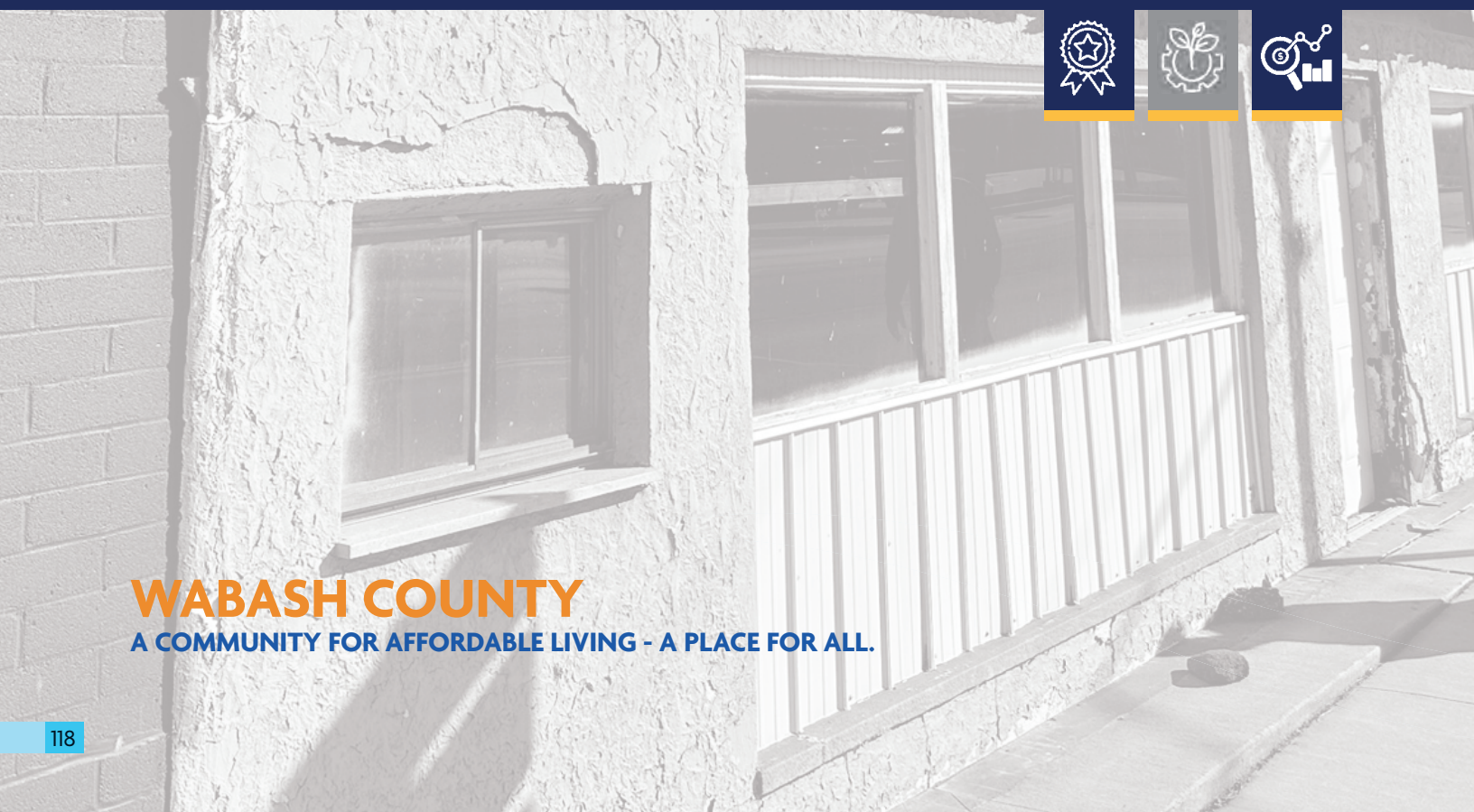
PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wabash County region is proposing to use the funding provided by IHCDA to implement TWO strategic initiatives. These two initiatives total **\$1.5M** in investment and leverage funding from private investment and local dollars. **With support from the Stellar Pathways program, our region can move the needle of addressing our housing shortage and increase access to affordable renter and owner-occupied units.** We invite IHCDA and the other six state agency partners to join us in achieving our goals of growing our population and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community! The following pages provide an overview of each proposed project.

Proposed IHCDA Projects					
Project Name	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap	Total Cost
Advantage Housing - Rental Rehabilitation	\$85,928			\$ 257,782	\$ 343,710
County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,240,000
TOTAL	\$105,928	\$20,00		\$1,457,782	\$1,583,710



IHCDA PROJECT #1
ADVANTAGE HOUSING - RENTAL REHABILITATION
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR AFFORDABLE LIVING - A PLACE FOR ALL.

IHCD Project #1

Advantage Housing - Rental Rehabilitation**LOCATION**

599 S. Wabash Street

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$343,710

GRANT REQUEST

\$257,782 (75%)

MATCH

\$85,928 (25%)

PROJECT LEAD

Advantage Housing Inc.

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

IHCD

Wabash County Development

Corporation

City of Wabash

Grow Wabash County

Design Consultant

Contractor

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Advantage Housing is a non-profit organization that focuses on Homeless Prevention by meeting the housing needs of the underserved in North Central Indiana. This organization offers Housing Counseling, short-term housing programs, and other affordable housing programs. This rehabilitation project will restore a dilapidated building to serve as low-income rental housing. The project will reduce the existing structure to a stand-alone property. It will be separated from 571 S. Wabash to the north and from the sidewalk to the west. The space between the buildings will become a lit walkway to the rear parking for both buildings. Once complete, this property will offer two, 2-bedroom townhouse units and one, 1-bedroom handicapped accessible apartment. These units will all be qualified as "Ongoing HOME Rental Housing." The units will have income and rent limits to help battle the lack of quality and affordable housing in Wabash County.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

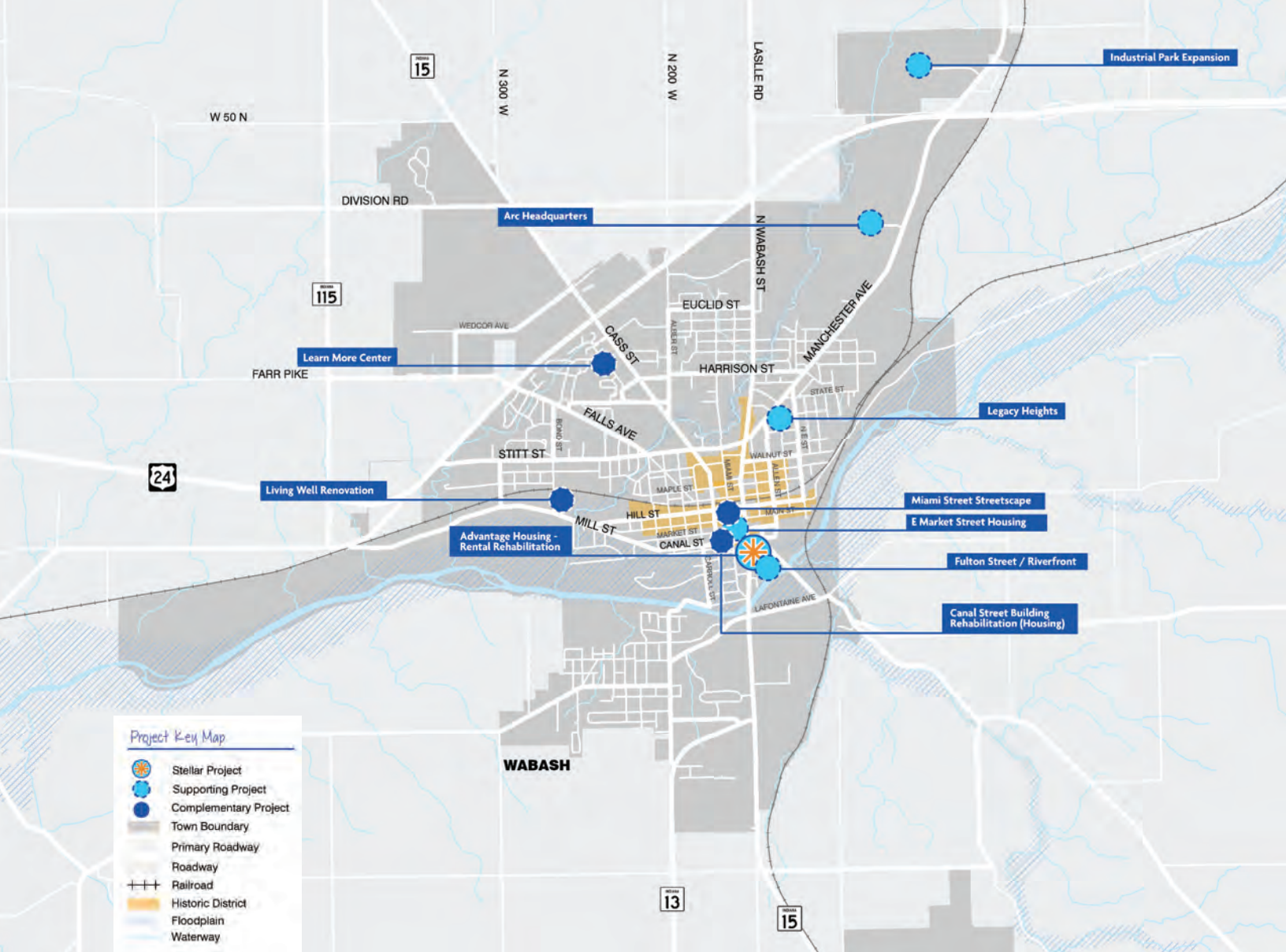
The total project cost includes \$301,500 for rehabilitation of an existing structure and \$42,210 for administration. The private investment is committed funds from Advantage Housing, a local Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) in Wabash County. Advantage Housing will provide the 25% match required by IHCD's HOME Investment Partnership Program. With support from the Stellar Pathways program, Advantage Housing would be able to begin rehabilitating the existing property in Wabash.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Advantage Housing would be responsible for the long-term sustainability of the housing project. They maintain multiple other properties in Wabash County and have a maintenance and case management support system in place. Advantage Housing's primary sources of revenue come from IHCD funds, donations, program income, and real estate investments such as rent. This organization has extensive experience working across North Central Indiana with HOME funds through the IHCD. A list of previous grant awards is provided in Appendix C.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$343,710	\$85,928			\$257,782



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

- **Industrial Park Expansion** – Two new spec buildings are in progress of being constructed at the Wabash Business Complex and an additional 232 acres were just purchased for future industrial growth in the Wedcor Business Park.
- **Legacy Heights** – One of the county's READI projects, Legacy Heights is a housing development that received \$2.4 million in READI funding to help establish infrastructure and expedite the home building and home buying processes for the project.
- **Arc Headquarters** – The Arc of Wabash County is a non-profit organization focused on provided programs and services for individuals with disabilities. This organization is in the process of opening a new headquarters facility in the Morrett Business Park.
- **E Market Street Development** – This housing project is part of a long endeavor to expand housing options in Wabash County and create row house downtown living opportunities.

- **Fulton Street Development** – This mixed-use riverfront developer would include multi-family residential apartments, commercial uses, and recreational opportunities.

COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS

- **Miami Street Streetscape** – The City of Wabash is interested in enhancing the streetscape along Miami Street with brick pavers, pedestrian lighting, and other improvements allowing the street to easily be closed off for festivals and community celebrations.
- **Canal Street Building Rehab** – This redevelopment project focuses on the historic buildings along the southwest corner of Canal Street and Wabash Street in downtown Wabash.
- **Learn More Center** – The Learn More Center is opening a new adult education center where educational and workforce partners will be co-located to create a life-long learning center in early 2025.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

Advantage Housing also provides complimentary counseling to assist resident in moving up the housing ladder.

WHAT WE HEARD

Attainable housing was ranked as the top priority for addressing population decline in Wabash County.

88% of survey respondents feels the county does not have the appropriate programs in place to assist low to moderate-income individuals.

90% of survey respondents feel it's important for the county, and its partners, to provide facilities for underserved populations such as people with disability, low-income residents, and/or senior citizens.



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Advantage Housing	IHCDA HUD



IHCDA PROJECT #2
COUNTY-WIDE OWNER-OCCUPIED INFILL PROGRAM
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY

A COMMUNITY FOR AFFORDABLE LIVING - A PLACE FOR ALL.

IHDA Project #2

County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program

LOCATION

Various lots throughout the county

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$1,240,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$1,200,000 (96%)

MATCH

Not required for the homebuyer program

PROJECT LEAD

Wabash County Development Corporation

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

IHDA
Habitat for Humanity
Advantage Housing
City of Wabash
Wabash River Trail
Town of North Manchester
Town of Roann
Town of Lagro
Lagro Canal Foundation
Town of La Fontaine
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wabash County has several partners working to provide attainable housing opportunities for current and future residents. This program will encourage multiple agencies to work together to increase the availability of affordable homes for low and moderate-income persons and households. Through this proposed program, the Wabash County Development Corporation (WCDC) would award single-family lots to a qualified developer or non-profit. In return for receiving the lot at no cost, the developer must build and sell the home to an income-eligible home buyer. While specific lots wouldn't be identified until after receiving the Stellar designation, this program is expected to fund 4-6 new single-family units. A map of potential infill opportunities throughout the county is provided on the following page.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

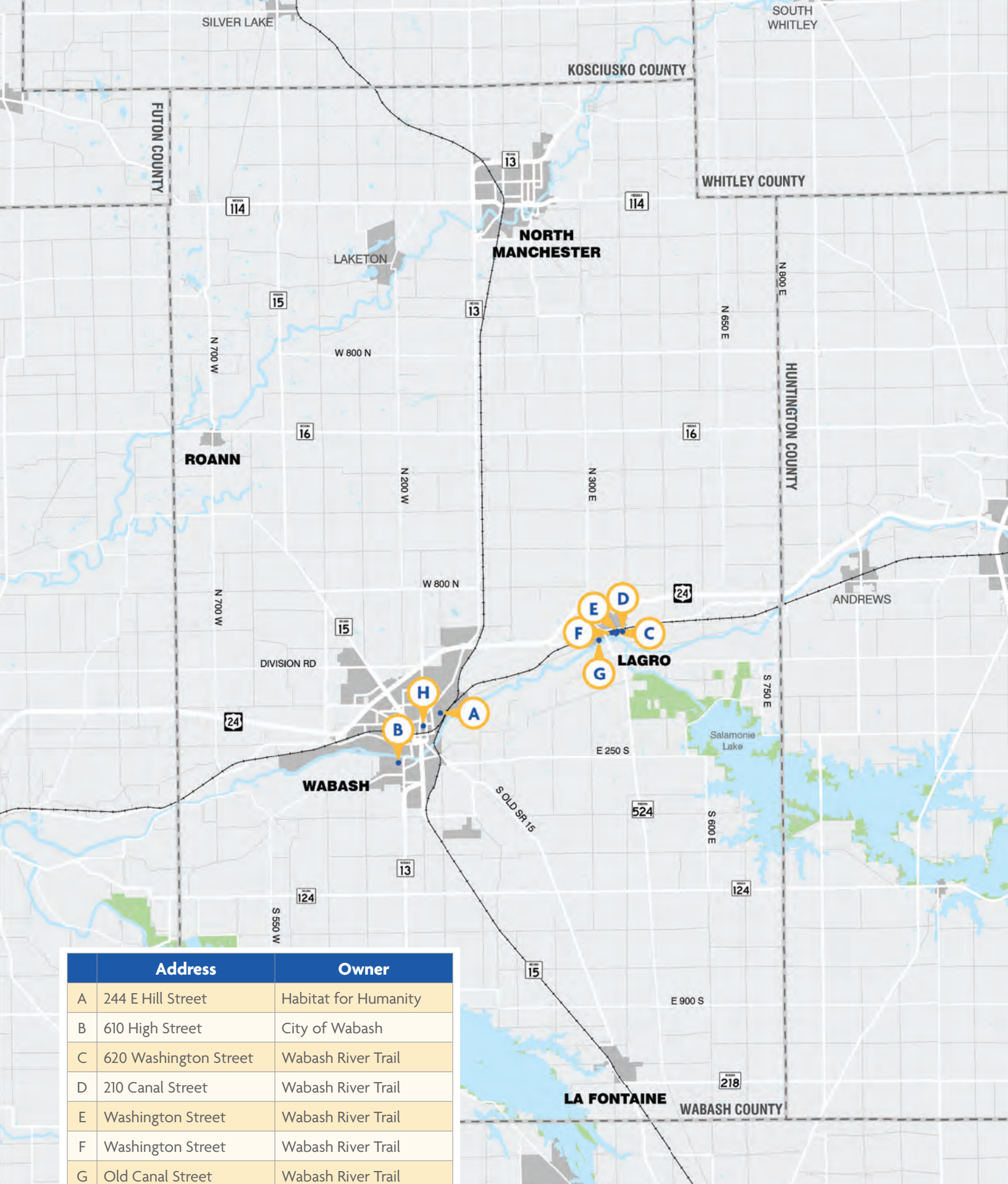
The total project cost includes \$40,000 for four lots and \$1,200,000 for the construction of the units. The private investment is assuming two lots would come from non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity or Advantage Housing. The local leverage is assuming two additional lots would come from the city and/or towns in Wabash County. With the support of the Stellar Pathways program, Wabash County would be moving the needle on increasing the availability of affordable homes in the county.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Wabash County Development Corporation is a new 501c3 organization that is in the process of becoming a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). This county-wide housing and mixed-use development corporation supports projects and programs that create affordable residential development opportunities. On projects that lack private developer interest, the WCDC will fill the role of developer. The intent would be to use the resources provided by the Stellar Pathways program to create the pilot program and then secure additional grant funding and/or provide low interest, flexible financing after the designation.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$ 1,240,000	\$20,000	\$20,000		\$ 1,200,000



	Address	Owner
A	244 E Hill Street	Habitat for Humanity
B	610 High Street	City of Wabash
C	620 Washington Street	Wabash River Trail
D	210 Canal Street	Wabash River Trail
E	Washington Street	Wabash River Trail
F	Washington Street	Wabash River Trail
G	Old Canal Street	Wabash River Trail
H	211 N Wabash Street	City of Wabash



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Program Planning																				
Program Setup																				
Purchaser Qualification & Site Control																				
Grant Application																				
Loan Packaging & Contractor Award																				
Construction																				
Final Closing																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

Providing housing at all income levels is a key component to Wabash County becoming a welcoming place for all.

WHAT WE HEARD

Attainable housing was ranked as the top priority for addressing population decline in Wabash County.

“There is a pressing demand for housing that accommodates a range of income levels. It is essential to prioritize investment in county-wide housing development and allocate funding for targeted marketing initiatives aimed at attracting new residents to the area.” - Survey Participant

“My one wish would be for our region to invest in new housing and remodel existing homes to bring more folks to our towns and county.” - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Wabash County Development Corporation	IHCDA HUD

**INDIANA
DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL
RESOURCES**

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS | INDIANA TRAILS PROGRAM

20% Match for ITP | 50% Match for LWCF

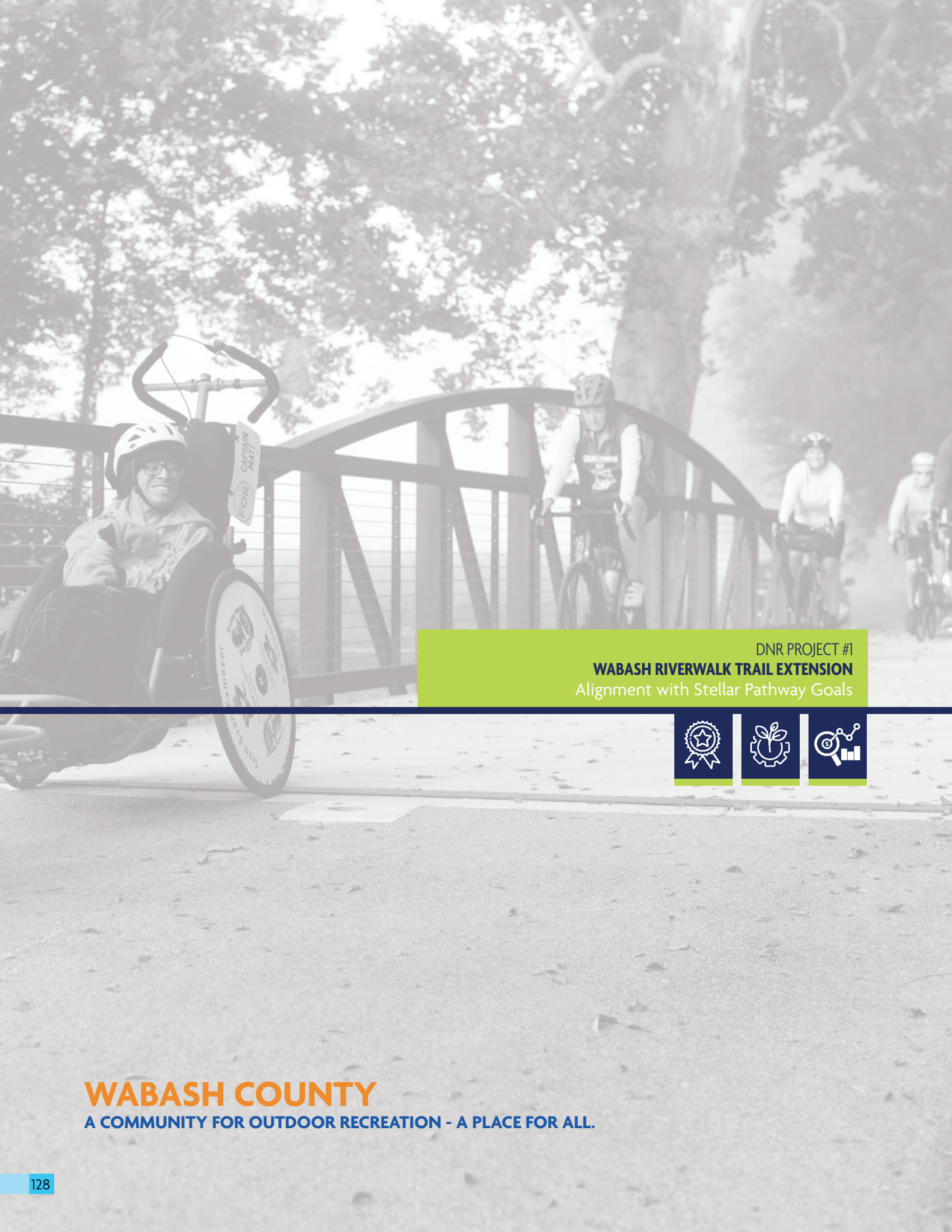
OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that DNR is providing resources and bonus points through three various programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), and Indiana Trails Program (ITP). We understand that the LWDF requires a 50% match and the local community has to have a DNR approved Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and a parks board established according to Indiana law. Through discussions with DNR during the State Agency Day, our region was informed the Indiana Trails Program was also a viable option for Stellar Pathways designees. While there are no extra bonus points available, the local match is only 20% for this program.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wabash County region is proposing to use the funding provided by DNR to implement TWO strategic initiatives. These two initiatives total **\$1.4M** in investment and leverage funding from local dollars. **With support from the Stellar Pathways program, our region can improve park space in an area with limited access and expand the Wabash Riverwalk Trail - a potential Indiana Visionary Trail.** We invite DNR and the other six state agency partners to join us in achieving our goals of growing our population and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community! The following pages provide an overview of each proposed project.

Proposed DNR Projects					
Project Name	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap	Total Cost
Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension (ITP)		\$484,624		\$400,000	\$ 884,624
La Fontaine Project (LWCF)		\$126,650	\$126,650	\$253,300	\$506,600
TOTAL		\$611,274	\$126,650	\$653,300	\$1,391,224



DNR PROJECT #1
WABASH RIVERWALK TRAIL EXTENSION
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION - A PLACE FOR ALL.

DNR Project #1

Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension

LOCATION

River Street to Wabash City
Park - Wabash, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$884,624

GRANT REQUEST

\$400,000 (45%)

MATCH

\$484,624 (55%)

PROJECT LEAD

City of Wabash / Riverwalk Trail
Committee

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

DNR
Parks Department
Grow Wabash County
Town of Lagro

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension project includes the construction of 6,500 feet of additional trail and a bypass (800 feet) for an existing portion of the trail that has to be closed during heavy rain events. The paved, multi-use Wabash Riverwalk Trail currently extends more than seven miles between the Town of Lagro and the City of Wabash. This extension will continue the westerly plans to reach the City of Peru and connect with their riverwalk.

The trail extension will begin at the western terminus at River Street and continue west along the Wabash River and then Charlie Creek. The trail will eventually turn north, cross Edsall Street, and then continue along Market Street. West Market Street will be closed to vehicular traffic and the trail will utilize the existing roadway to cross Charlie Creek and reach Lockerbie Street.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

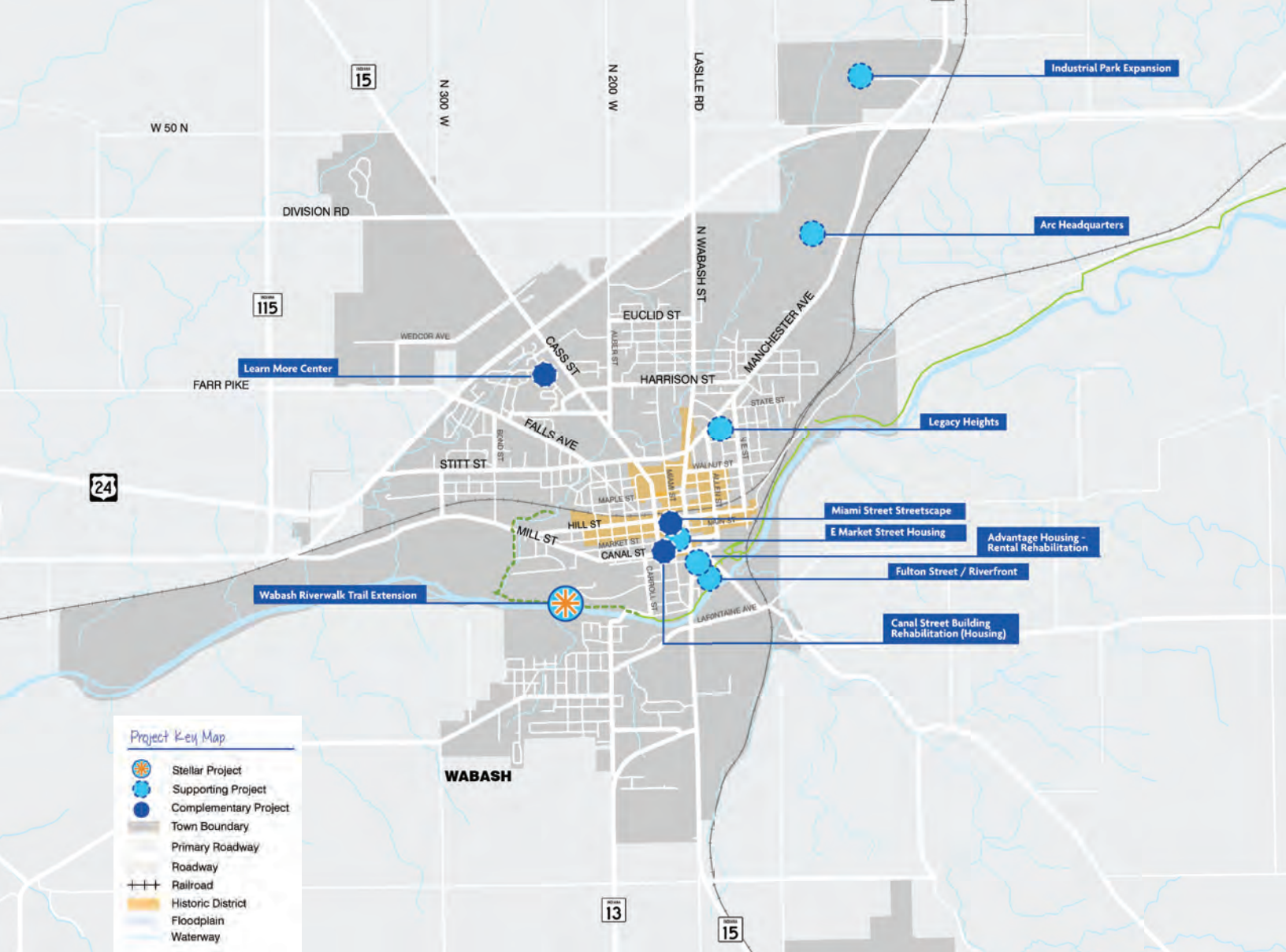
The total project includes \$96,674 for design and engineering and \$787,950 for construction. The City of Wabash has committed \$484,624 which is payable from the CEDIT Fund and the Rainy-Day Fund. This leaves a gap of \$400,000. With support from the Stellar Pathways Program, the City of Wabash will be able to improve local connectivity and be one step closer to enhancing connectivity westward towards Peru.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Wabash submitted this project for Indiana Trails Program funding in 2023. While we weren't awarded due to challenges with property owners and land acquisition, this challenge has been resolved. As part of the 2023 application process, a Maintenance and Operation Plan was prepared. This plan indicated that the estimated maintenance and repair costs would be \$3,000 per year. The City of Wabash Parks Department will be given the task of maintaining the trail as directed by the city.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$884,624		\$484,624		\$400,000



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

- **Industrial Park Expansion** – Two new spec buildings are in progress of being constructed at the Wabash Business Complex and an additional 232 acres were just purchased for future industrial growth in the Wedcor Business Park.
- **Legacy Heights** – One of the county's READI projects, Legacy Heights is a housing development that received \$2.4 million in READI funding to help establish infrastructure and expedite the home building and home buying processes for the project.
- **Arc Headquarters** – The Arc of Wabash County is a non-profit organization focused on provided programs and services for individuals with disabilities. This organization is in the process of opening a new headquarters facility in the Morrett Business Park.
- **E Market Street Development** – This housing project is part of a long endeavor to expand housing options in Wabash County and create row house downtown living opportunities.

- **Fulton Street Development** – This mixed-use riverfront developer would include multi-family residential apartments, commercial uses, and recreational opportunities.

COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS

- **Miami Street Streetscape** – The City of Wabash is interested in enhancing the streetscape along Miami Street with brick pavers, pedestrian lighting, and other improvements allowing the street to easily be closed off for festivals and community celebrations.
- **Canal Street Building Rehab** – This redevelopment project focuses on the historic buildings along the southwest corner of Canal Street and Wabash Street in downtown Wabash.
- **Learn More Center** – The Learn More Center is opening a new adult education center where educational and workforce partners to create a life-long learning center in early 2025.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

The 2023 Indiana Trails Program application is included as an appendix item.

WHAT WE HEARD

The survey asked participants to identify their one wish for the region. Countless responses were related to trail development and expansion and creating more pedestrian-friendly routes.

“Further leverage our natural resources through various trails and other recreation opportunities – these amenities are great for quality of life and tourism.” – Survey Participant

“We are small but connected to many larger cities. Wabash County is safe, and we have large city amenities. The city and county are reinvesting to retain talent, create jobs and improve the trail system and streetscapes.” – Survey Participant

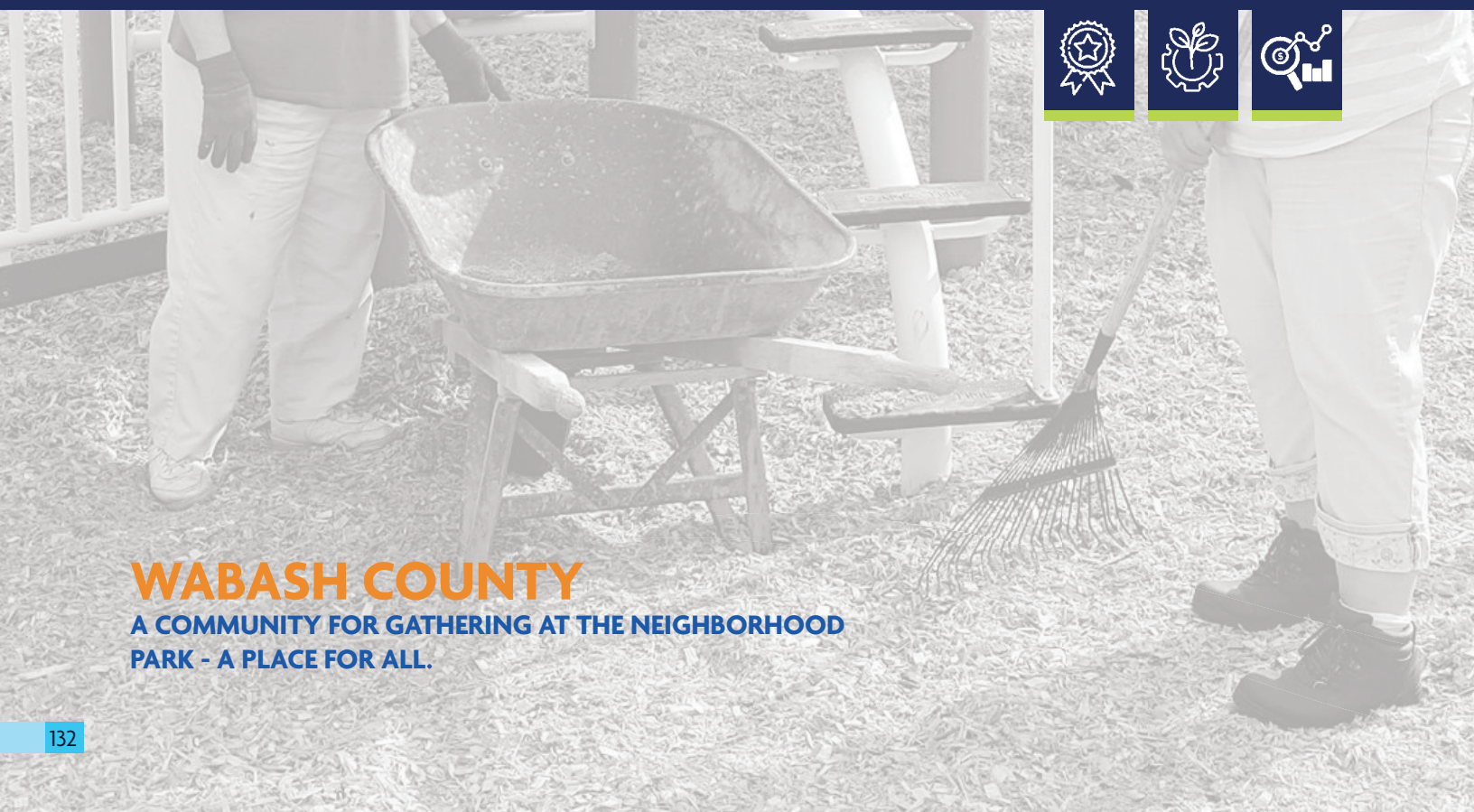


PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
City of Wabash Parks Department	Annual Parks Department Budget NLT - DNR ITP - DNR LWCF - DNR



DNR PROJECT #2
LA FONTAINE PARK ENHANCEMENTS
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY

**A COMMUNITY FOR GATHERING AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD
PARK - A PLACE FOR ALL.**

DNR Project #2

La Fontaine Park Enhancements

LOCATION

Cook-Crumley Park
La Fontaine, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$506,600

GRANT REQUEST

\$253,300 (50%)

MATCH

\$253,300 (50%)

PROJECT LEAD

Town of La Fontaine

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

DNR

Grow Wabash County
Commonwealth Engineering
Contractor
La Fontaine Community
Alliance

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cook-Crumley Park is located in the Town of La Fontaine with play equipment, a half court basketball court, and a baseball diamond. The town is in the process of completing a Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and has identified several desirable improvements to this 4.5-acre existing park. The town has worked with Commonwealth Engineering to develop a concept design for the park, which includes phased improvements. Phase 1 includes site preparation, a new pavilion, parking lot, and walking trails.

With a town of fewer than 900 residents, Cook Crumley Park is the only recreational facility within town limits. These enhancements will not only improve park access for residents but also serve as a regional destination.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

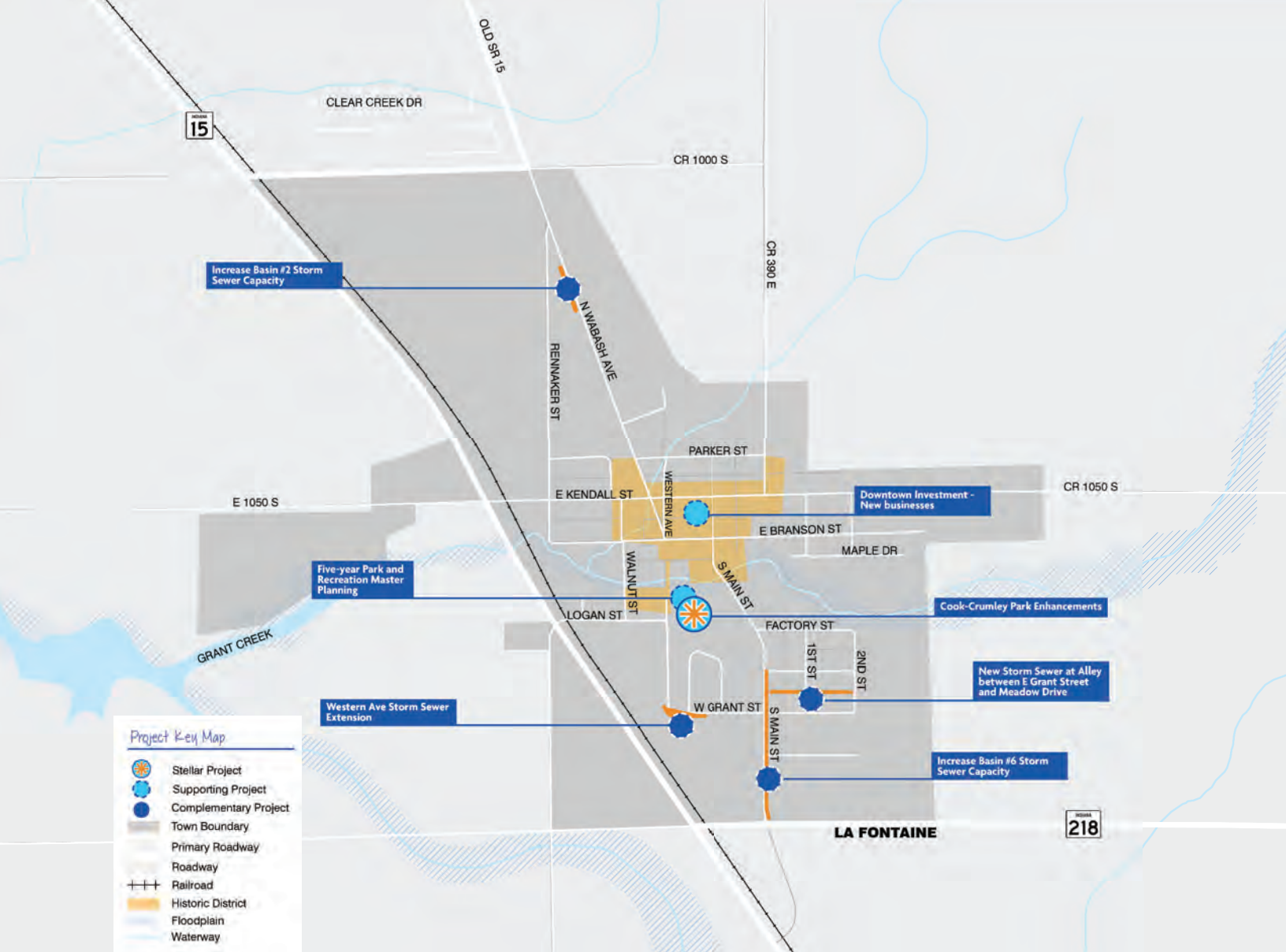
The total project cost includes \$460,500 for the construction of the improvements and a 10% contingency. It is anticipated that the local match would come from the Town of La Fontaine and fundraising.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The Town of La Fontaine has two full-time and one part-time grounds workers and an active volunteer that will assist the community in the on-going maintenance and beautification of the park facility. The Town of La Fontaine hopes to see this park become a central hub where the community can come together for social gatherings and outdoor recreation.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$506,600		\$126,650	\$126,650	\$253,300



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

The following projects and programs are current and/or on-going efforts that illustrate the community's current momentum.

- **Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan** – The Town of La Fontaine is in the process of completing a Five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This planning effort began in summer of 2024 and is anticipated to wrap up by the end of 2024.
- **La Fontaine Main Street Organization** – The La Fontaine Community Alliance was created and granted a 501c3 status. This group is in the process of becoming a Main Street Organization (Affiliate level).

- **New Business Investment** – Within the last year, La Fontaine has gained a new restaurant and liquor store in the downtown area. Additionally, an existing Wabash company, Eclectic Shop, moved from Wabash to La Fontaine.

COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS

- **La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements** - Proposed Stellar Project.



PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Site Prep & Utility Coordination																				
Conceptual Design																				
Analysis, Engineering, and Design																				
Grant Application																				
Project Permitting																				
Project Bidding																				
Construction																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

The Town of La Fontaine is confident they can secure the local match based on the proposed schedule above.

WHAT WE HEARD

Nearly 80% of survey respondents feel that residents of the smaller communities in Wabash County would benefit from additional park and recreational opportunities.

"My one wish would be A walking track & Pavilion in the La Fontaine park." - Survey Participant

"My one wish would be a new park in La Fontaine, that way there is a nice park in the North, Central and South areas of the county." - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Town of La Fontaine	Donation and Capital Campaigns DNR IHCD Placemaking Grants



PROPOSED PROJECTS

Indiana Department of Agriculture
Up to \$100,000 in Funding

WHAT LEVEL OF IMPACT WOULD THESE PROJECTS HAVE ON IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE AND GROWING THE POPULATION? PLACE A DOT STICKER BELOW.



PROJECT A LAGRO GROCERY

870 Washington Street

The Lagro Canal Foundation is a community organization that provides a grocery store in the neighborhood related to healthy eating.

While exterior improvements are under construction left to do is a complementary program.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ISDA

FOOD SYSTEMS GRANT

Up to \$100,000 | No Match Required

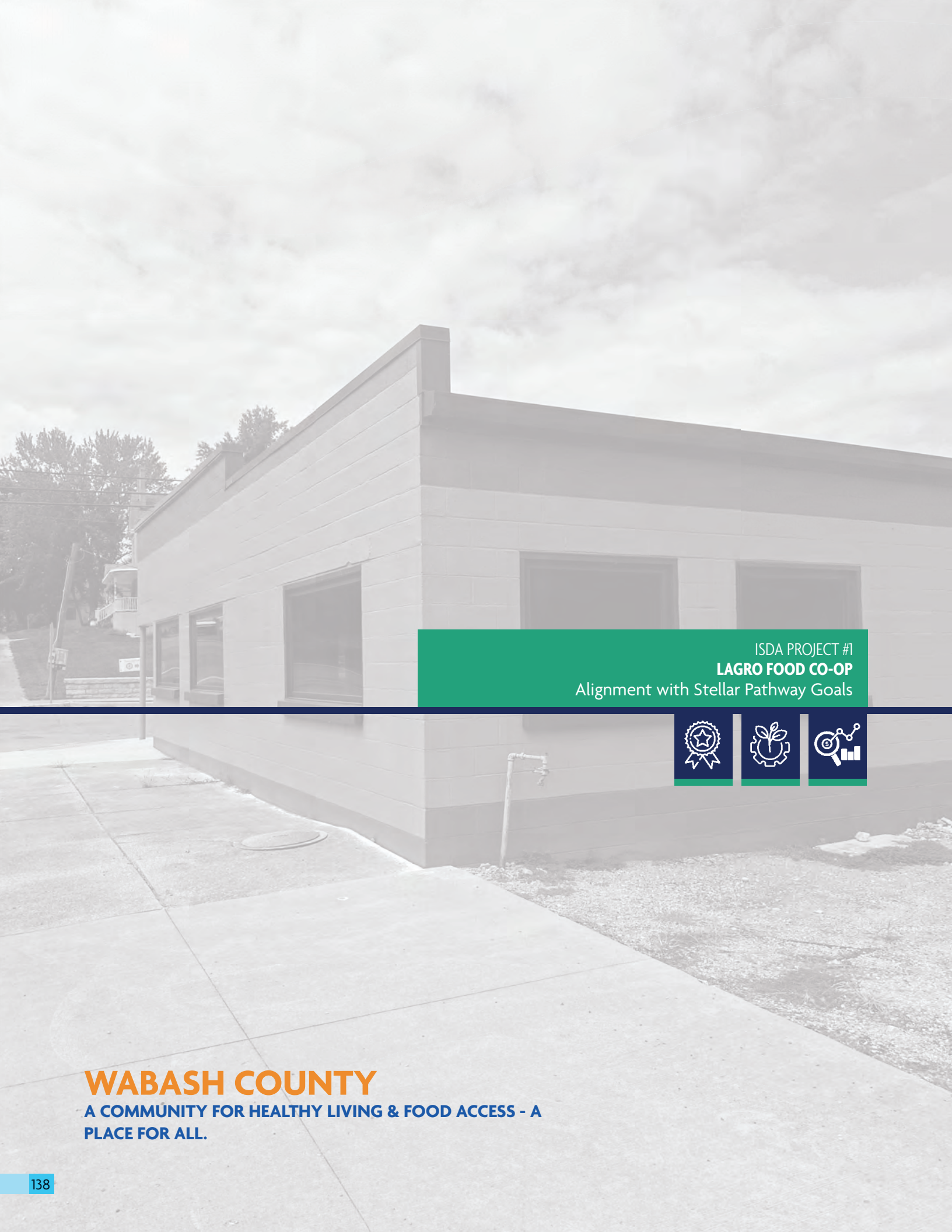
OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that ISDA has set aside \$200,000 for the Stellar Pathways Program meaning that each designated region can receive up to \$100,000. We understand this new program was created to empower local communities to address food insecurity and access to healthy food through public and private partnerships. Through discussions with ISDA during the State Agency Day, we understand that this funding is primarily for programs but could also help fund equipment or supplies needed to facilitate a specific program.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wabash County region is proposing to use the funding provided by the ISDA to implement ONE of two strategic initiatives. These two initiatives total **\$623,626** in investment and leverage funding from local dollars. The first project idea has an overwhelming amount of community of support and would not only result in a built project but would also open the door for countless programs related to healthy food access and preparation. A local foundation is working hard to get the interior renovations completed with hopes of using the resources provided by ISDA to buy equipment or supplies to help facilitate programs once the co-op becomes operational. **In an instance where timelines and resources don't align, we wanted to identify an alternative initiative that could be implemented.** This alternative program is working to break the food access and nutrition barriers that many Wabash County residents face. **With support from the Stellar Pathways program, our region can improve access to food for rural residents and people who may not know where their next meal is coming from.** We invite the ISDA and the other six state agency partners to join us in achieving our goals of growing our population and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community! The following pages provide an overview of the proposed project and alternative program.

Proposed ISDA Projects					
Project Name	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap	Total Cost
Lagro Food Co-op	\$212,327			\$336,299	\$538,626
Impact Pantries Initiative (Alternative Program)		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$75,000	\$85,000
TOTAL	\$212,327	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$411,299	\$623,626



ISDA PROJECT #1

LAGRO FOOD CO-OP

Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY

**A COMMUNITY FOR HEALTHY LIVING & FOOD ACCESS - A
PLACE FOR ALL.**

ISDA Project #1 Lagro Food Co-op

LOCATION

870 Washington Street
Lagro, IN

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$538,826

GRANT REQUEST

\$100,000 (18%)

MATCH

Not required

PROJECT LEAD

Lagro Canal Foundation

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Town of Lagro
Lagro Farmers Market
Purdue Wabash County
Extension
Grow Wabash County
Local growers and producers
Future Board of Directors
Attorney
Contractors

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lagro Canal Foundation has taken strides to renovate the old cafe building at 870 Washington Street with hopes of developing a Food Co-op. The foundation has begun drafting the Co-op bylaws to provide local growers, producers, and consumers a way to become a shareholder. The Lagro Food Co-op would be a community-owned grocery store and cafe that contributes to the economic growth, sustainability, and prosperity of Wabash County.

While exterior improvements such as painting, windows, and roofing have already occurred, there is still a significant amount of construction left to do inside. Not only would this development provide goods, services, and healthy food choices at a fair value, the idea is to also provide programming related to healthy eating, farm-to-table initiatives, and community cooking classes.

This project funding would assist the Lagro Canal Foundation / The Co-op in acquiring equipment and supplies for future, complementary programs. One potential program would be to use the café to facilitate a monthly demonstration series to bring people into the Co-op and educate participants on how to prepare healthy meals with ingredients available at the Co-op.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The total project cost includes \$117,865 for the materials and labor to finish the interior renovations, \$208,434 for equipment and supplies, and \$212,327 already spent for exterior improvements. The Lagro Canal Foundation successfully funded the \$212,327 through donations. This leaves a gap of \$326,299. With support from the Stellar Pathways Program, the Lagro Canal Foundation could fund a significant portion of the equipment necessary for the café kitchen.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The Food Co-op would be financially sustained and operated by the Co-op Board of Directors and members. It is anticipated that the Co-op would offer two classes of memberships and three levels of support classes. In addition to membership fees and revenue, it is anticipated that the Co-op will seek other local grants, subsidies, and funding programs that support sustainable agriculture, food security, and/or community development.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$538,626	\$212,327			\$326,299



LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS

SUPPORTING PROJECTS

The following projects and programs are current and/or on-going efforts that illustrate the community's current momentum.

- **Riverfront Development** – The riverfront in Lagro has a kayak launch with an outfitters office and retail shop.
- **Primitive Camping** – There is a 5-acre island in the Wabash River just off the riverbank. The town is working to make this area accessible for primitive camping on the island.
- **Level-up Lagro Economic Development Plan** – The town is in the process of completing an OCRA funded economic development plan.

COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS

The following projects are future efforts that could compliment and continue building the momentum following the implementation of the Stellar projects.

- **Lagro Town Hall Improvements** – The Town of Lagro has a community facility that serves as the town hall. This building needs various repairs and updates.
- **Lagro Sidewalks** – Identified as a potential Stellar project, this infrastructure project will improve connectivity between the downtown and riverfront investment.
- **Infill Opportunities** – There are several residential infill opportunities within town limits that could be part of another potential Stellar project, the county-wide owner-occupied infill program.



PROJECT TIMELINE

ISDA Project #1

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Project Bidding for Interior Renovations	■	■																		
ISDA Grant Application			■	■																
Construction					■	■	■													
Forming the Co-op (Admin/Operations)						■	■	■												
Grand Opening of the Co-op									■											
Food Program Launch										■	■									



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing		■		
Site Control	■			
Environmental Review	■			
Schematic Design	■			
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering		■		

Notes

The Lagro Canal Foundation has started planning to the creation of a Co-op to help fund the development.

WHAT WE HEARD

Nearly 85% of survey participants feel the residents of smaller communities would benefit from access to a more convenient grocery store.

Nearly 70% of survey participants feel the residents of smaller communities would benefit from a food service program.

Access to healthy food was identified as one of the two top priorities for the Town of Lagro.



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Lagro Canal Foundation / The Food Co-op	ISDA ISDH USDA Purdue Extension Office Feeding America



ISDA PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE
IMPACT PANTRIES INITIATIVE
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY
A COMMUNITY FOR HEALTHY LIVING & FOOD ACCESS - A
PLACE FOR ALL.

ISDA Program Alternative Impact Pantries Initiative

LOCATION

County-wide

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$85,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$75,000 (88%)

MATCH

Not required but we have 12% committed.

PROJECT LEAD

Purdue Wabash County
Extension

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

ISDA
Manchester Community
Schools
Metropolitan School District of
Wabash County
Wabash City Schools
Wabash County Health
Department
Grow Wabash County
Wabash County Bashbags

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through this program, all schools throughout Wabash County will be able to house a food and wellness pantry including a refrigerator/freezer allowing us to meet families where they are. Having pantries equipped with refrigeration/freezer units will allow us to provide not only shelf-stable food items, and wellness/hygiene items, but also fresh produce, protein, and dairy items as well. Many families struggle with transportation, days, and hours of operation as it relates to the local pantries (which are now far and few between) and alternate distribution sites. Providing residents with the ease to ask their child to bring items home or the convenience of picking up necessary items when they are picking up or dropping off their child will be life-changing for many families.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

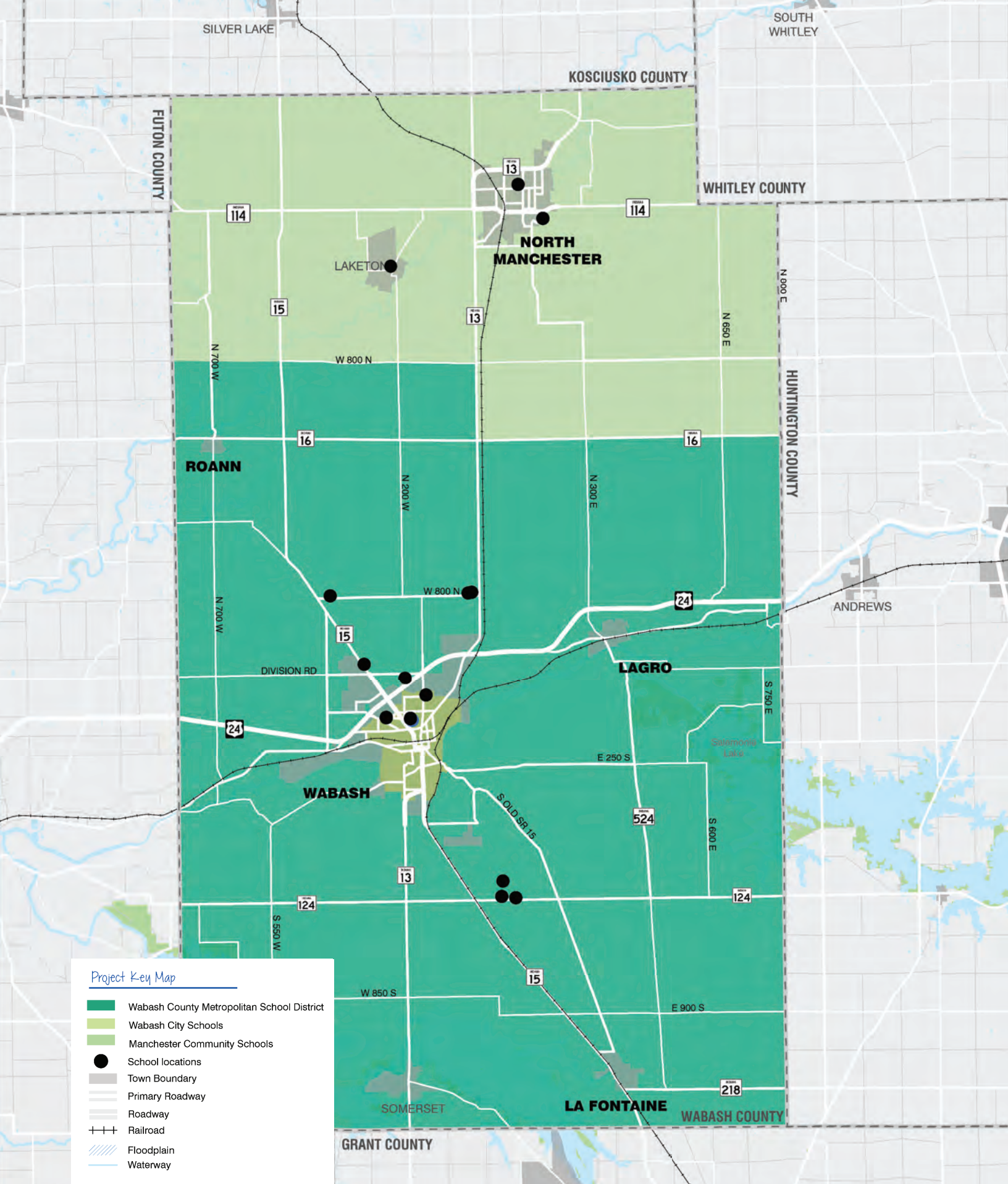
The total project cost is \$85,000 for start up expenses including refrigerator units, pantry units, inventory, and other supplies such as signage and training materials. This start up cost covers the expense related to providing a pantry at each school throughout the three districts. The local leverage came from a grant provided by Health First Indiana and the other source is funds raised through donations. With the support of the Stellar Pathways program, we will be removing some of the food access and nutrition barriers that many Wabash County residents face.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

This project is currently being rolled out as a pilot program in one school per district with the plan to expand to additional schools in waves as we identify the areas of greatest need. The pilot program is being funded by money provided by Health First Indiana (HFI). The local Community Wellness Coordinator is currently forming a Wabash County Food Security Alliance that will help fight against food insecurity in Wabash County. This alliance would assist in the long-term sustainability of the program by assisting in operating and securing additional funding. The lead entity feels confident in long-term sustainability based on the strong partnerships that have been secured behind this initiative.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$85,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$75,000





PROJECT TIMELINE

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Pilot Program																				
Monitor implementation and outcome data																				
Identify areas for improvement of program																				
Identify geographic area with greatest need																				
Grant Application																				
Implement program in future areas of need																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

Received grant funding to launch program.
Met with district leaders to create pilot program.
Working to establish a Wabash County Food Security Alliance.

WHAT WE HEARD

Nearly 70% of survey participants feel the residents of smaller communities would benefit from a food service program.

Our community is unfortunately facing food insecurity with 4,210 (13.6%) of Wabash County Residents reporting food insecurity.



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
Purdue Wabash County Extension	ISDA ISDH USDA Purdue Extension Office Feeding America Health First Indiana



**INDIANA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH**

ISDH

RURAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS GRANT

Up to \$75,000 | No Match Required

OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is our understanding that ISDH has set aside \$75,000 for the Stellar Pathways Program meaning, one Stellar Pathways designee will receive the funding in 2025 and the other will receive it in 2026. We understand this funding could be used for a wide range of health-related programs ranging from food access and child obesity to mental and physical health. We understand that the Rural Health and Wellness Grant can be used to fund new programs or enhance existing programs.

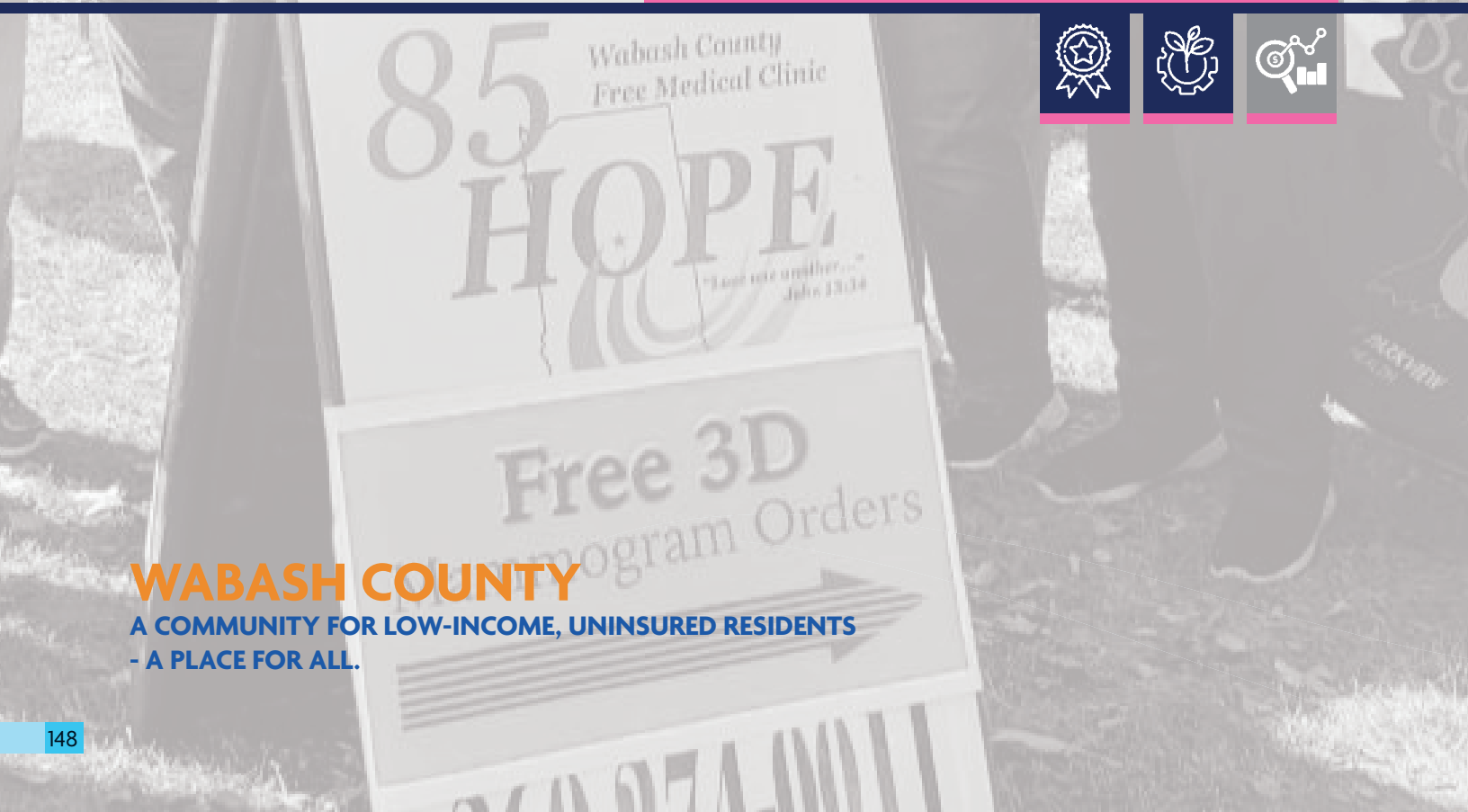
PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Wabash County region is proposing to use the funding provided by the ISDH to support ONE existing program - HOPE 85. This program expansion totals **\$282,000** in investment and leverage funding from private investment and local dollars. **With support from the Stellar Pathways program, our region can expand the services provided by the free medical clinic.** We invite the ISDH and the other six state agency partners to join us in achieving our goals of growing our population and becoming a more welcoming and inclusive community! The following pages provide an overview of the proposed program.

Proposed ISDH Projects					
Project Name	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap	Total Cost
85 Hope - Program Expansion Services			\$207,000	\$75,000	\$282,000
TOTAL			\$207,000	\$75,000	\$282,000



ISDH PROGRAM #1
85 HOPE - PROGRAM EXPANSION
Alignment with Stellar Pathway Goals



WABASH COUNTY

A COMMUNITY FOR LOW-INCOME, UNINSURED RESIDENTS
- A PLACE FOR ALL.

ISDH Program #1 85 HOPE Program Expansion

LOCATION

County-wide

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$282,000

GRANT REQUEST

\$75,000 (27%)

MATCH

Not Required

PROJECT LEAD

85 Hope

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Community Foundation of
Wabash County
Parkview Wabash Hospital
Wabash County United Fund
City of Wabash
Town of North Manchester
Grow Wabash County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

85 HOPE is a free medical clinic that serves low-income adult residents who are uninsured or under-insured. This organization operates two clinics in Wabash and North Manchester. Residents of Wabash County can visit the clinic for a variety of free services ranging from medical exams and physical therapy to lab and radiology testing at Parkview Wabash Hospital, annual mammograms, and health screenings.

Currently, the clinical hours at both locations are very limited. 85 HOPE Wabash is open 5:00-8:00PM every Thursday. 85 HOPE Manchester is open on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 5:00-8:00PM. Because of this limited availability, visitors are required to schedule an appointment. There is a growing demand for the services offered by 85 HOPE. With the resources provided by the Stellar Pathways program, 85 HOPE intends to hire two additional part-time nurse practitioners to serve more people and offer more clinic hours.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

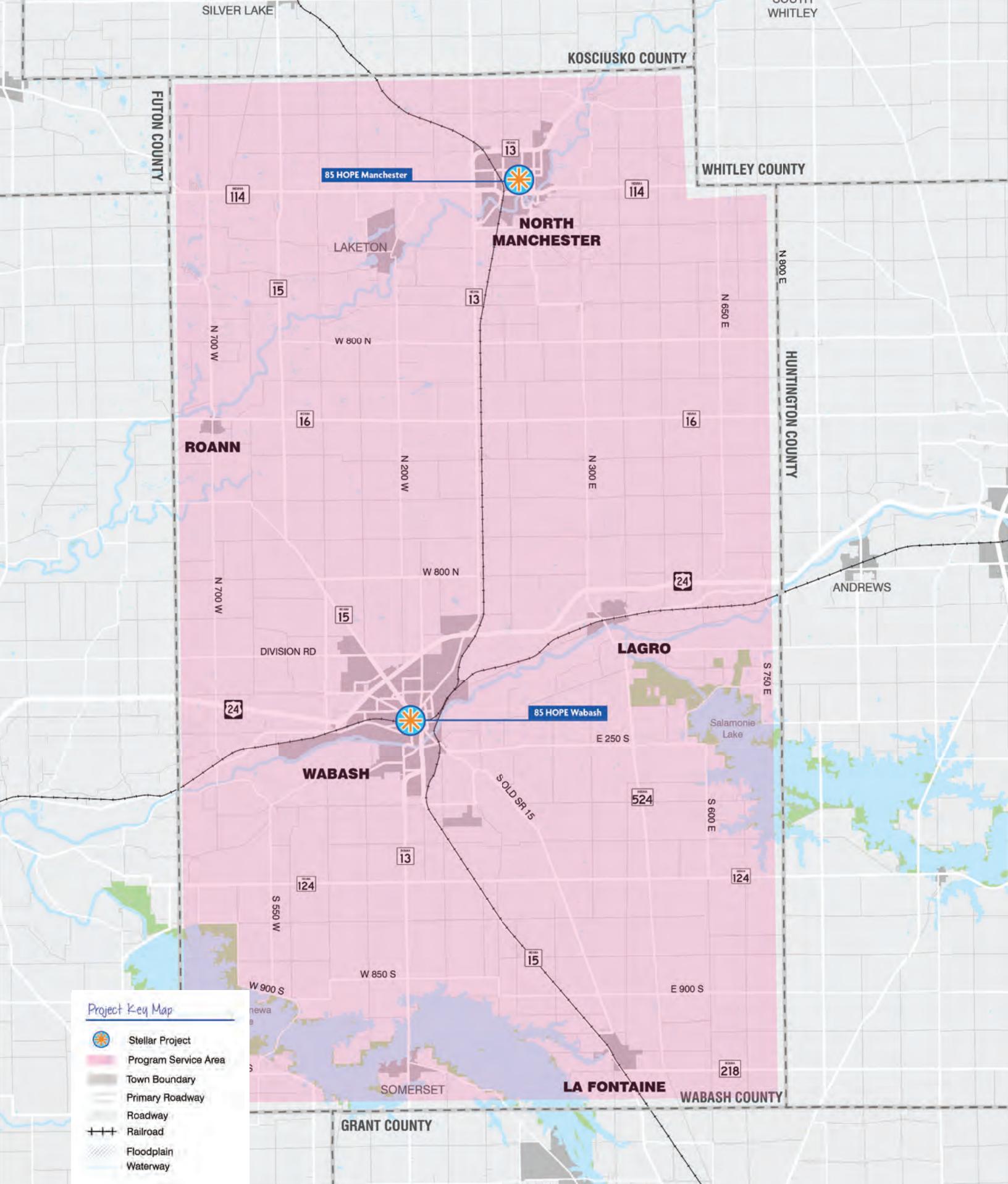
The total project costs includes an estimated \$207,000 for the organizations annual operating expenses and an additional \$75,000 to fund two additional part-time nurse practitioners. The organization relies solely on grants and donations from local churches and community members.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

85 HOPE is generously funded by the Wabash County United Fund, the Community Foundation of Wabash County, Parkview Wabash Hospital, multiple grants, and individual and corporate donations. This organization does not receive any form of federal funding. Since opening its doors in 2011, the clinic has been blessed by the generous hands and hearts of the people of Wabash County.

PROJECT BUDGET

Total Project Cost	Private Investment	Local Leverage	Other Sources	Gap
\$282,000			\$207,000	\$75,000





PROJECT TIMELINE

ISDH Project #1

	2025				2026				2027				2028				2029			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Identify geographic area with greatest need																				
Survey Residents to identify desired hours of operation																				
Grant Application																				
Evaluate Annual Operating Expenses																				
Plan for Program Expansion																				
Hire additional Staff																				



FEASIBILITY & READINESS

	Identified	In-progress	Not Started	Not applicable
Financing				
Site Control				
Environmental Review				
Schematic Design				
Architecture and Preliminary Engineering				

Notes

Expanding resources and meeting demand where it's at is a top priority for 85 HOPE.

WHAT WE HEARD

We asked the community to choose one of four potential health-related program ideas. 85 HOPE received all of the votes during our public events.

"We need more funding and promotion of existing programs such as 85 HOPE, Learn More Center, Bash Bags, Free Pantries, Parkview Educational programs, and Purdue Extension Nutritional Programs." - Survey Participant



PROJECT MAINTENANCE

Entity Responsible for Maintenance	Future Funding Sources
85 HOPE	United Funds, ISDH Donations, Wabash County Health Department



“Wabash County isn’t playing games with empty promises. It is collaborative and values the strength of working together. There is genuine heart in Wabash, and it’s a pretty stark difference from many of the neighboring counties. Wabash has something to offer and is not standing still.”

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 7

Implementation

IN THIS SECTION:

KEY PERFORMANCE
INDICATIONS

PROGRESS REPORT

LONG-TERM EXECUTION

PROCESS ASSESSMENT

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Performance measurement is a systematic approach used to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of projects and programs. These measurements can be used to monitor whether you are “on-track” to achieve the desired outcomes and to clearly demonstrate the value of the initiative.

Our region’s desired accomplishments were identified in Chapter Three: Current Momentum. These achievements included improving the quality of life and place as an approach to stabilizing the population and becoming a more welcoming place for all – regardless of demographics, socioeconomic status, and abilities. Building on these two desired accomplishments, we have identified three key performance indicators (KPI’s) that are directly related. The following KPI’s will be used to judge progress and achievements based on a series of benchmarks. Each KPI has an “implementation plan” in place that outlines the rationale, responsible party, methodology, audience, reporting frequency, and baseline data. It is anticipated that each of these KPI’s would be monitored and reported through the five-year Stellar Pathways designation.

Key Performance Indicator #1
POPULATION GROWTH

Wabash County Population Change					Stellar Pathways Designation				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total Population ¹	30,893	30,842	30,670						
Net Migration Rate	+187	+193	+19						
Total population Change	-41	-51	-172						

Measurable Outcomes

Maintain a positive annual net migration rate.

Aspirational Goal

Demonstrate positive growth in our total population change by 2030.

- **Rationale**

While Wabash County has posted three consecutive years of positive net migration growth, our overall population continues to decline with an aging population and a birth rate totaling around half of our death rate annually. Wabash County believes that our ability to arrest and reverse population decline is focusing on increasing our positive net migration rate, which measures our ability to attract and retain residents.

- **Responsibility**

Grow Wabash County will be responsible for ensuring accurate and timely data is collected, tracked and analyzed, and reported on an annual basis.

- **Methodology**

We will use Population Change published by Stats Indiana on an annual basis and then confirm this data as the American Community Survey 5-year Estimates are published by the US Census Bureau.

- **Audience**

This KPI data will be reported and published on the Grow Wabash County website. It is anticipated that our website will have a Stellar Dashboard intended to display updates and information related to the program.

- **Reporting Frequency**

Population statistics will be reported annually.

- **Baseline Data**

The data shown above has been documented to not only show the 2023 population statistics but also the past three years. The 2023 data should be used as the starting point for this KPI. Furthermore, data from the Indiana Business Research Center projects Wabash County's population total to be at 29,641 by 2030². While we hope this to not be true, we want to document this projection for comparison purposes in the future.

¹ Source: <https://www.stats.indiana.edu/Population/county-visualization.asp>

² Source: <https://www.stats.indiana.edu/Population/county-visualization.asp>

Key Performance Indicator #2

INCREASE PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Wabash County - Private Investments ¹					Stellar Pathways Designation				
Total Private Investment	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
	\$25,043,000	\$53,909,933	\$303,671,000						

Measurable Outcome

Surpass the average private investment of \$38 million per year.

Aspirational Goal

Secure over \$40M of private investment for three consecutive years.

- **Rationale**

To catalyze increased private investment in Wabash County, our baseline goal is to surpass the average private investment of \$38 million per year, excluding anomalies such as the record-breaking year in 2023 and the impacts of 2020. By implementing targeted strategies, we aim to enhance economic development while ensuring equitable access to opportunities and resources.

- **Responsibility**

As the leading economic development entity in Wabash County, Grow Wabash County will be responsible for ensuring accurate and timely data is collected, tracked and analyzed, and reported on an annual basis.

- **Methodology**

Grow Wabash County has tracked the private investment projects within the county since 2012. While it is not an exhaustive list, they have a process in place to track this data on an annual basis.

- **Audience**

This KPI data will be reported and published on the Grow Wabash County website. It is anticipated that our website will have a Stellar Dashboard intended to display updates and information related to the program.

- **Reporting Frequency**

Investment statistics will be reported annually.

- **Baseline Data**

The data shown above has been documented to not only show the 2024 population statistics but also the past three years. The 2023 data should be used as the starting point for this KPI.

¹ Source: Grow Wabash County

Key Performance Indicator #3
EQUITABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Wabash County Housing Data			Stellar Pathways Designation				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total Number of Units	14,013						
New Residential Building Permits ¹	50						
Number of Saleable Units between \$150,000- \$275,000	152						

Measurable Outcomes

Increase the number of housing units at or below 100% of Area Median Income.

Aspirational Goal

Increase the total number of housing units by 1200 by 2030.

- **Rationale**

A 2023 county-wide housing market potential analysis concluded that in the next five years, Wabash County could absorb between 1,050 and 1,305 new affordable, workforce, and market-rate housing units. With fewer than 40 homes on the market and scarce rental inventory at any given time, Wabash County's ability to attract and retain residents is hamstrung. Housing development in rural communities can prove to be challenging, oftentimes resulting in slow or stagnant residential inventory growth.

- **Responsibility**

The Wabash County Development Corporation will work with Grow Wabash County to ensure accurate and timely data is collected, tracked and analyzed, and reported on an annual basis.

- **Methodology**

We provide each municipality a template for recording residential development permits and tracking the sale/rent of new units. This data will be combined at the end of each year. We will assess our data source against other popular real estate and housing data sources including Zillow, the US Census Bureau, and the Indiana Housing Dashboard.

- **Audience**

This KPI data will be reported and published on the Grow Wabash County website. It is anticipated that our website will have a Stellar Dashboard intended to display updates and information related to the program.

- **Reporting Frequency**

Housing and residential construction statistics will be reported annually.

- **Baseline Data**

The data shown above indicates the 2023 housing statistics, which should be used as the starting point for this KPI.

¹ Source: 2023 Wabash County Housing Market Potential Analysis



PROGRESS REPORT

Following the designation as a Stellar Pathways designee, Wabash County is committed to maintaining and advancing our stakeholder engagement and progress reporting in the following ways:

One Consistent Author - Grow Wabash County will be the primary author of program updates throughout the implementation process. It is anticipated that Grow Wabash County staff will work with Kleinpeter Consulting, our grant administrator, and appropriate project partners to collect qualitative and quantitative data as projects progress. With Grow Wabash County being the primary author of project and program reports, we can ensure that all organizations and stakeholders are receiving the same information in tandem.

Frequent Updates - Throughout the program's implementation, we are prepared to provide reports monthly, quarterly and annually, with data and metrics shifting based on the type of report. By providing consistent communication opportunities throughout the program's implementation, Grow Wabash County can provide updates in real time and in manageable amounts. This approach will provide real-time and meaningful communication over the course of the five-year period. Our reports would include the following:

- Monthly- General project advancement and key milestones met.
- Quarterly- Financial match commitments and draw down requests.
- Annually- Phased project completion and key performance indicator measurements.

Transparent Processes - The development team will continue to meet monthly to report on program activities, opportunities and the advancement of specific initiatives. Regional stakeholders may request to attend and address the development team during their monthly meetings. Upon request, meeting agendas, and summaries can also be provided.

LONG-TERM EXECUTION

Should Wabash County not be granted the Stellar Pathways Program designation, the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) will still be spearheaded by Grow Wabash County and Imagine One 85. Their leadership in staffing and project management will ensure the successful execution of identified projects and programs moving forward. With Wabash County's established track record of success including demonstrated progress in over 80% of our county-wide action agenda items, our implementation momentum is poised for long-term sustainability.

Moving forward, Wabash County will continue to work together to pursue various funding opportunities that will lead to the implementation of initiatives that are outlined within our SIP. We are actively working to pursue future funding opportunities with Next Level Trails, IHCD funding programs, the Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission, READI 2.0, USDA's Rural Business Development Grant, federal BEAD funding for broadband deployment, Indiana FSSA funding for early childhood education, the Lilly Endowment's Gift VIII Initiative, and Next Level Connections Round 4 and other state, federal, and private grant opportunities.

Additionally, Wabash County will continue to work closely with our economic development partners, private sector, and local philanthropic communities to support the implementation of the SIP through the use of tax abatements, TIF agreements, revolving loan funds, and other available community grant programs.

The Wabash County Community has a proven track record of supporting local initiatives dating back to the implementation of the Stellar Communities' projects, Imagine One 85, and most recently raising over \$500,000 in just over two weeks time to support a large community project through the Manchester Together initiative.

Wabash County's recent success in pursuing various grant opportunities, the local units of government financial stability, facilitating public-private partnerships, and the enormous level of generosity from the philanthropic community allows Wabash County to make an immediate impact even without the resources from the Stellar Pathways Program. **While we are well-positioned to move initiatives through the implementation process, our region will be much stronger with the state agencies as our partners. Together, we can make a greater impact.**



"Wabash county has come a long ways but we still have more to accomplish to stem the trend of population decline. Being able to receive grant money like this helps curb the costs of reaching our Imagine One 85 goals."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 8

Sustainability

IN THIS SECTION:

ORGANIZATIONAL
SUSTAINABILITY

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

UPDATING OUR PLANS &
PROJECTS

PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Our region's sustainability plan includes three key elements – organizational sustainability, financial sustainability, and community sustainability. By strategically planning for and implementing this framework, we feel confident in our ability to sustain the projects and programs identified with the Strategic Investment Plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

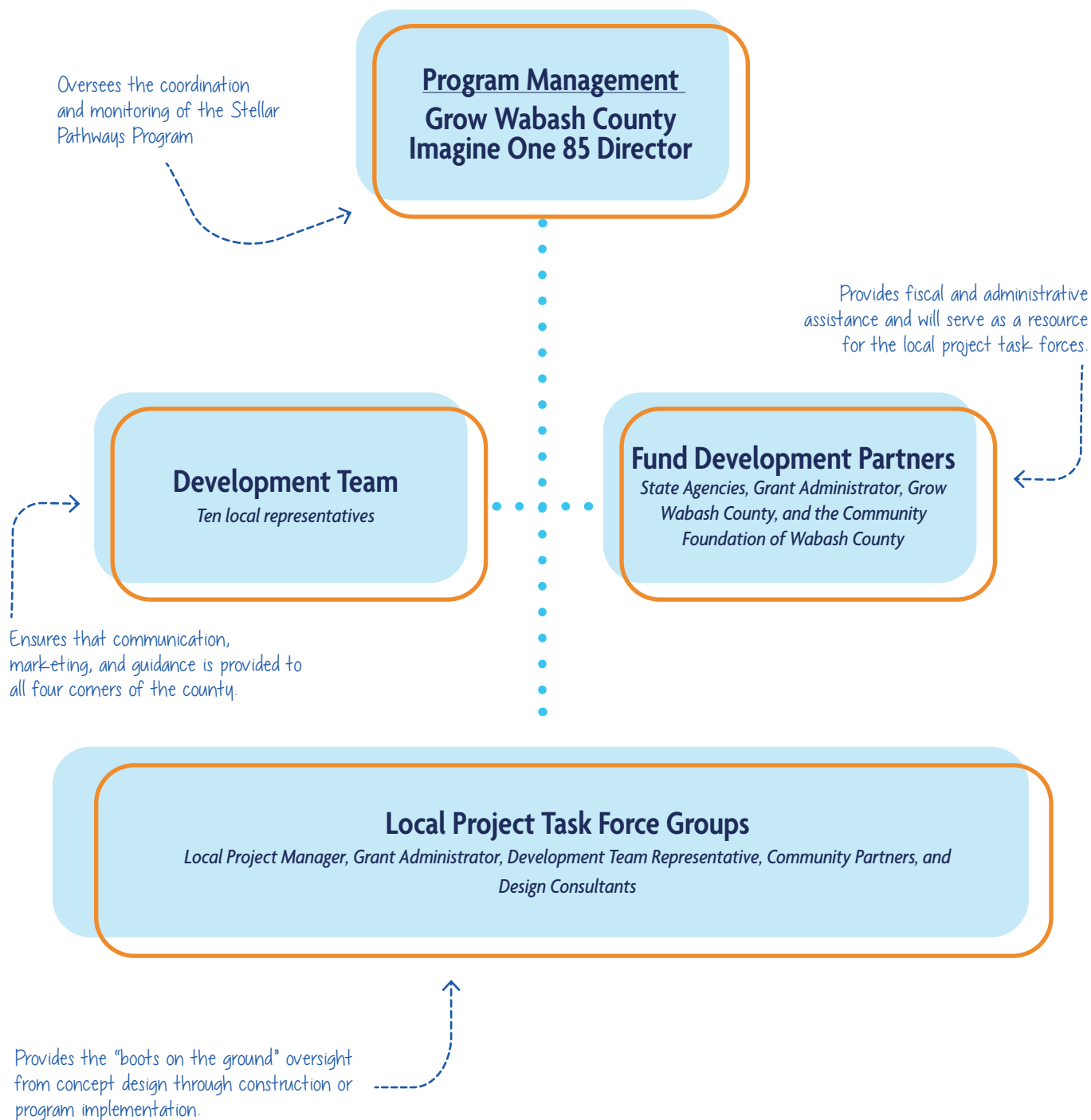
The following section provides a general overview of how our various leaders, partners, and supporters will work together and continue not only during the five-year Stellar Pathways designation period, but also well into the future.

Stellar Pathways Program Management

Grow Wabash County and Imagine One 85 will retain the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of our Stellar Pathways initiatives from a program management perspective. As program managers, we will oversee the coordination and monitoring of the Stellar Pathways projects and programs over the five-year period.

As the lead agency, Grow Wabash County is an organization that strategically combines the county-wide economic development organization and Chamber of Commerce. Grow Wabash County is committed to leveraging its resources, connections, and influence to ensure the long-term viability and success of the Stellar Pathways designation. This organization has been around since 2017 and has played a significant role in securing over \$300 million in private investment county-wide in 2023. Tenille Zartman, President and CEO of Grow Wabash County, will be the primary point of contact. This organization also has marketing staff available to assist with communication and promotion of the Stellar Pathways program designation.

A Director position was created within Grow Wabash County as a result of the Imagine One 85 comprehensive planning effort with the mission of adding capacity to oversee and guide projects through to implementation. Alex Downard, Imagine One 85 Director, will continue to serve as the coordinator and liaison between Grow Wabash County and the local project task forces. Alex has served as the Director since 2022 providing oversight on the implementation of the comprehensive plan. Alex has a diverse network of regional stakeholders and has his hand in nearly all of the community development efforts occurring in Wabash County. As such, our region is ready to “hit the ground running” on ensuring our proposed initiatives have a dedicated point person to facilitate project coordination needs.



Development Team

No structural changes are anticipated in order to facilitate the Stellar Pathways designation. An existing development team comprised of 10 individuals has been meeting since 2022. This group will continue to meet regularly to guide the program development. Their role will continue to serve as a representative group of all the participating municipalities as well as Wabash County to ensure that communication, marketing, and guidance is provided to all four corners of the county. It is anticipated that at least one representative from this development team will be assigned to each local project task force.

Fund Development and Financial Sustainability Partners

This team of program supporters will focus solely on fund development and financial sustainability. These individuals, made up of local and state partners, will provide fiscal and administrative assistance and will serve as a resource for the local project task forces. Key members of this group include an OCRA-certified grant administrator, a representative from each state agency partner, and representation from Grow Wabash County and the Community Foundation of Wabash County. These two local organizations were selected based on their familiarity with specific tasks or processes.

Grow Wabash County staff is familiar with the development process and can provide guidance related to getting built projects across the finish line. The Community Foundation of Wabash County is familiar with implementing quality of life initiatives and administering grants, endowment, and non-permanent funds that support a variety of community needs.

The local grant administrator will act as the liaison between the local project task forces and the state agency partners as they fulfill the various technical grant requirements for each of the appropriate project and funding entities.

We view both the grant administrator, and the state agencies, as implementation partners that provide technical assistance and collaboration with our local representatives to advance the proposed initiatives.

Local Project Task Force Group

A local task force group shall be established for each of the respective projects with a member from the development team serving as a liaison between the task force, larger community, and program managers. This task force group will also have a designated project manager from the entity (public or private sector) leading the construction project or program. This project manager will provide the “boots on the ground” oversight from concept design through construction or program implementation. Ultimately, the task force group will be responsible for the local project communication and delivery, coordinating with the Imagine One 85 Director and grant administrator on project delivery.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The following section provides a general overview of how our region plans to continue building on the momentum of the Stellar Pathways program not only during the five-year Stellar designation period but also well into the future.

The momentum provided as part of the Stellar Pathways designation will serve as the needed catalyst to move the projects forward in a timelier manner. The Stellar Pathways program is value-added to the Wabash County region and will serve as a starting point, not an end destination. Each of our participating communities are committed to excellence and elevating the quality of life within our communities. This is evident by the resources we have identified and committed to support the proposed initiatives.

The completion of these projects will continue to leverage additional investment in our region, which will be further enhanced by the marketing and promotion of the projects post-completion.

Each of the proposed projects and programs have cost estimates and letters of support from various funding sources. This type of supplementation information can be found with Appendices C and D starting on page 267. Wabash County feels confident in our ability to fulfill required grant matches and secure financial contributions from our partners. In a situation where we may fall short, our region has passionate philanthropic partners that will band together in times of need. We have several examples of this happening in the recent past including:

- The Lilly Endowment's College and Community Collaboration Initiative required a 70% local match for the requested grant funding. The University and Community were able to identify and secure over \$30M in match sources including raising over \$500,000 in private donations in less than two weeks to support the initiative.
- The Community Foundation has successfully launched a \$4M campaign to raise money to support the Imagine Early and early childhood education initiatives in Wabash County.
- Wabash County is an extremely philanthropic community and is home to three major anchor institutions each with endowments of over \$80M respectively.

Once the Stellar Pathways resources have been depleted, we will continue to pursue and utilize both traditional and nontraditional funding and implementation tools – many of which were referenced throughout the SIP. Project and program sustainability was a highly valued consideration throughout the development of the Strategic Investment Plan.

The development team worked closely with our stakeholders and consulting team members to adequately plan for necessary resources to execute on the projects, but also make an intentional effort to plan for the various long-term maintenance and staffing needs for each project. By prioritizing future project needs in the planning process, Wabash County ensures ownership in the implementation and sustainability of the Strategic Investment Plan.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The following section provides a general overview of how our region intends to maintain our culture of collaboration and sense of ownership during and post-implementation.

Our plan for community sustainability is directly related to our process for progress reporting outlined on page 158. Wabash County is committed to deploying the following strategies to continue informing and engaging the community.

- **One Consistent Author** – With Grow Wabash County being the primary author of project and program reports, we can ensure that all organizations and stakeholders are receiving the same information in tandem.
- **Frequent Updates** – We are prepared to provide reports monthly, quarterly and annually, with data and metrics shifting based on the type of report.
- **Transparent Processes** – The Development Team will continue to meet monthly to report on program activities, opportunities and the advancement of specific initiatives. The community can request to attend and address this group at any time.

YOU
BELONG
HERE



UPDATING OUR PLANS & PROJECTS

A common challenge with any long-term planning effort is ensuring the regional goals, priorities, and projects stay aligned as the community adapts to changing circumstances, identifies new opportunities, addresses unexpected challenges or risks, and positions itself for continued growth and success.

As new or updated project opportunities are presented, the development team will serve as a convener of resources to help move additional projects forward. While we don't anticipate any major changes to the proposed Stellar Pathways initiatives, our region is committed to maintaining and updating our county-wide plans. As our region works through the Stellar Pathways designation and its proposed projects, we fully anticipate that new opportunities and stakeholders will join us at the table.

This Stellar Pathways process, in combination with the previous Imagine One 85 planning initiative, has brought together the communities and county in a way that is unprecedented. Each of the participating municipalities are supportive of the collective goals that have been established as part of the Stellar Pathways program, and have been, and are continuing to work together to advance those collective goals. As a region, there is an understanding that we are stronger together and can accomplish a broader range of impactful initiatives that increase economic vitality and quality of life. In the long run, all of these initiatives and planning processes will aid in our endeavor to reverse the population trends in the county and set up the county for positive growth.

This process has brought new participants to the table as each community has a local representative on the development team. While each community and the county may face independent challenges, collectively there is a recognition and willingness to expand capacity through the identification of realistic projects that build off extensive public engagement and outreach. **By executing projects rooted at the local ground level, our culture of collaboration and sense of ownership will remain strong as we move forward.**



"Wabash County is a great community to live in. We have great schools, access to resources for food/shelter, a diverse community, and amazing job opportunities."

-Survey Participant

CHAPTER 9

Key Acknowledgments

IN THIS SECTION:

PLAN CONTRIBUTORS

PLAN CONTRIBUTORS

A special thanks to each individual, organization, and state agency that made this strategic planning process possible. To everyone that attended a meeting, completed the online survey, helped spread the word, and shared their ideas for the future - Thank you.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Kristie Bone - Town of Lagro
Jeff Dawes - Wabash County Commissioner
Alex Downard - Imagine One 85
Bob Ferguson - Town of Roann
Patty Grant - Community Foundation of Wabash County
Tracie Hensley - Town of La Fontaine
Scott Long - City of Wabash
Sam McFadden - Community Foundation of Wabash County
Adam Penrod - Town of North Manchester
Tenille Zartman - Grow Wabash County

CONSULTING TEAM

Matt Pytel - Community Planner
Hailey Roark, AICP - Project Manager/Planner
Scott Siefker, FASLA, AICP - Principal

FUNDING

This Strategic Investment Plan was funded through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Advantage Housing
BABE of Wabash County
Community Foundation of Wabash County
Daniel's Place
Downtown Wabash, Inc.
Grow Wabash County
Habitat for Humanity
Honeywell Arts and Entertainment
Imagine One 85 Advisory Board
La Fontaine Community Alliance
La Fontaine Town Council
Lagro Canal Foundation
Lagro Town Council
Living Well of Wabash County
Manchester Alive
Manchester University
North Manchester Town Council
Parkview Health
Purdue Extension of Wabash County
Roann Community Heritage
Roann Town Council
Visit Wabash County
Wabash City Council
Wabash County Commissioners
Wabash County Council
Wabash County Development Corporation
85 Hope



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APPENDIX A

Demographic Summary of the Region

IN THIS SECTION:

KEY POPULATION FEATURES

ECONOMIC BASE

ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

KEY POPULATION FEATURES

INTRODUCTION

Understanding the current conditions of a region is the first step to planning for the future. These conditions, including demographics and economic data, define where a community is today and should be used to inform decisions related to where the community wants to be tomorrow. The following summary provides a snapshot of the region's existing conditions and provides an inventory of key anchor institutions. This analysis is intended to identify regional assets, opportunities for growth, and challenges that the region is or may be facing in the future. These opportunities and challenges were used to inform the identification of the projects and programs identified within Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan.

POPULATION CHANGE

Wabash County's population has been decreasing since 1980.

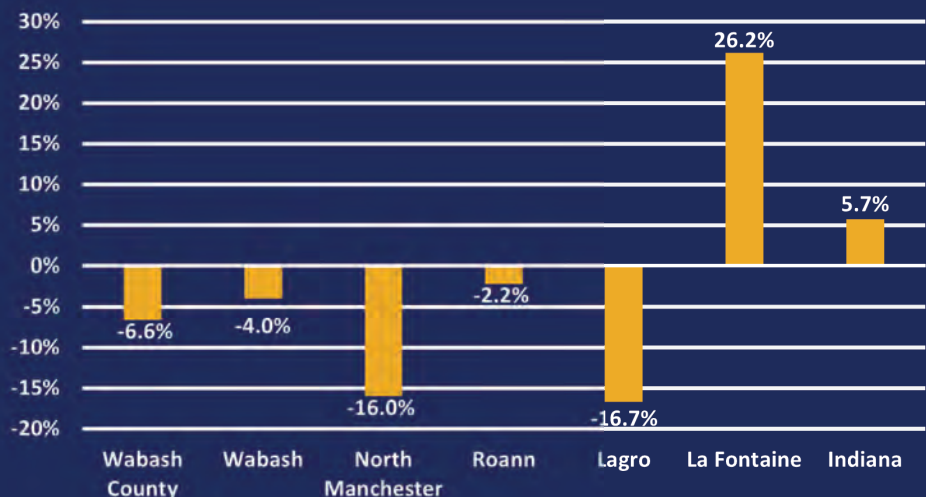
Wabash County's population peaked in 1980 at 36,500 residents. Since then, between 50 – 100 households have left each year. Fast forward several decades, Wabash County was home to 33,225 people in 2010 which means the region had lost nearly 9% of its total population over the course of 30 years.

According to the most recent American Community Survey (2022), Wabash County has lost an additional 6.6% of its population since 2010. This data confirms that the County has continued to follow an overall trend of population decline that has impacted the county for almost 40 years. A shrinking population can have several effects on a community or region. For example, a municipality with a declining population may experience reduced tax revenues or a struggling housing market. Such issues can affect both the municipality and its residents as resources become strained.

31,032

People lived in Wabash
County in 2022.

Population Change (2010-2022)



AGE STRUCTURE

The median age of county residents is rapidly increasing.

The county's median age refers to the middle age of the population, or the age of which half of residents are older and half are younger. Since 2010, the median age among Wabash County's residents has increased from 40.8 years in 2010 to 42.8 years in 2022. This increase implies the population under 40 years old is shrinking. If younger populations are not retained as older populations retire, the county's workforce would shrink. This would lead to a decline in the availability of labor which may negatively impact local businesses and industry. An aging population could also impact housing, social programs, and health-related services. As residents age, their needs for different types of housing and services becomes greater. This would eventually result in a greater strain on resources that support senior programs and healthcare.

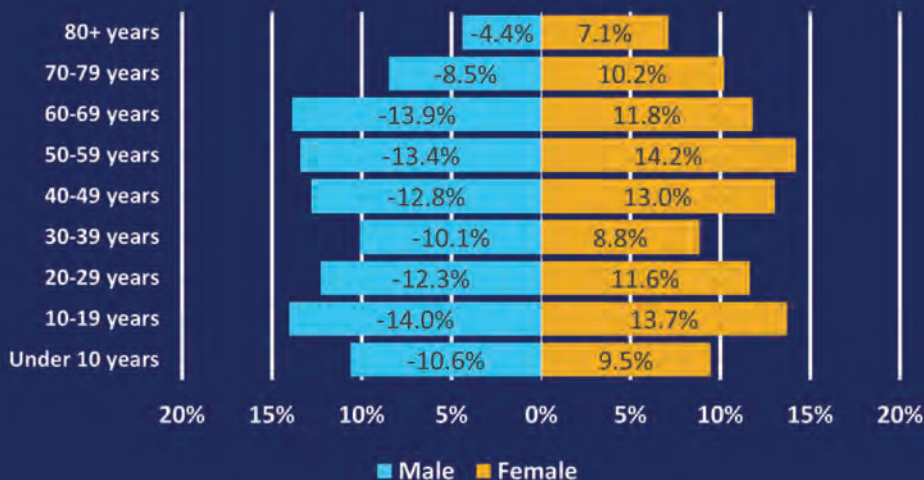
RACE/ETHNICITY

Race and ethnicity demographics have changed only slightly since 2010.

The US Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity as two distinct topics with different categorizations. There are several race categories referring to broad racial groups that can be made up of a mix of sociocultural groups, national origins, and other racial groups. In contrast, there is one ethnicity category that specifically refers to whether a person identifies as Hispanic or Latino. This information is self-reported by each individual that responds to the US Census, meaning they can identify themselves as any mix of races and ethnicity as they see fit.

Overall, Wabash County's population has become marginally more diverse since 2010. By 2022, the share of the population identifying as White has decreased by about 2% while the share of nearly every other racial category has increased.

2022 Wabash County Age Structure



42.8
2022 Median Age

94.7%
of Wabash County
residents identify as
white.

The greatest increase was recorded in the population identifying as Two or More Races which grew from 0.6% of the county's population to over 2%. A small increase was also recorded among the population identifying as Black or African American. In 2010, this group accounted for 0.7% of the county but, as of 2022, it has grown to accommodate over 1% of the population.

HOUSEHOLDS

In Wabash County, it is becoming more common for people to live alone or with roommates than with families.

The US Census defines a household as a group of individuals living within a single housing unit. There are two types of households, family households and non-family households. A family household is a household in which the members are directly related to one another. In contrast, a non-family household consists of either individuals that are not related to one another or a single individual.

Like the population, the overall number of households in Wabash County is in decline. Since 2010, the county has experienced a more than 4% decrease in the number of households and has seen a shift in the household composition. In 2022, Wabash County was made up of 66% family households and 34% non-family households which means there are now more non-family household than before. The increase in non-family households is aligned with a slight decrease in the average household size. Average household size refers to the average number of individuals living within each household.

In 2010, Wabash County's average household size was 2.38 people per household. In 2022, it is 2.34 people per household.

HOUSING UNITS / OCCUPANCY

Vacancy rate is increasing as the overall number of housing units continues to decrease.

The US Census has three classifications for housing including owner-occupied housing, renter-occupied housing, and vacant housing. Owner-occupied housing accounts for housing units in which the occupant is also the homeowner whereas renter-occupied housing refers to housing units the occupant is renting. Vacant housing is made up of unoccupied housing units.

In Wabash County, the percentage of housing units that are owner-occupied, renter-occupied, or vacant has experienced some change. In 2010, there were 14,238 housing units in the county. Of these units, over 71% were owner-occupied, 20% were renter occupied, and more than 8% were vacant. As of 2022, there are 14,053 housing units, of which over 70% are owner-occupied, roughly 18% are renter-occupied, and 11% are vacant.

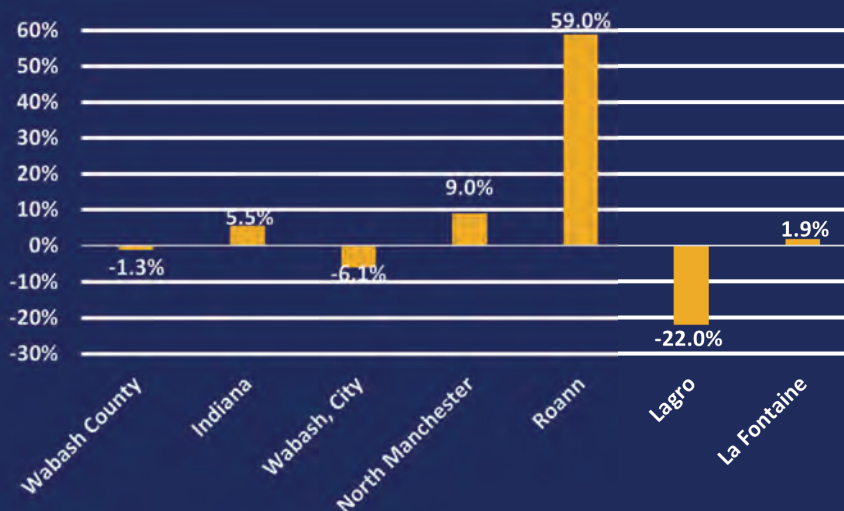
While increasing vacancy rates are typical in communities with decreasing populations, this data point alone doesn't paint an accurate story of housing in Wabash County. With limited inventory and very few new builds, competition among buyers is fierce. If a unit is vacant, it is likely because of challenging property owner, or the unit is dilapidated beyond repair.

70.5%
Owner-occupied

18.3%
Renter-occupied

11.3%
Vacant units

Change in Number of Housing Units (2010-2022)



HOUSING TYPES

Housing in the county is primarily made up of single-family homes.

In both 2010 and 2022, the housing stock in Wabash County was primarily made up of single-family homes. In 2010, over 78% of housing units were in single-family detached structures and just over 1% were single-family attached structures. Additionally, almost 13% of housing units were in multi-family structures and nearly 8% were in mobile homes. By 2022, the percentage of units that were in multi-family structures or mobile homes decreased while the percentage of single-family units increased. In 2022, over 83% of units were in single-family detached structures and almost 2% were in single-family attached structures.

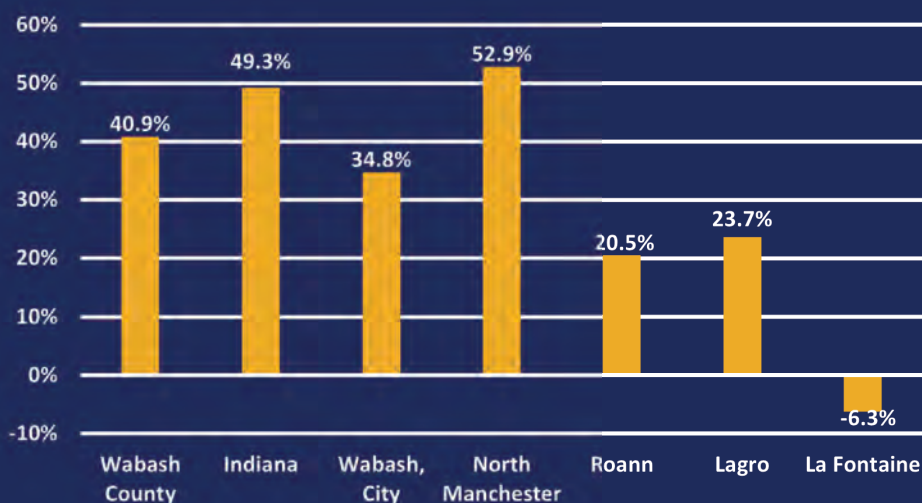
HOME VALUES

Generally, home values are rapidly increasing in Wabash County.

A significant measure of local home values is the median home value in an area. The median home value is the middle home value, or amount at which half of owner-occupied housing is valued at a higher amount and half is valued at a lower amount. In 2010, the median home value of owner-occupied housing in Wabash County was \$96,400. By 2022, it had increased by over 40% to \$135,800. Additionally, in 2010, over 50% of owner-occupied housing was valued under \$100,000. In 2022, less than 32% is valued under \$100,000.

This rapid increase in home values has occurred while the total number of housing units has decreased. This drives home values, sales prices, and rents upward and indicates that the housing market is competitive. In economic terms, the supply of housing is shrinking while the demand is growing. Over the last ten years, the county has outpaced the state in median sales price growth (85% increase in the county compared to 70% in Indiana) while losing more than 1,000 residents.

Change in Median Home Value (2010-2022)



\$135,800

2022 Median Home Value

ECONOMIC BASE

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

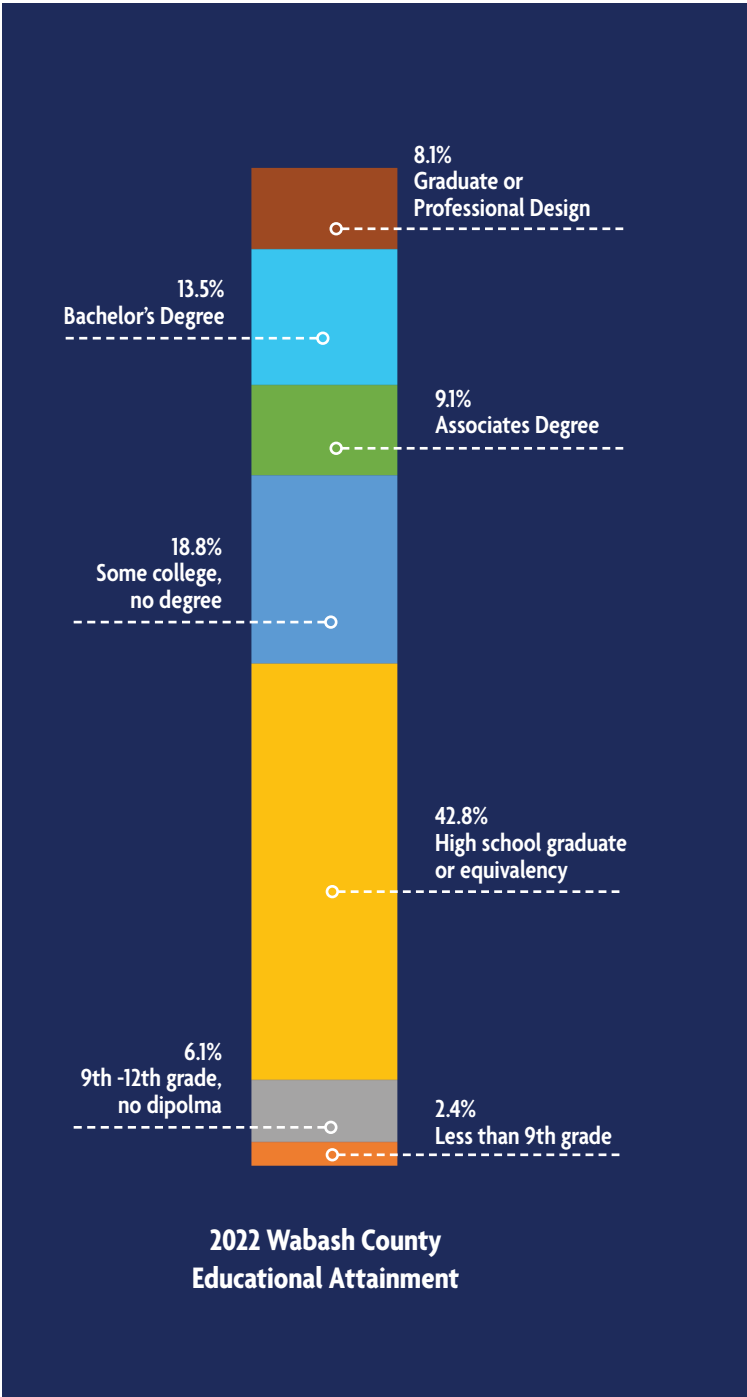
Generally, household incomes are growing faster in Wabash County than in Indiana.

In 2010, Wabash County had a median household income of \$43,157. As of 2022, the median household income has increased by over 53% to \$66,194. This rate of growth has outpaced Indiana's, which, from 2010 to 2022, experienced a nearly 41% increase in median household income. This increase in household income could be related to a shift in industries. Within the same time period, Wabash County experienced the greatest change in the transportation, logistics, and warehousing industry (22%) and the finance and Insurance industry (17%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Postsecondary levels of educational attainment are increasing in Wabash County.

The US Census Bureau records different levels of educational attainment for individuals over 25 years old. In 2010, 22,172 residents of Wabash County were aged 25 years and over. Of this population, nearly 45% graduated high school but did not receive a postsecondary education, and only 16% of the population over 25 years old received a bachelor's degree or higher. While the county's total population over 25 years old decreased to 21,621 by 2022, nearly 22% received a bachelor's degree or higher.



2022 Median Household Income



Change in Labor Force Participation (2010-2022)



LABOR FORCE

As the county's population decreases, so does its labor force.

A community's labor force is its population that is both older than 16 years and is working or actively looking for work. In 2010, Wabash County had a population of 26,710 residents that were older than 16 years. Of this population, roughly 62% were participating in the labor force, meaning 16,477 residents of Wabash County were working or looking for work. Each of these statistics experienced a decline over the last twelve years. As of 2022, Wabash County has 25,227 residents over 16 years old. An estimated 14,946 of these residents are working or looking for work giving the county a roughly 59% labor force participation rate.

As the local population and labor force continue to decrease, businesses and industry in the county may struggle to find local workers. This challenge is amplified when considering the housing market. Even if a business could recruit workers from outside of the county, the potential worker may struggle to find an available housing unit nearby.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES

Wabash County’s major employers have been significant employers for more than ten years.

In both 2010 and 2022, the manufacturing industry employed the largest percentage of Wabash County’s labor force than any other industry. This industry includes employers involved in the production of goods and materials. In 2010, over 26% of the labor force was employed in manufacturing. By 2022, this had grown to over 28% of the labor force. Similarly, the educational services, healthcare, and social assistance industry employed the second largest percentage of the county’s labor force in both 2010 and 2022. This includes employers like schools, universities, and hospitals. The industry employed almost 24% in 2010 and nearly 26% in 2022.

Other industries, including the retail trade which is the third largest employer, experienced declines since 2010.

The retail trade industry includes shops or stores that sell goods. This industry went from employing almost 11% of the labor force in 2010 to just over 10% in 2022.

The three industries mentioned above have been major employers in Wabash County for at least a decade. If one of these industries were to struggle, or a large facility or company were to shut down, Wabash County and its residents would be impacted. A significant population would be left without employment, meaning it would leave the county or place strain on local unemployment resources.

28%
of the labor force
are employed in
the Manufacturing
industry.

2022 Employment by Industry	2010 Percent	2022 Percent	2010-2022 Change
Total Employed Civilian Population 16+			-4.30%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining	4.28%	2.39%	-46.58%
Construction	5.99%	5.14%	-17.85%
Manufacturing	26.43%	28.22%	2.19%
Wholesale trade	2.32%	1.30%	-46.13%
Retail trade	10.68%	10.32%	-7.52%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3.53%	4.74%	28.57%
Information	1.80%	0.53%	-71.96%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	2.58%	3.16%	17.53%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	4.01%	3.38%	-19.21%
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	23.65%	25.52%	3.26%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	6.67%	7.48%	7.36%
Other services, except public administration	5.17%	5.65%	4.49%
Public administration	2.90%	2.16%	-28.60%

OCCUPATIONAL

The percentages of the working population employed in different occupations have experienced little change since 2010.

The US Census Bureau records the fields in which people work. These fields are divided into five categories of occupations. Since 2010, the percentage of Wabash County's employed population working within each of these occupations has slightly changed. The only occupations categories to experience growth in employment were service occupations and production, transportation, and material moving occupations. From 2010 to 2022, the percentage of the working population employed in service occupations grew from nearly 16% in 2010 to almost 18% in 2022. Comparatively, the percentage of the working population employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations increased from over 24% of the working population in 2010 to more than 25% in 2022.

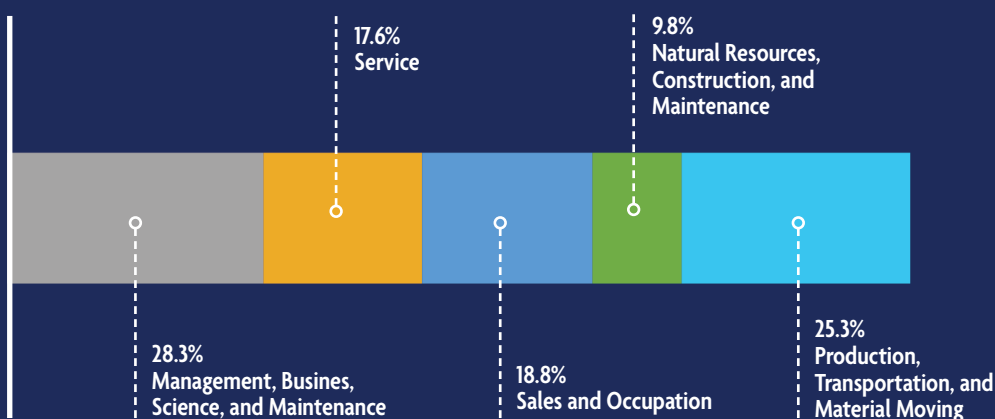
In contrast, the management, business, science, and arts occupations saw no change in that it employed 28% of the working population in both 2010 and 2022. Every other occupational group experienced slight decreases in employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The county's overall unemployment rate has declined over the past decade.

Unemployment rates have greatly declined following the economic recession of the late 2000s. In 2010, Wabash County had an unemployment rate of roughly 8.5%. This was larger than Indiana's rate of 8.4%. As of 2022, the county's unemployment rate (3.5%) is lower than the state's (4.5%). Wabash County's employment recovery was both greater and faster than Indiana's statewide recovery.

2022 Occupations in Wabash County



3.5%

2022
Unemployment
Rate

ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

There are four libraries in Wabash County. These include the Wabash Carnegie Public Library, North Manchester Public Library, Roann-Paw Paw Township Public Library, and Troyer Memorial Library in La Fontaine. Each of these facilities offers different events for various age groups like children's summer reading programs, computer classes, Lego clubs, teen and adult book clubs, or arts and crafts programs.

HOSPITAL/CLINICS

Parkview Health, founded in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is the largest healthcare provider in Wabash County. It operates one hospital and several clinics throughout the county. The hospital, Parkview Wabash Hospital, is located along US Hwy 24 on the north side of Wabash. In connection with this hospital, there are multiple Parkview outpatient and other clinics in Wabash and North Manchester. Other clinics in Wabash County, also located in Wabash or North Manchester, are within the Lutheran Health, NuStart, or American Health networks.

In addition, there is a free healthcare clinic in Wabash County. This clinic, 85 Hope, offers free healthcare to uninsured individuals in need of medical care.

COMMUNITY CENTERS

A community center is a building or place that acts as a defined gathering place for hosting events or bringing the surrounding community together. Often, community centers offer residents or organizations one or more rooms to rent for public or private events. Several such facilities operate within Wabash County. However, community centers can also provide other services to the community depending on their facilities. The following outline lists and describes the many community centers in Wabash County.

Honeywell Arts and Entertainment is a nonprofit organization that promotes fine arts throughout the county. This organization owns the Honeywell Center

located in downtown Wabash. The Honeywell Center acts partly as a community center in that it has several facilities that can host both public and private events. These facilities include a theater, performance halls, dining halls, conference rooms, and more.

The Dallas L. Winchester Senior Center is another community center in Wabash. However, this facility caters itself to local seniors through focused gatherings and events. The Winchester Senior Center, managed by Living Well in Wabash County, offers opportunities for seniors to gather and take part in special programs designed to help them socialize and maintain their health.

In North Manchester, there are two community centers that fulfill different local needs. The first center, the Town Life Center, offers a gymnasium, a large activity or conference room, and a smaller meeting room for residents or local organizations to host events. The Town Life Center also features a coworking space that is currently occupied by six local businesses and nonprofit organizations. The second community center, the Strauss-Peabody Aquatic and Fitness Center, provides residents with a community gym and indoor pools. The pools, and an additional community room, are available for residents to rent by the hour.

In addition to the facilities in Wabash and North Manchester, there are smaller community centers in Roann, La Fontaine, and the unincorporated community of Richvalley. In Roann, the Roann Community Center offers a space for residents or organizations to rent and host events. The La Fontaine Community Center, in La Fontaine, also provides a space to rent and host events. Additionally, the facility is owned and operated by the local branch of the Lion's Club. Similarly, the Richvalley Community Center, located in an unincorporated community west of Wabash, is also managed by the Lions Club. The facility offers a space for local events and gatherings and is regularly used by the Lions Club to serve meals.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There are three school districts in Wabash County: Manchester Community Schools, Metropolitan School District of Wabash County, and Wabash City Schools. The following outline describes the school districts, their service areas, and their facilities.

Manchester Community Schools provides a K-12 education to students in northern Wabash County. This includes the Town of North Manchester and any unincorporated areas north of SR 16 and Reahard Road. There are three schools in the district, Manchester Elementary School, Manchester Intermediate School, and Manchester Jr-Sr High School.

The Metropolitan School District of Wabash County provides a K-12 education for students in Roann, Lagro, La Fontaine, the outermost limits of Wabash, and all unincorporated areas of the county south of SR 16. The district has six school facilities spread throughout the county. These include Metro North Elementary School, Sharp Creek Elementary School, Northfield Jr-Sr High School, Southwood Elementary School, Southwood Jr-Sr High School, and White's Jr-Sr High School.

Wabash City Schools services most of the City of Wabash by providing a K-12 education to students in the city. There are four schools in the district: LH Carpenter Early Learning Center, O J Neighbors Elementary School, Wabash Middle School, and Wabash High School.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Within Wabash County, there is only one higher education institution. Manchester University, located in North Manchester, is a private university associated with the Church of the Brethren. The university also has a secondary location in Fort Wayne. Approximately 1,300 students are enrolled at Manchester University with nearly 1,000 living on the campus in North Manchester. The university offers roughly 80 academic programs, including four master's programs, a doctorate program in pharmacy, and more than 70 undergraduate majors.





APPENDIX B

Engagement Results

IN THIS SECTION:

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY
ONLINE SURVEY



Wabash County – Strategic Investment Plan

Public Meeting Summary

October 10, 2024

Meeting Summary

The project team facilitated two public meetings for the development of the Wabash County Stellar Pathways plan on October 10, 2024. The first meeting occurred in the early afternoon from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at The Coop in North Manchester. The second meeting occurred in the evening from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at the Honeywell Center in Wabash. The purpose of both meetings was to gather input on the proposed Stellar Pathways projects and allow community members to select which projects they believe would have the greatest impact in Wabash County.

The Coop in North Manchester, Attendees –

- Alex Downard – Imagine One 85
- Hailey Roark – TSWDG
- Scott Siefker – TSWDG
- Matthew Pytel – TSWDG
- 11 community members

The Honeywell Center in Wabash, Attendees –

- Alex Downard – Imagine One 85
- Scott Siefker – TSWDG
- Matthew Pytel – TSWDG
- Approximately 300 community members in attendance

Overview and Discussion

The project team prepared eight boards that describe each proposed Stellar project and the potential source of funding it could receive through the Stellar Pathways Program. Attendees at each meeting were encouraged to interact with the boards and leave feedback with stickers, sticky notes, or feedback forms. Attendees were also encouraged to take, and share, an online survey that would collect additional feedback from residents. This feedback will be used to determine which projects are favorable for Wabash County and will have the greatest potential impact in the community.

The following summary outlines the feedback received on each board.

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Board

- a. This board listed five potential projects and asked meeting attendees if they believe the projects will have a high, moderate, or low impact in Wabash County. The projects are
 - i. La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements
 - ii. Daniels Place Headquarters
 - iii. Roann Park
 - iv. Living Well Renovation
 - v. Lagro Sidewalk Improvements
- b. Throughout both meetings, 14 total people considered these projects to be high impact for the county. No attendees identified these projects as moderate or low impact.
- c. Of the five additional comments left on this board, four mentioned Daniel's Place and stated that it is an important project for Wabash County. The fifth comment stated each project has been planned and will have a significant impact, but they are waiting for funding opportunities.

2. Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCA) Board

- a. This board listed two potential projects and asked meeting attendees if they believe the projects will have a high, moderate, or low impact in Wabash County. The projects are
 - i. Advantage Housing – Rental Rehabilitation
 - ii. County-Wide Owner-Occupied Infill Program
- b. Throughout both meetings, 15 total attendees identified these projects as high impact. No attendees considered them to be moderate or low impact.
- c. Of the four additional comments on this board, three addressed the County-Wide Owner-Occupied Infill Program. They suggested it should also consider infill opportunities at sites in North Manchester. The fourth stated much of the county's housing stock is old and these projects will help improve the overall quality of housing.

3. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Board

- a. This board listed two potential projects and asked meeting attendees if they believe the projects will have a high, moderate, or low impact in Wabash County. The projects are
 - i. Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements
 - ii. State Road 114 Sidewalks
- b. Throughout both meetings, eight total attendees identified these projects as high impact and two attendees identified them as moderate impact. No attendees considered them to be low impact.
- c. Of the four additional comments on the board, two specified that sidewalks should be extended to the Chester Heights neighborhood in North Manchester. One of these comments highlighted the importance of connecting Chester Heights to Manchester University.
 - i. Another comment suggested implementing native plantings for pollinators along the road.
 - ii. The fourth comment stated that they have seen residents walking in the road on State Road 114 due to the lack of sidewalks.

4. Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Board

- a. This board listed two potential projects and asked meeting attendees if they believe the projects will have a high, moderate, or low impact in Wabash County. The projects are
 - i. Wabash Riverwalk Extension
 - ii. La Fontaine Park Project
- b. Throughout both meetings, eight total attendees identified these projects as high impact and two attendees identified them as moderate impact. No attendees considered them to be low impact.
- c. This board received three additional comments.
 - i. One suggested constructing a riverwalk in North Manchester.
 - ii. Another stated the La Fontaine Park would be a great addition and add much needed public space to the community.
 - iii. Another stated that, though these projects would improve quality of life, housing is more important to increasing population.

5. Indiana Department of Agriculture Board

- a. This board listed one potential project and asked meeting attendees if they believe it will have a high, moderate, or low impact in Wabash County.
 - i. Lagro Grocery Store
- b. Throughout both meetings, nine total attendees identified the project as high impact, one attendee identified it as moderate impact, and one identified it as low impact.
- c. This board received two additional comments.
 - i. One comment asked who will manage the grocery store and if it will be managed by a private or non-profit organization.
 - ii. The other comment mentioned Purdue Extension's food programs designed to mitigate food insecurity. It may be able to use additional funding.

6. Indiana Department of Health Board

- a. This board listed four potential projects that could be included in the Stellar Pathways plan. It asked meeting attendees to vote for the project they think would have the greatest impact in Wabash County. The vote is as follows:
 - i. 85 Hope – 11 votes
 - ii. Art Therapy in Local Hospitals – 0 votes
 - iii. Bashbags – 0 votes
 - iv. Maternal Infant Outreach Program – 0 votes
- b. Of the four additional comments on this board, three mentioned local schools. Two of those comments suggested expanding mental health resources in the county's high schools and hiring social workers to counsel students.
 - i. Another comment emphasized the significance of 85 Hope in Wabash County.

Additionally, one attendee at the first meeting in North Manchester left a feedback form with several comments.

- The County-Wide Owner-Occupied Infill Program on the IHCD board should address infill and redevelopment opportunities in North Manchester.
- Regarding the projects on the INDOT board, the attendee said sidewalks should extend from Chester Heights to Manchester University at 9th Street.
- Regarding the Lagro Grocery Store Project on the Indiana Department of Agriculture board, the attendee stated they are against public funding for a private business.
- The attendee suggested a project for the Indiana Department of Health board: Hire social workers to act as life coaches and counsel for students at local high schools.

Q1 If Wabash County receives the Stellar Pathways designation, how would you invest the resources? Please tell us your ONE wish.

Answered: 288 Skipped: 43

#	RESPONSES	DATE
2	I'd put it toward additional transportation options	10/21/2024 10:04 AM
3	More good paying jobs for residents here	10/19/2024 1:36 PM
4	More reasons to get out on the town for ages 20-40. If I had to pick ONE thing, it would be a new hangout spot to target this audience. This place could be a cool coffee shop/healthy food spot by day and bar at night maybe. Or even just a sports pub type of place. We need things like trivia night, sports games showings with good advertising, happy hours and bar crawls, etc. Opening something interactive would be great like a 21+ arcade bar. Or maybe a spot for dancing and live music. I would argue that 20-40 year olds don't have much sense of community here or things to do after work to meet people or to hang with their spouse or their hometown friends, and if a goal is to get people to move here or stay here, that middle demographic is being severely undermet. The winter months are especially tough when there are severely limited options. Wabash has done great in building thus far and is much farther than it was, but many who are choosing a place to live in that demographic are likely going to choose elsewhere still until we can get some more things rolling!	10/14/2024 6:33 PM
5	Daniel's Place	10/14/2024 8:54 AM
6	Daniel's Place, Inc. capital building	10/10/2024 9:05 PM
7	To have all the sidewalks in Wabash nice and level and handicap accessable, not all broken and uneven, the city could be lit better also at intersections especially	10/10/2024 8:49 PM
8	Purchasing land to rent for companies in areas like manufacturing and production. More jobs come from corporations that attract hundreds of jobs. Less boutiques and more factories.	10/10/2024 8:35 PM
9	Provide educational resources or scholarships to lower income families.	10/10/2024 7:51 PM
10	People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are empowered and equally valued in the community.	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
11	Food Diversity	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
12	Affordable childcare	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
13	Open hang out spaces that have easier access to food, drinks, and entertainment. The bars and other things in town are nice, but are small and cramped with little option for activities	10/10/2024 7:32 PM
14	Water park at the old gdx site.	10/10/2024 6:22 PM
15	solar & wind power. And hydro power on the Eel & Wabash rivers.	10/10/2024 9:25 AM
16	I think it would be stellar if Wabash County could become an entirely organic farming community. Our planet's climate is drastically changing and Indiana has great farm ground, if we don't suck it dry of all it's nutrients, and poison our communities with ag chemicals. Indiana	10/9/2024 4:14 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

SurveyMonkey

is not traditionally a forward thinking state, but if we could create a county where the health of our citizens and the health of our environment could come first, we could create an interesting, dynamic and magnetic culture. Schools and FFA could get involved through scientific methods of planting success using a variety of crops, instead of the same nutrient draining ones typically used, and school business departments could work on coming up with successful transition models. The monies could be used to help our local farmers transition out of the over use of toxins to which our communities have been exposed. Our growing season is going to be lengthening. This type of commitment to moving forward in today's changing world would set us apart from the rest of Indiana, and set us up for healthy success and healthy sustainability, helping propel us forward as leaders in stewards of our land, air and water.

17	I would love to see a trail that follows the Eel River from Manchester University to the bridge on Market Street. A landing could be established right behind the Town Offices or the parking lot at the Lutheran Church. The landing could be a venue for small concerts, picnic area, weddings, and interesting landscaping/outdoor art pieces.	10/9/2024 2:13 AM
18	I would love to see a trail that follows the Eel River from Manchester University to the bridge on Market Street. A landing could be established right behind the Town Offices or the parking lot at the Lutheran Church. The landing could be a venue for small concerts, picnic area, weddings, and interesting landscaping/outdoor art pieces.	10/9/2024 12:44 AM
19	By growing the amenities in our smaller communities	10/7/2024 12:16 PM
20	I would like to see more affordable housing offered for young families.	10/5/2024 12:27 PM
21	Invest in public library access to bolster education, workforce, and community development. Wabash County is one of the most underserved regions in the state in regards to districts with free library card access.	10/4/2024 3:25 PM
22	Not sure because North Manchester has not shared information about how it can be used	10/4/2024 2:28 PM
23	To help our homeless and underserved people	10/4/2024 2:03 PM
24	Fix sidewalks and streets in North Manchester	10/4/2024 11:43 AM
25	Activities/venues that cater to young adults.	10/4/2024 11:27 AM
26	Invest in development of new housing and remodeled housing to bring more folks to our towns and county	10/4/2024 11:21 AM
27	Affordable housing	10/4/2024 11:18 AM
28	Outdoor community pool in North Manchester. Sidewalks that connect Chester Heights to North Manchester	10/4/2024 11:14 AM
29	To have a variety of affordable housing to fit all budgets for sale and for rent in our area. I believe we should have affordable options for immigrants that are living and working in our area. They should have availability to an ID and drivers license as well. They are doing many of the jobs that employers cannot fill with others in the county.	10/4/2024 11:11 AM
30	Fix all sidewalks	10/4/2024 11:06 AM
31	Sidewalk store front improvements and community development	10/4/2024 10:48 AM
32	More accessibility - this can include the whole community, not just abled body individuals	10/4/2024 10:39 AM
33	Renovate a beautiful historic structure on Main Street. We just moved here one year ago and N.Manchester's downtown is unique.	10/4/2024 10:34 AM
34	Water distribution system	10/4/2024 10:15 AM
35	Establishing a resource / advocacy center for citizens. A place where recent immigrants and EVERYONE could come to get help with language services and education, have their questions answered and receive advocacy for their healthcare and city, county and state services.	10/4/2024 10:15 AM
36	Don't know because Manchester does not involve the citizens or businesses in the planning, they do not answer questions at town council meetings, via email or make themselves available.	10/4/2024 10:07 AM
37	Repair sidewalks and streets	10/4/2024 10:02 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
38	Bringing in two new businesses that will high local HS graduates and college graduates.	10/4/2024 9:59 AM
39	More family centric events and places	10/4/2024 9:54 AM
40	Better jobs	10/4/2024 9:52 AM
41	Access to competitively priced healthy food options and increased funding for homeowners/would be homeowners to preserve/restore/repair older homes.	10/4/2024 9:49 AM
42	North Manchester river walk trail.	10/4/2024 9:48 AM
43	Entrepreneurship training and funding to begin small businesses.	10/3/2024 9:03 PM
44	infrastructure maintenance and expansion where needed	10/2/2024 9:39 PM
45	Infrastructure outside of downtown Wabash - streets, sidewalks, utilities in communities	10/2/2024 1:20 PM
46	affordable smart housing	10/2/2024 10:03 AM
47	To reserve the money in case of a disaster in the area.	10/1/2024 2:17 PM
48	Complete remediation on current Brownfield sites in the county, rather than utilizing farm ground.	10/1/2024 12:50 PM
49	Help restore and maintain places like the Stockdale Mill, Roann Covered Bridge, Paradise Springs etc.	10/1/2024 12:04 PM
50	Childcare, elderly care, healthcare	10/1/2024 5:48 AM
51	Add a stage to Paradise Springs to hold community concerts and events. We had a stage there when I was a kid and I think it would be a great opportunity to bring the community together and give our families something else to do in Wabash!	9/30/2024 11:12 PM
52	To provide safer walking paths, trails and sidewalks for people into and out of Wabash and surrounding towns. (Highway 13 S or S Wabash St; Highway 15 N or N Cass St) This would increase safety, ability to access needs, and exercise.	9/30/2024 11:10 PM
53	Invest in nonprofits like Education for Conflict Resolution, The Wabash County Diversity Coalition, Pathfinders, Learn More, etc, that provide services and programs that greatly enhance life in Wabash County.	9/30/2024 8:45 PM
54	Aide online students in securing good wifi	9/30/2024 8:17 PM
55	Educational collaboration to give depth to each school	9/30/2024 5:25 PM
56	Towards education	9/30/2024 4:36 PM
57	New sidewalks and sidewalks in the housing additions	9/30/2024 4:23 PM
58	An overnight homeless shelter to deal with our homeless population that will by default help to beautify our community even more.	9/30/2024 3:27 PM
59	Housing development	9/30/2024 3:18 PM
60	Attempt to lower taxes for Seniors who are approaching retirement age.	9/29/2024 10:27 PM
61	More housing options	9/29/2024 8:59 PM
62	Better, reliable, affordable and quality child care for working parents.	9/29/2024 7:20 PM
63	Pay off taxes for those of us struggling because you keep raising EVERYTHING	9/29/2024 4:55 PM
64	Internet/ broad band availability for all residents.	9/28/2024 8:14 AM
65	Cchidren and youth after school programs	9/28/2024 7:25 AM
66	Robust job training and retention. Branch campuses of Heartland CC. Money for careers programs at the schools.	9/27/2024 8:48 PM
67	I would love to see more programs for the homeless and or single parents.	9/27/2024 3:12 PM
68	get rid of the junkyard houses. there are 3 of them close to where i live. they have cars and oil im sure all over in the yard and ground	9/27/2024 2:34 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
69	The Town of La Fontaine is trying to grow into the new age which is very exciting and needed.	9/27/2024 1:31 PM
70	Youth Programs	9/27/2024 1:25 PM
71	Town of North Manchester	9/27/2024 12:37 PM
72	My one wish would be that there are robust services, supports, and clear representation for a by people with disabilities, and especially people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.	9/27/2024 12:28 PM
73	I would love to see a county-wide mode of efficient transportation. Well-planned bike lanes connecting countywide through the different towns make getting around easy and sustainable.	9/27/2024 11:47 AM
74	low cost housing	9/27/2024 11:31 AM
75	bring back a bowling alley or something families can do together, or be apart of a league. Spend our money in our town.	9/27/2024 11:28 AM
76	Revitalize empty buildings downtown (including Canal St. between Wabash and Miami Sts.)	9/27/2024 11:18 AM
77	Community Grocery Store in Lagro	9/27/2024 10:19 AM
78	community actives	9/27/2024 10:07 AM
79	New sidewalks	9/27/2024 9:04 AM
80	strengthening public education and early childhood education	9/27/2024 8:41 AM
81	Paved bike path	9/27/2024 8:33 AM
82	Wabash County faces significant challenges related to population decline and a critical need for a diverse workforce across all skill and education levels. Additionally, there is a pressing demand for housing that accommodates a range of income levels. To address these issues, it is essential to prioritize investment in county-wide housing development and allocate funding for targeted marketing initiatives aimed at attracting new residents to the area.	9/27/2024 8:12 AM
83	To invest in areas other than downtown Wabash.	9/27/2024 7:16 AM
84	grants available for homeowners to be able to do maintenance on their homes that they just can't afford ie roofs, furnaces, windows, siding	9/27/2024 7:12 AM
85	Affordable housing development.	9/27/2024 6:39 AM
86	Affordable housing	9/26/2024 10:39 PM
87	I would like to see more youth orientated facilities. The parks are restricted to age now, even though many teenagers still enjoy going...all that is available for them to do is use the swings and the city park no longer has them. The Access is limited to a small amount of time daily and I am not sure of the YMCA, I know that they have a good summer program. The teenage kids need something for the winter months in the area.	9/26/2024 10:38 PM
88	Infrastructure for market rate housing for all levels of socio-economic sectors.	9/26/2024 10:13 PM
89	More help for elderly to be able to stay in their homes longer. Repairs, improvements yardwork etc.	9/26/2024 9:29 PM
90	Trail development and expansion	9/26/2024 9:29 PM
91	Bring more viable jobs to the county	9/26/2024 8:58 PM
92	Develop more tourism	9/26/2024 8:48 PM
93	Historic Preservation bolstered	9/26/2024 8:28 PM
94	Drug Rehabilitation Facility	9/26/2024 8:09 PM
95	Invest them into downtown businesses, helping empty store fronts be revitalized and filled.	9/26/2024 8:04 PM
96	Housing and/or more third spaces open after 4pm	9/26/2024 8:01 PM
97	Help provide funding to community members to improve their home - roof, siding, windows, doors, soffit, anything that makes a home more sanitary and livable.	9/26/2024 6:54 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
98	Affordable housing	9/26/2024 6:44 PM
99	Riverways improvement	9/26/2024 6:06 PM
100	More housing options.	9/26/2024 6:02 PM
101	Housing	9/26/2024 5:44 PM
102	Rebuild downtown buildings	9/26/2024 5:26 PM
103	Creating more rental properties (not government assistance properties)	9/26/2024 4:58 PM
104	Homeless shelter	9/26/2024 4:55 PM
105	Education and child care resources	9/26/2024 3:47 PM
106	More outside fitness locations and equipment.	9/26/2024 3:41 PM
107	Improvements to the south side.	9/26/2024 3:34 PM
108	more street lights, more set down rest runs	9/26/2024 1:00 PM
109	I would love to see a water park for children or some form of playground for disabled youth.	9/26/2024 11:28 AM
110	feeding the homeless and less fortunate	9/26/2024 11:13 AM
111	Investing in the people who live here. The business owners in this town seem to benefit the most from the grants we have received, but there are so many people living in houses that are in disrepair, don't have AC, bad roofs, bad windows, etc. I think the money should go towards the people.	9/26/2024 10:46 AM
112	Clean up/maintain cleanliness of the environment...rivers, parks, community.	9/26/2024 10:25 AM
113	Fix sewage treatment/paper factory smell.	9/26/2024 9:27 AM
114	accessible and attainable housing for the under privileged and homeless population	9/26/2024 8:49 AM
115	Paved paths for waling, cycling	9/26/2024 8:42 AM
116	A Dunkin donuts or a sit down restaurant like applebees.	9/26/2024 8:36 AM
117	One central high school, and a consolidated school system with expansive opportunities for all students.	9/26/2024 8:19 AM
118	Community infrastructure for business/econ, and housing.	9/25/2024 5:58 PM
119	Small business finical support.	9/25/2024 9:39 AM
120	Outdoor concert venue similar to Ruoff Music Center.	9/25/2024 7:17 AM
121	Higher paying jobs closer to the community.	9/24/2024 3:20 PM
122	Overall Public Health.	9/24/2024 3:10 PM
123	We need to heavily invest in opportunities and entertainment for children. There is not a lot for kids to do in this community. The only "public" place is a failing bowling alley. In my opinion to get families to move in and stay we need things for children to do.	9/24/2024 3:06 PM
124	downtown revitalization, offering incentives to slow the "brain drain" of young people leaving the county	9/24/2024 1:57 PM
125	I would like to see us enhance and build upon the outdoor and adventure opportunities that the county has already begun to foster, as well as access to other basics for a healthy lifestyle.	9/24/2024 1:34 PM
126	I would love to see more addiction resources and help like investment into rehab centers, opioid rescue kits, etc.	9/24/2024 1:32 PM
127	Free community resources. We are lacking in free services for those affected by homelessness, drug addiction, and poverty. Places like the library, food pantries, and counseling centers.	9/24/2024 1:25 PM
128	help the animal shelter	9/24/2024 1:22 PM
129	Free library cards for every person in Wabash County	9/24/2024 1:09 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
130	Fix the Roann covered bridge	9/24/2024 11:54 AM
131	Affordable housing, if possible. The homes in Wabash County are expensive as well as the taxes.	9/24/2024 8:47 AM
132	Housing	9/23/2024 8:55 PM
133	I would like for LaFontaine and Roann to become Main Streets.	9/23/2024 11:56 AM
134	I would love to see access to healthy food and infill development as the top priorities. One way to do this would be through small business startup support. Too many entrepreneurs have amazing ideas but lack funding or credit to secure funding. By supporting small business startups, new developments won't have to worry about commercial tenants because there will be an influx of supported small businesses needing space. Small businesses are also the way to go for quality and healthy food options.	9/23/2024 10:53 AM
135	Jobs	9/22/2024 6:48 PM
136	Public transportation	9/21/2024 9:44 AM
137	Daniel's Place house	9/21/2024 8:06 AM
138	SAFETY....	9/20/2024 10:17 PM
139	North Manchester has a lovely river, and Main Street is essentially turned away from it for decades. Because of this, the riverbanks and river are often used for dumping instead of being assets benefitting the community. Get rid of the junky alley behind the businesses and put in a boardwalk.	9/20/2024 5:05 PM
140	Quality of place investment	9/20/2024 9:21 AM
141	Infrastructure of utilities	9/20/2024 9:19 AM
142	Community	9/20/2024 12:21 AM
143	A walking track & Pavilion in the La Fontaine Park.	9/19/2024 9:47 PM
144	More culturally diverse.	9/19/2024 2:11 PM
145	Implicit bias training for police	9/19/2024 1:13 PM
146	Bike trails that connect Wabash County communities	9/18/2024 11:53 PM
147	More adult training.	9/18/2024 6:36 PM
148	Skilled trades training	9/18/2024 6:11 PM
149	Stable internet connectivity for all	9/18/2024 12:44 PM
150	Help LaFontaine revitalize.	9/18/2024 11:30 AM
151	Improve back of downtown buildings in North Manchester to increase access to river view.	9/18/2024 9:28 AM
152	A new park in LaFontaine. That way the there is a nice park in the North, Central and South areas of the county	9/18/2024 8:50 AM
153	More trails throughout the county, connecting towns.	9/17/2024 7:21 PM
154	Bring back the police department dispatch here. It's a hassle trying to make Wabash understand where we need to go. They aren't familiar with our town.	9/17/2024 2:39 PM
155	To make Wabash County a place where our children and grandchildren can live and flourish.	9/14/2024 11:24 AM
156	Put it towards the community and the people who need it.	9/13/2024 8:04 PM
157	Putting in more bike and walking trails	9/13/2024 7:52 PM
158	Fund Thrive 85	9/13/2024 7:49 PM
159	River walk connecting manchester university with the north Manchester downtown	9/13/2024 6:25 PM
160	An extensive blueways network and services near the river decorated with art that depicts county identity	9/13/2024 5:50 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
161	Update low income houses!	9/13/2024 5:20 PM
162	A nice park in Roann with pavilions and playground equipment, a nice restroom and a nice convenient family outing. This is been a dream of mine for years. My kids didn't have that.	9/12/2024 3:10 PM
163	Recreation for youth	9/12/2024 3:09 PM
164	For my personal business, I would love to have a professional overhead sign and remodel inside a little with new couters/countertops.	9/10/2024 12:50 PM
165	Accelerate sidewalk repair	9/10/2024 6:45 AM
166	More bike trails	9/8/2024 10:56 PM
167	A group or a place that can help with the drugs in our county	9/8/2024 6:03 PM
168	Run teaching reminders to farmers in spring time and fall time of the laws that they must adhere to.	9/8/2024 12:59 PM
169	Walking trail around Roann	9/8/2024 12:35 PM
170	More industries	9/8/2024 9:55 AM
171	Music and arts in schools	9/8/2024 7:40 AM
172	Assist with costly home repairs for low income people.	9/8/2024 1:13 AM
173	Public transportation between towns that would include Fort Wayne & the hospitals.	9/7/2024 8:55 PM
174	More business . It would keep people and \$ in town.	9/7/2024 7:14 PM
175	A countywide community calendar website, where information about town, county, and organization activities can be accessed easily, so that the people of the county can communicate their interests and multiply their efforts.	9/7/2024 6:23 PM
176	Developing river walkways in North Manchester and biking trails, hiking/walking trails, and outdoor recreation sites throughout Wabash County. This has the capacity to improve quality of life for county residents and by attracting visitors who will add to the economy.	9/7/2024 2:09 PM
177	Renovating buildings for businesses in Wabash and Manchester.	9/7/2024 12:46 PM
178	Well lit biking and walking paths	9/7/2024 12:37 PM
179	The new Roann Children's Park	9/7/2024 11:02 AM
180	Roann park!	9/7/2024 10:53 AM
181	I really hope the town of North Manchester & Thomas Marshall are upgraded like the city of Wabash park was upgraded. It would be a wonderful addition to the town as well as all the children. We have to travel to do anything with little children because there's nothing to do for them. Turf grass last longer and requires less maintenance and not yearly additions of mulch. Plus it is much safer for children.	9/7/2024 9:00 AM
182	Utilities infrastructure	9/7/2024 8:46 AM
183	Pickleball courts	9/7/2024 6:43 AM
184	Have more eating places come in	9/6/2024 11:22 PM
185	An indoor playground, a really good one, a place for kids to run around in the winter.	9/6/2024 8:55 PM
186	Affordable, attractive housing	9/6/2024 8:37 PM
187	More pedestrian friendly infrastructure/places	9/6/2024 8:06 PM
188	New business	9/6/2024 8:01 PM
189	Invest in business promotions to attract growth and more businesses for long term increases in all forms of a thriving community from jobs to tax revenue to convenience, ect. If this is already being done in another way or out of scope of this then would invest in increased interconnected parts of towns that lack the sidewalk and path ways infrastructure and add more value on those routes with added flower gardens and park renovations (community parks and walks promotions and improvements)	9/6/2024 7:04 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
190	Affordable housing	9/6/2024 6:43 PM
191	More affordable housing and diversity	9/6/2024 5:50 PM
192	small business grants, especially anything that could defray high downtown rents	9/6/2024 5:09 PM
193	My one wish would be to develop the areas and spaces along the rivers that go through Wabash and North Manchester.	9/6/2024 4:59 PM
194	I'd love a bike/walking trail like the Nickle Plate trail (even if it's not nearly as long)	9/6/2024 4:48 PM
195	Public transportation outside of Wabash and longer hours -- like 7 am to 10!pm.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
196	A river trail in North Manchester.	9/6/2024 3:08 PM
197	Connectivity to towns via a bike path	9/6/2024 2:57 PM
198	A walking path connecting North Manchester to Wabash	9/6/2024 2:52 PM
199	Wisely	9/6/2024 2:38 PM
200	Replace drainage pipe on e end of 114 in-between the church's. It's flat and dose not drain anymore . My sub pump rain for 6 mths . The hwy dept says it's flat so it need pitch dug in so it will drain .	9/6/2024 2:38 PM
201	A better grocery store in North Manchester. Current one is overpriced and doesn't keep produce fresh.	9/6/2024 2:30 PM
202	Put in a splash pad	9/6/2024 2:04 PM
203	Homeless shelter set up with mental health and drug addiction programs. Would love to see County wide program set up like Muncie's Mission program but include both men and women.	9/6/2024 1:43 PM
204	Fix the roads please, and something else for youth to do and restaurants	9/6/2024 1:41 PM
205	I wish Manchester had more activities for the young adults, more choices for grocery store	9/6/2024 1:27 PM
206	Continued support of local governments, communities and entities to improve facades, expand businesses, etc.	9/6/2024 1:19 PM
207	Increased affordable housing so that industry would be interested in Wabash County. Stop the migration out of Wabash County	9/6/2024 1:14 PM
208	Use resources to market low cost of living and the industrial park in North Manchester.	9/6/2024 1:04 PM
209	sdfdfgsdg	9/6/2024 12:48 PM
210	North Manchester needs to start improving or replacing water main lines. Issues consistently with this.	9/6/2024 12:47 PM
211	county parks	9/6/2024 12:46 PM
212	Affordable housing	9/6/2024 11:09 AM
213	I would continue to develop the connection between North Manchester and its natural recreational resources (river access, walking trails, etc.)	9/6/2024 11:09 AM
214	Community sports complex that includes 5 soccer fields, so our hispanic adults could be assigned to 1 and not beat up the current fields that they didn't get permission to play on.	9/6/2024 11:04 AM
215	Downtown green space/park that would allow space for outdoor concerts/events, hooks ups for vendors, and set up so art is constructive for play. Lots of multipurpose development!	9/6/2024 10:58 AM
216	A river walk way along the Eel River.	9/6/2024 10:49 AM
217	Enrichment programs for Children of immigrants	9/6/2024 10:46 AM
218	I wish we had more contiguous biking trails.	9/6/2024 10:42 AM
219	Whatever the designation is, we have a chicken and egg issue between housing and employment. I would like to see stipends to rehabilitate old homes in the community for residential owners, not landlords. I'm not interested in increasing the margins for rental units as trickling down those savings rarely happens.	9/6/2024 10:39 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
220	Improve street signs, they are too small hard to see, the reflective on county rd stop sign are NOT reflective, i drive north manchester to wrichvalley at 5 am st rt 16 intersection is hard to see, the turn for cr 200 isnt marked well i learned it to watch for the laketon sign but oncoming traffic blinds you add lights at dangerous intersection like st rt 16 and st rt 13, 115 and 24, 16 and ct rd 200, more lighting, and when you add handicap ramp to sidewalks and stores and parks ADD HANDICAPPED DOORS, cant get wheelchair /walkers inside some restrooms and stores, and PLEASE PAINT LANES AT THE INTERSECTION OF ALBER AND 24 - Its not a + intersection where you pass behind each other. But an X where you cross infront and MOST DONT KNOW THAT and the accidents and near misses are increasing also the turn off from 24 to wabash folks taking up the whole cross and pulls out in front of the exiting vehicle cutting them off .	9/6/2024 10:31 AM
221	Sidewalks	9/6/2024 10:29 AM
222	Create more walker freindly trails and bicycle freindly trails off roads	9/6/2024 10:23 AM
223	Keep city police in city limits and patrol city limits. So many people are speeding and nothing done about it.	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
224	I wish for more walking paths and more grocery options, specifically for North Manchester.	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
225	Creating jobs without them the population will continue to decline. Also missing from your list on question #3	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
226	50% attracting new business and industry 25% build new housing and develop new subdivisions 25% expand parks and rec with sport facilities and walking/biking trails	9/6/2024 10:20 AM
227	River walk along Eel River in north Manchester would be a great beautiful attraction for the county.	9/6/2024 10:16 AM
228	More walking/hiking trails in vicinity of North Manchester	9/6/2024 10:15 AM
229	Walmart in North Manchester	9/6/2024 10:13 AM
230	I would like to have a bike trail / walking path to encourage more outdoor activity.	9/6/2024 10:12 AM
231	Preservation of the banks of the Eel River and better access along it	9/6/2024 10:12 AM
232	A clear path for a river walk trail or nature stroll. Affordable housing.	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
233	Pickleball courts	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
234	High school Sports fieldhouse to bring people into the community and utilize our local businesses!!! We currently cannitvhist big events.	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
235	More wooded walking trails in North Manchester	9/6/2024 10:10 AM
236	Walking trails along the river	9/6/2024 10:09 AM
237	Full sidewalk and bike lanes from intersection of 13 & 114 in N Manchester, to at least downtown and maybe north.	9/6/2024 10:09 AM
238	Trail connecting to Wabash	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
239	Increased diverse affordable housing options, like family rental units. We need rental properties to attract residents who don't want to/can't buy a house immediately.	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
240	I would fix up the empty and abandoned buildings in all the areas and make them useful for any and all homeless people and children	9/6/2024 10:07 AM
241	More collaboration between the university and the communities around the county.	9/6/2024 10:05 AM
242	To bring more economic and affordable benefits	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
243	Providing housing for the homeless in our area	9/6/2024 10:02 AM
244	North Manchester is a beautiful community with beautiful people. Although it's in a rural area, the University is an outstanding college that is making this small town more diverse. Money to be spent in this town could really put it on the map as to living here, going to school or college here, or a place to drive through to admire such a small town that's making a great impact and impression!	9/6/2024 10:01 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
245	Fixing up sidewalks to make the town more accessible	9/6/2024 10:00 AM
246	To fix the side walks in my home town, they have fixed the main ones but without further funding I don't believe my town could fix all of the side walks, it's getting hazardous, so uneven and if you're not paying attention you'll twist your ankle.	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
247	I would love to see residential sidewalks updated and fixed of major flaws to promote accessibility.	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
248	Repairing sidewalks in all the citys	9/6/2024 9:58 AM
249	Lowering property taxes	9/6/2024 9:58 AM
250	Keep working on sidewalks	9/6/2024 9:56 AM
251	Repaving Packerton Rd between 15 and 14. It is horrible.	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
252	Trails	9/6/2024 9:54 AM
253	River walk in North Manchester	9/6/2024 9:53 AM
254	Improve infrastructure	9/6/2024 9:51 AM
255	Create incentives for construction of low to moderate income housing in each community.	9/6/2024 9:49 AM
256	Better dining options and continued growth in community involvement	9/6/2024 9:48 AM
257	plant trees to replace our older ones we are losing during storms	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
258	Daniel's Place Facility	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
259	Pickleball courts	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
260	walking trails	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
261	Sidewalk updates - widening, ramps, leveling.	9/6/2024 9:46 AM
262	Better childcare options	9/6/2024 9:46 AM
263	Healthy communities. Reuse of abandoned rail into trails, investment in parks infrastructure	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
264	Revitalize downtown N Manchester with restaurants, grocery store options, shopping options, collaboration with Manchester University.	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
265	More attractive amenities for current and future residents.	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
266	jobs	9/6/2024 9:43 AM
267	Provide more job opportunities	9/6/2024 9:41 AM
268	Housing investment	9/6/2024 9:39 AM
269	Better sidewalks! As a mom the town sidewalks are awful to push a stroller on.	9/6/2024 9:39 AM
270	To help local Entrepreneurs start their own businesses that help serve the local area.	9/5/2024 10:08 PM
271	LaFontaine library to get funding to help with getting more books and activities.	9/4/2024 7:58 PM
272	I wish the government would stop giving our tax dollars to give out grants. These funds don't just magically appear. We the People want to keep our money to spend our money as we see fit.	9/4/2024 7:50 PM
273	I would wish for funding for the County's housing initiatives, primarily infill development.	9/4/2024 4:04 PM
274	Invest in community training programs that align with the industries near us or within our county. With Zimmer and other large companies nearby, many residents commute to work in these sectors. By equipping our residents with the necessary skills, they can secure higher-paying jobs and reinvest that income back into our county.	9/4/2024 10:30 AM
275	Affordable Housing	9/4/2024 9:23 AM
276	A county website that doesn't look like it was created in 1989. Seriously, let's bring the Wabash County Website into the 21st century.	9/3/2024 11:48 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
277	Improve local food systems. Facilitate food co-ops. Make it easier to buy local food and help small farmers. Our county does not have a meat processor or butcher and it is a need.	9/3/2024 10:32 PM
278	A beautiful safe park. A place for all ages to gather and grow together as a community.	9/3/2024 10:14 PM
279	Fixing up the old buildings in the towns. To get new store ,ect. in them.	9/3/2024 5:40 PM
280	Park for children in Lagro.	9/3/2024 5:23 PM
281	Rehab centers, tax incentives to get new businesses to come in, and parking structures downtown.	9/3/2024 5:12 PM
282	Invest in the smaller communities that don't have the funds to do bigger projects, so ALL of our cities and towns are good places to live and visit.	9/3/2024 5:09 PM
283	Make Lagro great again!!	9/3/2024 4:58 PM
284	Some sort of inside entertainment. Wabash County has many things to do, but most of them are outside activities. We need things to do during the cold months too.	9/3/2024 11:29 AM
285	Invest in all of the communities of Wabash County	9/3/2024 10:50 AM
286	- Increasing the local housing stock to appeal to talent of all ages, income levels to live and work here - Further leverage our natural resources through various trails and other recreation opportunities (great for QOL and tourism) - Expand utility capacity (wastewater, electric, etc.) to better accommodate new housing projects as well as industrial/business development	9/3/2024 10:42 AM
287	Quantity of life and housing	9/3/2024 10:42 AM
288	Create thriving places that the community is proud of throughout the county for people to gather and celebrate community, family and friends	9/3/2024 10:22 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

SurveyMonkey

Q2 How would you rate collaboration between the county and towns?

Answered: 311 Skipped: 20

3.6★

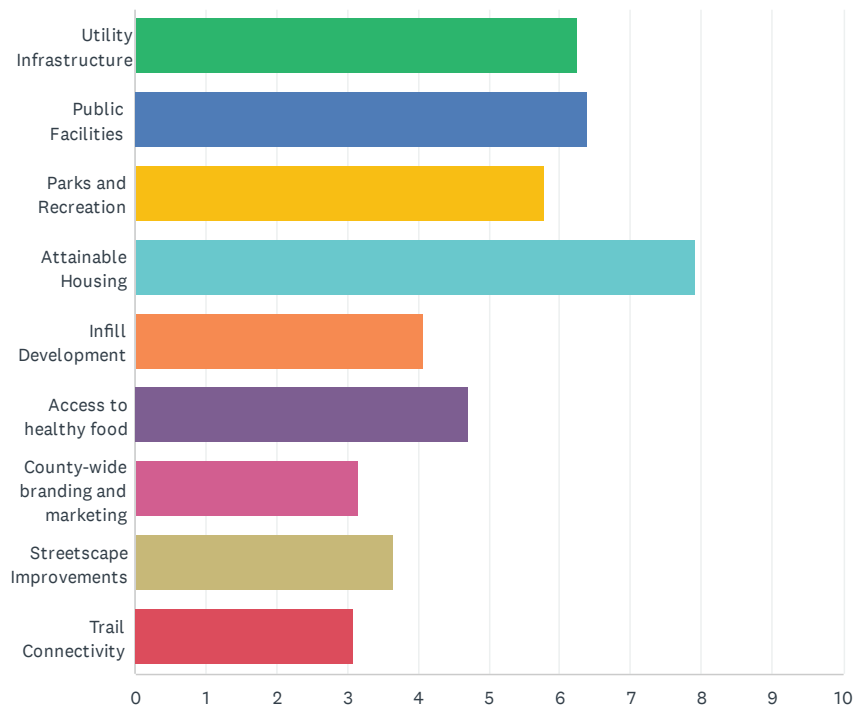
average rating



	VERY POOR	POOR	OK	GOOD	VERY GOOD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	3.86% 12	9.00% 28	29.58% 92	35.69% 111	21.86% 68	311	3.63

Q3 What would have the most impact on addressing population decline?
Please rank the following priorities from most important to least important.

Answered: 329 Skipped: 2



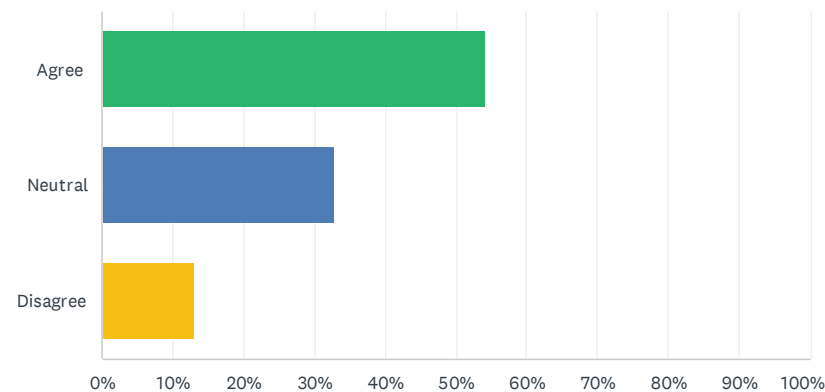
Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

SurveyMonkey

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	SCORE
Utility Infrastructure	14.59% 48	20.97% 69	17.33% 57	14.89% 49	8.81% 29	9.12% 30	6.99% 23	5.17% 17	2.13% 7	329	6.24
Public Facilities	8.51% 28	20.06% 66	24.92% 82	18.54% 61	12.46% 41	10.64% 35	3.65% 12	0.61% 2	0.61% 2	329	6.40
Parks and Recreation	6.08% 20	10.64% 35	19.15% 63	22.19% 73	18.24% 60	13.07% 43	6.38% 21	3.65% 12	0.61% 2	329	5.78
Attainable Housing	55.93% 184	15.81% 52	9.12% 30	10.33% 34	3.65% 12	2.74% 9	0.91% 3	1.22% 4	0.30% 1	329	7.90
Infill Development	3.04% 10	5.47% 18	5.17% 17	8.21% 27	17.63% 58	17.02% 56	18.54% 61	13.37% 44	11.55% 38	329	4.07
Access to healthy food	5.17% 17	13.07% 43	8.81% 29	9.42% 31	11.85% 39	17.93% 59	13.07% 43	11.85% 39	8.81% 29	329	4.72
County-wide branding and marketing	2.74% 9	4.86% 16	3.95% 13	2.43% 8	7.60% 25	9.73% 32	23.40% 77	17.33% 57	27.96% 92	329	3.16
Streetscape Improvements	2.74% 9	4.26% 14	5.17% 17	8.81% 29	11.55% 38	10.33% 34	15.20% 50	29.18% 96	12.77% 42	329	3.64
Trail Connectivity	1.22% 4	4.86% 16	6.38% 21	5.17% 17	8.21% 27	9.42% 31	11.85% 39	17.63% 58	35.26% 116	329	3.10

Q4 Rate your level of agreement with the following county-wide vision statement. This vision statement was created through the Imagine One 85 planning process."We are Mighty Wabash County Rising...We, the communities of Wabash County, are connected, resilient, and growing. We are open, welcoming, and prosperous. Our spirit, like our natural resources, is flourishing and vibrant. Leadership shines bright in our county. We produce and attract energetic and capable young citizens. Wabash County is a great place to live, work, and learn. Residents and visitors thrive here."

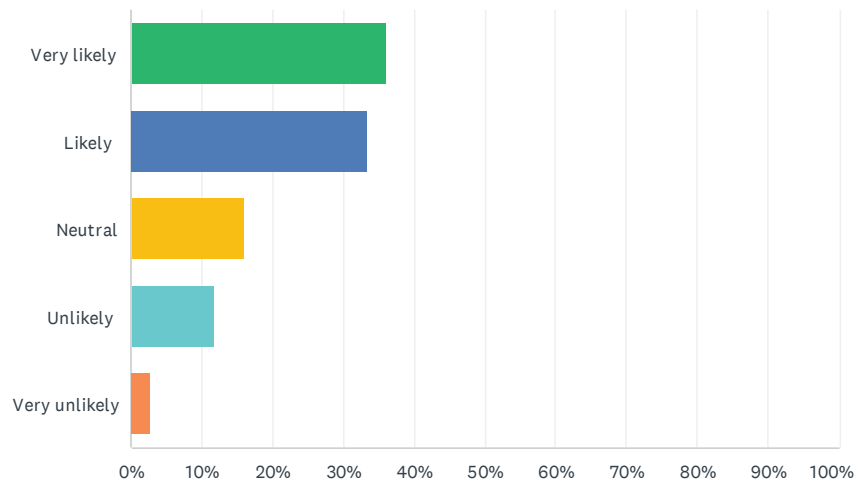
Answered: 323 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Agree		54.18%	175
Neutral		32.82%	106
Disagree		13.00%	42
TOTAL			323

Q5 How likely are you to recommend living in Wabash County to a friend or family member?

Answered: 325 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very likely	36.00%	117
Likely	33.54%	109
Neutral	16.00%	52
Unlikely	11.69%	38
Very unlikely	2.77%	9
TOTAL		325

Q6 Please explain why you would or wouldn't recommend living in Wabash County.

Answered: 301 Skipped: 30

#	RESPONSES	DATE
2	Pros: It's full of sweet small towns with good opportunities and public services. Cons: It's not very convenient to an airport; as small towns are, everyone is up all in your business; there's not much to do socially for those in their twenties without children.	10/21/2024 10:04 AM
3	There are not enough good paying jobs in Wabash County. We need more industrial jobs that pay well. I have worked outside of Wabash County for 16 years now because I can't make the money I do here in the county	10/19/2024 1:36 PM
4	It's currently a town that is still in the process of needing more things to offer. The people are wonderful, schools are good, and what is here is nice, but it still needs much more to be able to accommodate a lifestyle that I would recommend to most of my personal friends and family - healthier food options, more places to eat, another coffee shop, and places to go do things after work/on the weekends.	10/14/2024 6:33 PM
5	Friendly people. Community that invests in itself.	10/14/2024 8:54 AM
6	I think that we have several unique facilities that are great amenities for many families.	10/10/2024 9:05 PM
7	It's not perfect but it's getting there w a good hospital and lots of exercise possibilities and tons of entertainment excursions at various venues, places to hold your gatherings, and a beautiful town w inviting people wanting to welcome and serve you!	10/10/2024 8:49 PM
8	I'm glad to hear that population is scheduled to be on the rise. We need more manufacturing jobs. Places like Kalenborn and Ford Meter Box are worth coming to the county for.	10/10/2024 8:35 PM
9	I believe we need to become more aware of what people are looking for when they choose a specific small town to move to and put down their family roots. We should learn from them what we can do to create a greater sense of inclusion, acceptance and belonging.	10/10/2024 7:36 PM
10	Progressive and state-of-the-art.	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
11	Lack of food diversity and recreational activities for adults.	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
12	It's a beautiful town with amazing, energetic, compassionate people.	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
13	I live here, so why shouldn't others?	10/10/2024 7:32 PM
14	Housing is an issue and the demand outweighs the supply. In turn, the county reassessment goes up making it more difficult to pay taxes. Not to mention that the LOIT tax is way too much in a time of need for most people.	10/10/2024 6:22 PM
15	The cultural diversity that helps create a vibrant community, is lacking here. The arts and interesting cuisine are limited.	10/9/2024 4:14 PM
16	North Manchester: Good schools, library, town officials, pool, rec programs, historical center, and local paper. Positive connections with Manchester University, Timbercrest, and Oeabody.	10/9/2024 2:13 AM
17	North Manchester: Good schools, library, town officials, pool, rec programs, historical center, and local paper. Positive connections with Manchester University, Timbercrest, and Oeabody.	10/9/2024 12:44 AM
18	For a small city we have several things to be proud of, Honeywell Center, State Parks, River Trail and a vibrant downtown. Citizens seem to get along well and support each other in times of need.	10/7/2024 12:16 PM
19	I love Wabash because my family is here and the schools are small. I would love to see more opportunities for employment as well as more opportunities for recreation and shopping within	10/5/2024 12:27 PM

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	the county. We often drive to Marion or Fort Wayne to get things that Wabash doesn't offer.	
20	Good cost of living.	10/4/2024 3:25 PM
21	Would: Relatively safe communities. Most of the schools are above average. Great place for the oldest population to be taken care of. Wouldn't: For my children, no relatable jobs. Schools lack high tech offerings. IE Fort Wayne's AMP lab. 30-60 minutes for activities. Dining options are waning.	10/4/2024 2:29 PM
22	Manchester makes living here difficult and unwelcoming. The Town government does nothing to help the community and there is no business development unless you are connected to a town council person.	10/4/2024 2:28 PM
23	Political climate Schools	10/4/2024 2:03 PM
24	Safety	10/4/2024 11:43 AM
25	Not enough grocery, restaurants, etc	10/4/2024 11:40 AM
26	Our county is beautiful, but has too few living wage jobs and activities across it. Residents outside the city of Wabash must travel there for everything	10/4/2024 11:27 AM
27	I would recommend because of good schools, very little traffic, a safe place to live and improving recreation options.	10/4/2024 11:21 AM
28	Good proximity to cities like Ft. Wayne, Warsaw as well as our own Wabash. Nice culture for a rural community. Sometimes the people are a bit cliquish and can come off a bit standoffish.	10/4/2024 11:14 AM
29	Our county seems to spend an exorbitant amount of time, money and energy on illegal drug problems and the social issues created by it. The county is very politically and socially conservative.	10/4/2024 11:11 AM
30	Their choice, didn't want anyone telling me where to go when I moved	10/4/2024 11:06 AM
31	Safe	10/4/2024 10:40 AM
32	I my community, there is such apathy that it is hard to encourage new people. School moral and lack of respect has really weighed on me.	10/4/2024 10:39 AM
33	Love the abundance of farmland and the sound of train whistles.	10/4/2024 10:34 AM
34	Biggs runs the county	10/4/2024 10:15 AM
35	North Manchester is not inviting to business opportunities, business growth or the community at large. Over the last couple of years they have killed programs such as fun fest, there is no business organization such as a chamber of commerce, the town legislators do not engage with the local community unless it personally serves their personal interests. Even people seeking information from town government if they show up at a town council meeting they don't answer questions again unless it's self-serving. Manchester alive was supposed to be the new chamber organization but it is spearheaded by hand selected people who have no business acumen and are not friendly to the business community. There's actually no growth taking place we've lost more businesses than gained and that's a direct result of the failure of Nelly Manchester alive but of the Manchester Town council.	10/4/2024 10:07 AM
36	It's a safe place to live	10/4/2024 10:02 AM
37	Great place to raise kids; near bigger cities but small and safe and affordable	10/4/2024 9:59 AM
38	We love NM and our library and schools especially.	10/4/2024 9:54 AM
39	Taxes are higher and will continue to trend up because we don't do enough to get industry here.	10/4/2024 9:53 AM
40	Friendly, low crime	10/4/2024 9:52 AM
41	Lower cost of living is a plus but food costs have always been overpriced due to lack of local competition.	10/4/2024 9:49 AM
42	Safe and connected communities. Lots of parks, rivers and festivals to keep people connected, while being midwestern friendly and welcoming.	10/4/2024 9:48 AM
43	It is safe and affordable with great neighbors and schools.	10/3/2024 9:03 PM

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44	for a "rural" community Wabash County has many services and attractions not commonly found while also being located in close proximity to larger cities	10/2/2024 9:39 PM
45	TAXES are too high without any REAL show of benefit.	10/2/2024 1:20 PM
46	The taxes are very high for what the town has to offer. Also there should be abatements for people who improve their homes on main though ways. Not doubling their taxes.	10/2/2024 10:03 AM
47	No housing. Affordability. No jobs.	10/1/2024 2:17 PM
48	Superb educational facilities, safe community with a variety of arts and entertainment and away from the hustle and bustle of the bigger cities.	10/1/2024 12:50 PM
49	Wabash County is a good place to live and raise kids. Some groups seem to think we need to bring in more people whether they will contribute to society or bleed our resources dry. Change just for the sake of change is not a good thing. If solar comes to Wabash County, I wouldn't recommend anyone buy a home here. If we bring in busloads of immigrants, I wouldn't recommend anyone move here. If we try to make one big school system, I wouldn't recommend anyone with children move here.	10/1/2024 12:04 PM
50	I think we are very politically divided, so that part is not so pleasant. But I like living here in other ways.	10/1/2024 10:46 AM
51	Community trajectory	10/1/2024 5:48 AM
52	Wabash County is a great community to live in. We have great schools, access to resources for food/shelter, a diverse community, and amazing job opportunities.	9/30/2024 11:12 PM
53	Would - Some great activities and projects available, due to the hard work of community members. However, it would be awesome if more people would do their part of making our community a better place. It starts where they are: their attitude, house, yard, sidewalk, pick up trash, willingness to be a good neighbor, community member, encourager	9/30/2024 11:10 PM
54	Lack of attention to diverse populations. Lack of affordable housing. Lack of investment in public recreational facilities.	9/30/2024 8:45 PM
55	I think that it would be ok to live in Wabash county. I like being in a semi-rural area.	9/30/2024 8:17 PM
56	I would- it's Healthy, rural but strong arts community, safe for families, good faith community, housing is affordable but not plentiful, easy to navigate	9/30/2024 5:25 PM
57	Great place to live ! Great people and things to do !!	9/30/2024 4:36 PM
58	Wabash and MSD schools should be consolidated	9/30/2024 4:23 PM
59	Lacks amenities	9/30/2024 4:12 PM
60	Available and affordable housing, ie apartments and homes, is lacking terribly, especially for young professionals interested in returning to the county. Employment is also difficult to find in Wabash County for professionals.	9/30/2024 3:27 PM
61	Taxes are super high. I moved here just over 2 years ago, my property taxes are nearly double what they were in Huntington County. Utilities are lower.	9/30/2024 3:18 PM
62	Speaking only for myself, for some of the younger generation there are very few things to keep then in Wabash county. My children moved away to attend college and have no desire to permanently return "home".	9/29/2024 10:27 PM
63	I used to live in Indianapolis and while there are pros in living in a bigger city, I have found that living in a smaller community outweighs the hassle and bustle of big city life. For those who choose to engage with the community, there are several clubs and volunteer opportunities. Unlike a large city - you can see the ripple effect of how your time, talent, and energy can impact your community. For those who want more peace and quiet, there is plenty of open, outdoor space to escape and/or enjoy outdoor recreation. While there may not be 100 options for dining and entertainment, there are plenty of variety and options to choose from and if not, Wabash is only 45 mins from Ft Wayne and 1.15 mins from Indianapolis.	9/29/2024 8:59 PM
64	I believe it is a relatively progressive community with many quality of life amenities not usually found in a city our size and has a leadership that continues to encourage growth.	9/29/2024 7:20 PM
65	Taxes to high. Water bill to high. No rent available if you have dogs. Electric bill to high. You	9/29/2024 4:55 PM

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	offer breaks to rich folks only.	
66	Wabash Co. is the land of opportunity.	9/29/2024 8:07 AM
67	Wabash county is continuous in growth and development. I love seeing the growth of businesses and people wanting to move here.	9/28/2024 5:27 PM
68	Wabash County is a great community offering many activities for visitors and residents, often times free. We have community leaders that work together trying to work on Imagine One 85 initiatives. We have many attractions and features both man made and natural to enjoy, especially for our size/population. We are a close knit community that cares about each other.	9/28/2024 8:14 AM
69	This is a community that cares about each other.	9/28/2024 7:25 AM
70	The area I live in is great. Such a nice neighborhood.	9/28/2024 12:27 AM
71	Leaders, primarily in Wabash, have a history of covering and sugar coating the drug epidemic and unemployment issues. County leaders are inflexible conservatives who threaten our public schools and promote an anti-woke culture that is misaligned with evolving national values and I have little faith in their ability to change.	9/27/2024 8:48 PM
72	The taxes are higher than any of county. There are not many jobs accessible that pay the monthly needs let alone if you have a family. There isn't much to do as well.	9/27/2024 3:12 PM
73	no new jobs coming in, places where jobs where are pig sties and all the junk they let people have all around in the yard and by street!!!! cars everywhere in yard makes whole town trashy. more to this town then downtown number	9/27/2024 2:34 PM
74	I grew up in Indianapolis and after moving to La Fontaine I love the small-town atmosphere.	9/27/2024 1:31 PM
75	Crime rate is very low. People are friendly and welcoming.	9/27/2024 1:25 PM
76	Taxes are too high, imbalance of what is offered from the north to the south side of town, utilities are too high, roads are a mess, physician services are poor.	9/27/2024 12:58 PM
77	Assets to many Cities places and still live in a country setting.	9/27/2024 12:37 PM
78	The county is coming together in some effective and cohesive ways, and the access and aggressive seeking of public funding to support growth and new development is commendable.	9/27/2024 12:28 PM
79	Everything I need is available in Wabash County. I don't need to travel out of the county for any reason.	9/27/2024 11:47 AM
80	See question 7	9/27/2024 11:31 AM
81	Why I wouldn't - if you want to do anything you have to drive a hour. Why I would- its a quite life, slow pace, know your neighbor	9/27/2024 11:28 AM
82	Great small city with a variety of large city amenities, including outdoor activities (even nearby reservoirs and rivers), thriving art scene (including Honeywell Arts & Entertainment), fine dining, variety of parks, all within a 10-minute drive.	9/27/2024 11:18 AM
83	Police Dept	9/27/2024 10:07 AM
84	Rural living but an easy drive to any desired amenity.	9/27/2024 9:04 AM
85	Population as a whole is overly conservative that is not open to new ideas. Leaders are strong and innovative, but this is difficult to overcome	9/27/2024 8:41 AM
86	Lack of healthy dining, lack of growth in population, lack of shopping options	9/27/2024 8:33 AM
87	Wabash County offers an exceptional quality of life, with a low cost of living complemented by a wide range of amenities. The area's low crime rate, diverse employment opportunities across various skill levels, and proximity to major metropolitan areas make it an ideal place to live and thrive.	9/27/2024 8:12 AM
88	Property taxes are way too high!	9/27/2024 7:16 AM
89	I think Wabash County is a very nice and welcoming community. My family has lived in the county my whole life. With improvements ongoing, it just keeps getting better but I will tell you that there needs to be more entertainment options for families and now the bowling alley is closed so you don't even have that. Also, SOOO many people want a Starbucks and I have	9/27/2024 7:12 AM

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	always been told oh that chain or that chain will not be approved here. I know people that actually drive to Huntington or Kokomo to get Starbucks.	
90	Safe, friendly, and small, but with many amenities for our size of a community.	9/27/2024 6:39 AM
91	Groceries- clothing- shoes/ lack of choices!	9/27/2024 2:04 AM
92	As an adult, I love living in this community. We come together to meet the needs of our citizens. I think the youth struggle as there doesn't seem to be much for them to do. And the drug culture is a pull on our young teens and young adults.	9/26/2024 10:38 PM
93	Wabash County has a diverse array of amenities--something for almost everyone. We are close to bigger cities to enjoy what isn't available here. The only essential thing we are missing is housing for all sectors: rentals, new families, homeless, etc.	9/26/2024 10:13 PM
94	It's getting better in other ways but we need access to better shopping facilities!!	9/26/2024 9:29 PM
95	Small town with 3 star amenities	9/26/2024 9:29 PM
96	People care about each other. We work well together	9/26/2024 8:58 PM
97	Would- enntertainment. Not- jobs	9/26/2024 8:48 PM
98	Lack of high paying jobs and cutting edge science jobs	9/26/2024 8:28 PM
99	Wabash has a lot to offer families.	9/26/2024 8:09 PM
100	I tell everyone to live here! I love north manchester because it is a small town that cares about it's residents and tries to include us in lots of activities.	9/26/2024 8:04 PM
101	Community members go above and beyond for neighbors. Potential in the future for a new wave	9/26/2024 8:01 PM
102	Community leaders and members are welcoming and inviting. Amenities like trails, parks, Acres land preservation for hiking. Two reservoirs to explore, camp, boat, hike. Events put on by pocket communities and Wabash City, Farmers Market, schools, additional training opportunities for people wanting to future their education or skills. In the middle of bigger cities - Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Warsaw, Indy. Facilities for senior citizen when needed, nice hospital, opportunities to build a home. Great Food. These are all great benefits to living in Wabash County.	9/26/2024 6:54 PM
103	Lots of recreational opportunity, low cost of living, family friendly and safe	9/26/2024 6:44 PM
104	Good place to raise children as well as aging in place	9/26/2024 6:44 PM
105	People care about each other. Schools are good and jobs are available. Housing is reasonable. Great place to live.	9/26/2024 6:06 PM
106	Were a SAFE welcoming community. Were locate within 45 minutes in any direction to high paying jobs but not necessarily where some people want to live.	9/26/2024 6:02 PM
107	No other shopping options other than Walmart.	9/26/2024 5:26 PM
108	Small town vibe, but not too far from bigger city when needed.	9/26/2024 4:58 PM
109	Not enough transportation available, lack of things to do	9/26/2024 4:55 PM
110	It is a very good place to raise a family.	9/26/2024 3:47 PM
111	I was born and raised in Wabash. I like it here. Our property tax is the highest in the surrounding counties.	9/26/2024 3:41 PM
112	Income and property taxes are high	9/26/2024 3:34 PM
113	small	9/26/2024 1:00 PM
114	It is a warm and welcoming place with friendly people and safe neighborhoods/living.	9/26/2024 11:28 AM
115	I would its friendly and clean I love working in Wabash	9/26/2024 11:13 AM
116	The pay in this county is very low compared to the cost of basic needs, utilities, property taxes, county taxes, etc. There also is very little housing.	9/26/2024 10:46 AM

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117	You don't just hear about the benefits Wabash County has to offer; you can see it for yourself.	9/26/2024 10:25 AM
118	I think we have some cute towns in the county, they just need a little growth	9/26/2024 9:34 AM
119	It smells and there's nothing to do recreationally.	9/26/2024 9:27 AM
120	No city.parks no activities	9/26/2024 8:42 AM
121	Gas prices are too high, rent is outrageous and unsustainable for the cost of living right now.	9/26/2024 8:36 AM
122	The school system.	9/26/2024 8:19 AM
123	Small town feel, with decent amenities.	9/25/2024 5:58 PM
124	Safe small towns, still within driving distance of Indy, Chicago, Detroit. Things to do in the county, trails, events, groups.	9/25/2024 9:39 AM
125	Pros: Great people/Friendly, great location to raise a family Cons: Declining School Systems, Lack of housing, taxes too high	9/25/2024 7:17 AM
126	It costs to live here. There are people who have moved to other communities because they can live elsewhere cheaper	9/24/2024 3:29 PM
127	The community is peaceful and supportive.	9/24/2024 3:20 PM
128	Relatively safe environment to raise children.	9/24/2024 3:10 PM
129	The neighborhoods are so friendly and everyone is willing to lend a helping hand. We're working towards big city opportunities with small town values.	9/24/2024 3:06 PM
130	I like it, but I have a profitable job in which I use my degree. I understand that it is difficult for young people to find jobs, especially after receiving higher education.	9/24/2024 1:57 PM
131	Wabash is full of history and cultural enrichment opportunities, as well as providing access to robust outdoor offerings, all of which contribute to overall physical and mental health.	9/24/2024 1:34 PM
132	I love this county but it needs a lot of work. I feel like we as a community care most about public image when I feel like we let other areas slip through the cracks like education, housing, unemployment, and addiction where we tend to fall behind other counties.	9/24/2024 1:32 PM
133	Lack of resources sometimes.	9/24/2024 1:25 PM
134	its the quintessential close knit community	9/24/2024 1:22 PM
135	Wabash is a great town with lots going on, and Wabash county has a heart.	9/24/2024 1:09 PM
136	It was were I was born and raised	9/24/2024 11:54 AM
137	I feel like Wabash County is putting in the work to continue to better our area and provide amenities to our citizens. We are close to Fort Wayne, Kokomo and Indianapolis which gets us many "big city" perks without the crime and negative aspects that come with that size population.	9/24/2024 8:47 AM
138	Great community. Would recommend because it's safe, and has a lot to do for people of all ages.	9/23/2024 8:55 PM
139	Wabash County is set apart due to how incredible the people that live here and invest their time, energy and resources into the County. There are small towns all over America but they don't have the assets, people, and opportunities like we do.	9/23/2024 11:56 AM
140	I would recommend living in Wabash County because of its drive to be and do better. Wabash County isn't playing games with empty promises. It is collaborative and values the strength of working together. There is genuine heart in Wabash, and it's a pretty stark difference from many of the neighboring counties. Wabash has something to offer and is not standing still.	9/23/2024 10:53 AM
141	Concerned about the level of diversity - can be rather confining.	9/22/2024 6:48 PM
142	I have trouble recommending due to: lack of housing, lack of entertainment venues for families (putt-putt, escape rooms, etc), lack of available childcare, lack of quality-paying jobs	9/21/2024 9:44 AM
143	Small town living is not for everyone	9/21/2024 8:06 AM
144	i have lived here all my life. We have issues, but overall it is a good place to live. People that	9/20/2024 10:17 PM

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	cannot work but want to need help, some just have a hand out. Homeless and not on drugs in Wabash and sleeping in the cold is poor image of our county.	
145	I just bought a house in North Manchester, mostly because I had already connections to the community through employment. I wouldn't recommend it to someone who didn't already have those connections. Many residents don't seem friendly -- most of my neighbors don't return a wave when they drive by -- and I have witnessed few people being rude to people of color.	9/20/2024 5:05 PM
146	Wabash is an excellent community to raise a family and has incredible arts and recreation facilities that ensure quality of life.	9/20/2024 9:21 AM
147	We are small but connected crossroads to many larger cities and are safe, and have large city amenities. The city and county are reinvesting to retain talent and create jobs and trail system and street scape improvements.	9/20/2024 9:19 AM
148	I'd recommend because it's an amazing county	9/20/2024 12:21 AM
149	A safe community to raise children.	9/19/2024 9:47 PM
150	It is a very caring and warm community with many resources for its residents and is close to larger urban areas.	9/19/2024 2:11 PM
151	Many natural and educational resources nearby	9/19/2024 1:13 PM
152	Not enough cultural and racial diversity. Not enough willingness to invest in the collective good (things like trails, riverfront recreation, and public facilities).	9/18/2024 11:53 PM
153	I would recommend, small town values. People are quick to help when help is needed. I have seen this firsthand.	9/18/2024 6:11 PM
154	Lack of quality jobs.	9/18/2024 1:40 PM
155	Positive: quiet, recreational, low cost of living, pleasant Negative: areas of limited to no transportation, food deserts, limited access to basic, healthy needs for many	9/18/2024 12:44 PM
156	There are not many high paying opportunities for employment.	9/18/2024 11:30 AM
157	Lack of fine dining locations	9/18/2024 9:28 AM
158	Wabash County has been working diligently to work together as one community. It has been exciting to see this and believe Wabash County will succeed as one community	9/18/2024 8:50 AM
159	A small town is a great place to live, we are close to bigger cities/towns.	9/17/2024 7:21 PM
160	No jobs and have to go out of town to eat in a good restaurant and for affordable goods. Housing is high.	9/17/2024 2:39 PM
161	I would recommend it to anyone	9/14/2024 2:51 PM
162	Wabas County is becoming a place where instead of worrying about our own communities, we are starting to work together with one goal in mind	9/14/2024 11:24 AM
163	As a college student it is nice to have things around the Wabash area to do.	9/13/2024 8:04 PM
164	Depends on what the person is looking for	9/13/2024 7:52 PM
165	Nothing beats a town that actually cares about the people who live in it.	9/13/2024 7:49 PM
166	It is A very open accepting community with friendly people and a low cost of living	9/13/2024 6:25 PM
167	Cost of living is affordable and there are a wide variety of interests in a 50-75 mile radius.	9/13/2024 5:50 PM
168	Community engagement is great	9/13/2024 5:20 PM
169	I would recommend because it's a lot of nice historical places to call home. And I think peaceful	9/12/2024 3:10 PM
170	Because Wabash County is striving daily to meet the needs of the people who live here and work here.	9/12/2024 3:09 PM
171	I love the small town. The arts. The creativity, the sense of belonging.	9/10/2024 12:50 PM
172	A great place to live if you find a good job	9/10/2024 6:45 AM

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173	Strong community, family values with fairly decent housing and living costs	9/9/2024 1:46 PM
174	Great towns. Many natural areas.	9/8/2024 10:56 PM
175	Taxes to high.	9/8/2024 10:49 PM
176	Not much for students to do	9/8/2024 6:03 PM
177	It's dead. When a kid doesn't know how to sign his name how can he or she have the ability to think and reason for our future.	9/8/2024 12:59 PM
178	There's hardly any good paying jobs. Taxes are high. No walking trails near me (close to the Waldo). It's very "blah" here	9/8/2024 12:35 PM
179	It's small and safe	9/8/2024 9:55 AM
180	Inexpensive and safe, but not many good jobs	9/8/2024 7:40 AM
181	Its a growing community with lots to offer.	9/8/2024 1:13 AM
182	North Manchester is wonderful but Wabash smells bad a lot of the time (sewer treatment & papermill).	9/7/2024 8:55 PM
183	There are many advantages , but still quite a bit to do for the entire area to be considered thriving	9/7/2024 7:14 PM
184	Safety, lower housing costs, good town and county services, reasonable access to commercial goods and services, reasonable tax rates, good people / neighbors, civic commitment/ pride of ownership / stability of property values.	9/7/2024 6:23 PM
185	Wabash County would be a nice place to live and work if it was more open and attractive to diverse populations.	9/7/2024 2:09 PM
186	This county is only relatively decent compared to other rural neighboring counties. Objectively, this is still a poor, under developed county. The ONLY saving grace of Wabash County is North Manchester's commitment to education from early childhood through college. This county is too divided, insular, and slow to compete and be a great place to live.	9/7/2024 12:46 PM
187	We love our school system, but Manchester's housing market is just becoming out of reach for a larger home.	9/7/2024 12:37 PM
188	It's a great rural area to start a family. You get that small town feel everywhere you go.	9/7/2024 11:02 AM
189	The friendliness of members of the community is a huge plus. I have loved living in Roann the last 6 years	9/7/2024 10:53 AM
190	Honestly I feel like resources aren't announced to people. Other counties have the BABE program which is highly promoted to help mothers and children. We need access to healthy affordable food. New playgrounds. Lower tax bracket for wabash co. It's frustrating living in the highest co and what does that money even go towards.	9/7/2024 9:00 AM
191	Safe with small town benefits	9/7/2024 8:46 AM
192	Often needing to commute a distance for work	9/7/2024 6:43 AM
193	Quiet, friendly and warm place to callhome.	9/6/2024 11:22 PM
194	We like it here a lot! People are friendly and it's quaint. We enjoy small town living. We like that's there is not a Walmart and things are more local.	9/6/2024 8:55 PM
195	Friendly neighbors, accessible medical care, access to beautiful Nature, large city nearby, public entertainment, access to a State highway	9/6/2024 8:37 PM
196	I love the rural feel of the small town and not much traffic to deal with , small businesses + the library are awesome too	9/6/2024 8:06 PM
197	Lack of businesses and overall diversification of age in Manchester retirement age over run. Less business diversification and assortments means less tax less jobs and less growth and improvements as a whole that have driven the overall image and such down.	9/6/2024 7:04 PM
198	I have lived in Wabash County nearly 70 years. It is a beautiful county with great people. The young people are working hard to improve our county. We have great schools with caring	9/6/2024 6:43 PM

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	educators.	
199	Calm place, but not much to do or much variety	9/6/2024 5:50 PM
200	Cliquish, not always friendly and pretty negative. Schools in North Manchester leave a lot to be desired.	9/6/2024 5:21 PM
201	low taxes, sufficient access to necessities	9/6/2024 5:09 PM
202	I would encourage progressives to move to our communities so we can eventually replace the conservatives on city and county governing boards so our communities can start to actually thrive and stop their ongoing decline.	9/6/2024 4:59 PM
203	Mine is an outlier example, my family all live in far away states, they're happy where they are	9/6/2024 4:48 PM
204	Not enough good paying jobs an to much drugs an not enough drug rehabs not only that but the streets need alot of repairing an bring all our jobs back we have way to many restaurants an stores	9/6/2024 3:41 PM
205	Lack of public transit between towns and fort Wayne, Warsaw, Huntington and similar places. Lack of public transit within the county and outside normal business hours.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
206	Would like to see more parks and rec options & affordable housing options in the northern part of the county. Seems like all initiatives and improvements are made in Wabash.	9/6/2024 3:08 PM
207	Small town, community feel, easy paced way of life with easy access to major city.	9/6/2024 2:57 PM
208	Friendliness	9/6/2024 2:52 PM
209	Terrible	9/6/2024 2:38 PM
210	The only grocery is a chain that is the 2nd most expensive in indiana .	9/6/2024 2:38 PM
211	Idk much about it other than North Manchester or Wabash, so I can't speak on the county as a whole. I don't notice/know of any large industries here for employment.	9/6/2024 2:30 PM
212	Low paying jobs, no affordable decent housing and expensive to little available child care	9/6/2024 1:43 PM
213	I live in Manchester I've been here since 2011. I myself would not move to wabash.	9/6/2024 1:41 PM
214	Not enough grocery store variety, need more activities for young adults ages 13 - 20	9/6/2024 1:27 PM
215	We love it here. Lots to do if you want to do it. You can get as involved in the county as you want to. Or you don't have to. Lots of great natural resources in the county. Good working relationships between counties and towns. Friendly, helpful people.	9/6/2024 1:19 PM
216	Cost of living is very good, downside is not a lot of jobs that would attract younger people.	9/6/2024 1:14 PM
217	Because the only community that anyone tries to attract industry and businesses to, is the city of Wabash.	9/6/2024 1:04 PM
218	Safe with a low crime. Friendly people	9/6/2024 1:02 PM
219	dfgsf	9/6/2024 12:48 PM
220	schools are going woke. County tax rate, I believe second highest in the state. Increased non English speaking students is getting out of control. Some honest leadership would be nice. Less politics	9/6/2024 12:47 PM
221	Mainly farming and conservative	9/6/2024 12:46 PM
222	I checked "likely" but with this one reservation: The most serious drawback of Wabash County is its lack of diverse populations along with its failure to encourage and welcome diversity. WC has to become a place that is attractive to and welcoming of diverse populations.	9/6/2024 12:01 PM
223	Good place for children. More restaurants needed in N MANCHESTER	9/6/2024 11:09 AM
224	I would recommend it for people who are looking for a small-town or rural living experience. I would say that Wabash is actively interested in "rising."	9/6/2024 11:09 AM
225	Lack of retail stores	9/6/2024 11:04 AM
226	Lack of competitive income for jobs.	9/6/2024 10:59 AM

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227	Great community but downfall is people want more to do without driving a half hour or more	9/6/2024 10:58 AM
228	Wabash County is a place of peace, comfort and of welcome arrival. And it is close enough to larger cities to facilitate that connection.	9/6/2024 10:49 AM
229	The balance of rural, small town and access to larger cities is a plus I feel safe living as a single woman in north Manchester.	9/6/2024 10:46 AM
230	I would recommend Wabash County for its low cost of living; good primary, secondary, and higher education; good community; and safety.	9/6/2024 10:42 AM
231	I want to see Wabash county grow and prosper. Taxes are high (relative to some neighboring counties), but access to parks and trails is important to me. Small communities and businesses are important to me.	9/6/2024 10:39 AM
232	The store choice is walmart or dolla store both are so over priced you cant afford it ...the good restaurants close at 3 ... The "family" fun places arent afford able or are geared towards small kids, or people wont show up for work and the place is closed ...	9/6/2024 10:31 AM
233	Change of pace living in a growing community	9/6/2024 10:29 AM
234	Great community close to major cities but far enough away that we dont have to deal with the chaos of bigger cities	9/6/2024 10:23 AM
235	Nice county	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
236	I would only recommend it for people who are used to small town life. Coming from a big city, you lose a lot of options when it comes to food and entertainment.	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
237	I recommend it because the cost of living is lower than nearby cities. The issue is you have to find a job in other cities/counties because there's not many in Wabash county. Without creating jobs to connect residents more with the town they live in, how do you get buy in from them to make improvements to the community? I'm less invested in the small town I'm in because the majority of my day is spent 30 minutes away at my job.	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
238	Drug problems, single parents and irresponsible parents, too socially conservative, towns w unfocused goals.	9/6/2024 10:20 AM
239	Safe environment. City works to keep town clean n beautiful. People work together. 2nd Fridays are a big success. Good schools. University adds cultural element.	9/6/2024 10:16 AM
240	I would recommend. There are ample opportunities here to settle and raise a family. Ft Wayne is easily accessible if something is needed from a larger community.	9/6/2024 10:15 AM
241	Racism, poor housing opportunities, excessive drug presence, food deserts, poor job opportunities outside of Wabash City, lack of entertainment options, lack of friendliness from locals, politically unwelcoming	9/6/2024 10:13 AM
242	This county is a warm, safe, welcoming community.	9/6/2024 10:12 AM
243	Better cost of living than larger communities both in and out of state	9/6/2024 10:12 AM
244	There's not a whole lot to do here for older kids. Fun fest was better then 2nd Fridays. I do love the holiday parades that's awesome. I wish there was more things for the community to do together.	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
245	Manchester is such a lovely town	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
246	Great place to raise a family	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
247	It's safe and quiet, historic and beautiful	9/6/2024 10:10 AM
248	Small town values, low crime, no traffic jams	9/6/2024 10:09 AM
249	Peaceful place to live.	9/6/2024 10:09 AM
250	Lack of outdoor activities.	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
251	Not a lot of diversity here. Very limited restaurant options. Politically/socially conservative. Christian religious instruction offered during public school time.	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
252	Recreational options are limited and smaller towns. Housing is not affordable for young adults	9/6/2024 10:08 AM

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	or those unlimited incomes.	
253	No jobs no living places not enough help	9/6/2024 10:07 AM
254	Love the small, caring communities.	9/6/2024 10:05 AM
255	No good jobs and housing is too high (renters and mortgages)	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
256	I am 72 years old & have lived in this county for the large majority of my childhood & adult years. I taught in two of the three school districts in Wabash County, worked as a grant-paid member of the United Fund of Wabash County staff, and managed a small nonprofit business in downtown North Manchester for seven years. I have met & appreciated the caring people in our county as well as the wealth of opportunities afforded us as citizens here.	9/6/2024 10:02 AM
257	It's a quiet and peaceful town with great people! I'm an African American and I've lived in Nort Manchester over 2 years and have never felt out of place.	9/6/2024 10:01 AM
258	Excellent library programs, good environment to start/raise a family and very supportive communities	9/6/2024 10:00 AM
259	Wabash county is full of small communities trying to grow, these close knit communities are amazing for raising a family, it's safe, most of the time you'll see someone you know just driving to the store. With a growth in funds and population this county could prosper, especially with the county having a university!	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
260	Since living in Wabash county I have felt at home. The community shows they care about the neighborhoods and each other. There is a level of connectedness in Wabash county that is not easily found.	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
261	Public events are lackluster at best. Has been getting better but you can go elsewhere to do more fun things.	9/6/2024 9:58 AM
262	I am fond of North Manchester	9/6/2024 9:58 AM
263	I enjoy the community and area very well.	9/6/2024 9:56 AM
264	The school system in N Manchester seems to not be the greatest.	9/6/2024 9:55 AM
265	Nothing to do, no jobs, old houses, trying to get solar here	9/6/2024 9:54 AM
266	One of the highest income tax rates in the state but doesn't seem to be much to show for it compared to surrounding counties	9/6/2024 9:53 AM
267	I like the small town feel.	9/6/2024 9:52 AM
268	Poor infrastructure	9/6/2024 9:51 AM
269	Potential for improvements in housing and public amenities, culture and arts access, natural beauty and abundant water/soil/climate.	9/6/2024 9:49 AM
270	Low taxes, small town feel with bigger city resources, Honeywell and eagle theater.	9/6/2024 9:48 AM
271	would small rural Christian area	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
272	In general, people are very friendly, welcoming and kind. The town of North Manchester is a beautiful and safe space.	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
273	Access to resources, commitment by local leaders to improvement, proximity to larger metropolitan areas while maintaining a small town community,	9/6/2024 9:46 AM
274	Taxes are too high, but beyond that I find the County to be welcoming and a great location. While it doesn't have all the resources of larger towns, it is situated close enough to them that access isn't limited.	9/6/2024 9:46 AM
275	Lack of recreation, stiflingly conservative politics, lack of opportunities	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
276	Wabash County is a safe, caring, unique community with high quality amenities for all ages.	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
277	employment and affordable housing are two major issues	9/6/2024 9:43 AM
278	Not enough job opportunities for those who graduated grad school	9/6/2024 9:41 AM
279	The right amount of area activities and space for a balanced life style.	9/6/2024 9:39 AM

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280	After living here for the last 5 years we have seen very encouraging growth and innovation happening here!	9/5/2024 10:08 PM
281	It depends on what a person is looking for. I love it here but rural life is very different from city life and I wouldn't recommend it to someone who wants diverse dining options, diverse population (race, political views), etc.	9/5/2024 8:06 AM
282	I recommend it because it is a wonderful place to live for people of all ages..	9/4/2024 7:58 PM
283	We have great landscapes, abundant water sources, wonderful places to raise a family.	9/4/2024 7:50 PM
284	People here are great, sense of community is strong, cost of living is low, we have and are near to everything one would want to see/hear/do/eat/drink.	9/4/2024 4:04 PM
285	Great place to raise a family. Secure, inclusive and striving to get better.	9/4/2024 12:16 PM
286	I love the North Manchester Community and the connections you get with the people within the community.	9/4/2024 10:30 AM
287	Lack of housing especially in our beloved North Manchester. We lack the jobs that pay enough to afford the housing we are adding.	9/4/2024 9:23 AM
288	High taxes, limited high paying jobs	9/4/2024 8:09 AM
289	I would neither encourage nor discourage living here in Wabash County.	9/3/2024 11:48 PM
290	Poor government at the County level (comissioners)	9/3/2024 10:32 PM
291	The whole County has great people and it's a nice place to live	9/3/2024 10:14 PM
292	Because in the statement above. You said,"young people. "Nothing was said, About the old people and how to keep them here."	9/3/2024 5:40 PM
293	I recommend living in Wabash County because everyone is nice and friendly.	9/3/2024 5:23 PM
294	The employment opportunities are low, taxes are high, and housing is limited.	9/3/2024 5:12 PM
295	Wabash County is one of the highest taxed counties in the State of Indiana, a major downfall. If you can find a job here that pays decent, it is a great place to live because of the friendly people, our access to the river and reservoir, quaint small towns, good schools and a good location to get to Indy or Ft. Wayne.	9/3/2024 5:09 PM
296	need to see more housing	9/3/2024 4:58 PM
297	Just a lack of things to do. You have to be at a certain point in your life to appreciate what this county has to offer. I don't mind a slower pace but many young people need entertained constantly. We lack consistent nightlife and we lack indoor activities. Honeywell and Eagles can only do so much. We don't even have a nice bowling alley anymore. It's hard to talk people into living somewhere when they will have to drive an hour for things to do.	9/3/2024 11:29 AM
298	Wabash County is safe and an excellent place to raise a family or retire.	9/3/2024 10:50 AM
299	In my 8-plus years living here, I have been astounded by the level of engagement demonstrated by the Wabash County community. It is par for the course for the majority of Wabash County residents to be involved in SOME way in their community whether serving on a board, volunteering for programs and projects or rallying around a project or cause that would ultimately benefit Wabash County as a whole. The cost of living for Wabash County is also enviable compared to coastal or even Midwest-metro areas. You can afford a lot of life in Wabash County.	9/3/2024 10:42 AM
300	Housing is too high compared to surrounding counties, loosing population due to high housing and not enough amenities.	9/3/2024 10:42 AM
301	Great people, safe, low cost of living with great assets and amenities from parks, outdoor recreation, arts, culture, restaurants, and amazing festivals and activities for all ages.	9/3/2024 10:22 AM

Q7 If you answered neutral, unlikely, or very unlikely in question #5, what types of improvements would change your mind?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 201

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More good paying jobs and more more youth programs	10/19/2024 1:36 PM
2	I would love for there to be more interactive things to do on weeknights and weekends that create community, easy access to friendships and face to face interaction, and things that just overall get people excited and chatting - dancing, bar crawls, healthy food, DJs, a coffee shop that doesn't close at 4, etc.	10/14/2024 6:33 PM
3	I think we need to invest more time and resources in those entities that are focused on helping us evolve into a more open and inclusive county	10/10/2024 7:36 PM
4	N/A	10/10/2024 7:33 PM
5	See number 6	10/10/2024 6:22 PM
6	affordable housing, sustainable energy systems	10/10/2024 9:25 AM
7	I think the infrastructure to support a culture of outdoor health and fitness, would make the county more desirable, as would a movement towards more forward thinking.	10/9/2024 4:14 PM
8	I do not believe we do a great job of attracting young talent.	10/7/2024 12:16 PM
9	Rehashing from above: Jobs at all levels (Education and pay). Enough talking about it! Invest in education! Promote education efforts. HCC pretty much the same offerings as 30-40 years ago. I'm tired of eating at the same 4 or 5 establishments, and too many times the wait time its too long. Then what do I do afterwards? I can't afford a show at the Honeywell more than every few months.	10/4/2024 2:29 PM
10	New leadership, Town is run by old people who are not in touch with the needs of the community, they do not talk to the community, they destroyed the community events such as Fun Fest, the police target and racially profile college students, especially from out of the country and back students that has harmed the reputation of MU and enrollment is down.	10/4/2024 2:28 PM
11	I don't think there's anything that could be funded by a grant.	10/4/2024 2:03 PM
12	Spread the shopping, jobs and recreation throughout the county.	10/4/2024 11:27 AM
13	Look at the school system. It is lacking in so many ways. The staff is so overwhelmed that there is no community as we are trying to keep our heads above water	10/4/2024 10:39 AM
14	The county gives little incentive for our youth to remain in the county and even less incentive to attract others. I've watched this for fifty years and I can no longer identify how to reverse that.	10/4/2024 10:15 AM
15	We need an organization that actually advocates for business development to create jobs and growth in the community that would then bring growth in the population. Manchester has specifically turned away business growth opportunities claiming that Manchester just wants to be a bedroom community to other areas. That is both short-sighted and completely counter to what the county is trying to do.	10/4/2024 10:07 AM
16	Bring in businesses that attract families to want to work here.	10/4/2024 9:53 AM
17	I still think that housing is the BIGGEST issue that prices people out beyond needing higher paying jobs.	10/2/2024 1:20 PM
18	Affordable housing with affordable taxes, public transportation that has timed stops, More creative and green spaces such as smart housing, Ampitheater in the park with maybe statues as well, drug enforcement, move the factories out of the city . Its nice to spend time outside even if you are not an athlete.	10/2/2024 10:03 AM

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19	High paying jobs, affordable housing, decrease taxes on homeowners/property owners. Raise sales tax.	10/1/2024 2:17 PM
20	Leaders need to worry more about the people here and less about changing to bring in quantities of people. If they like us as we are, then they will move here. Those of us here shouldn't have to accept third world cultures. Forget the sister city stuff. Make America great again.	10/1/2024 12:04 PM
21	I would like for there to be more open mindedness among all residents of the county. Some people are not open to hearing how progressive people think, are not open to the ethnic diversity of our county, etc. I want to have a safer community for all.	10/1/2024 10:46 AM
22	Please see #6 above.	9/30/2024 8:45 PM
23	I don't know enough about Wabash County to recommend or not. Other than I know it is somewhat rural & that I like as opposed to a large city.	9/30/2024 8:17 PM
24	See #1---Tax rate to high for seniors approaching retirement age. Not sure why we have to continue to pay taxes to rebuild/remodel schools. When many of our kids and grand kids have moved away from Wabash County.	9/29/2024 10:27 PM
25	Lower our household bills.	9/29/2024 4:55 PM
26	We need jobs that pay a living wage.	9/28/2024 7:25 AM
27	Better supported public schools, informal education and job skills programs that allow for a more diverse workforce and a more marketable workforce.	9/27/2024 8:48 PM
28	Jobs that can provide for a family.	9/27/2024 3:12 PM
29	number 6	9/27/2024 2:34 PM
30	Lower taxes, build affordable housing, build a homeless shelter, offer more on the south side of town, take better care of roads, bring more grocery stores to town.	9/27/2024 12:58 PM
31	Plant more trees	9/27/2024 12:37 PM
32	N/A	9/27/2024 12:28 PM
33	State issues such as school funding, cannabis access, and women's reproductive rights	9/27/2024 11:31 AM
34	More opportunities like the Hispanic Heritage Festival in North Manchester that would demonstrate our county as welcoming	9/27/2024 8:41 AM
35	New businesses moving in. Vibrant businesses downtown like Roanoke or Wabash. Healthy dining options. Used to have 2 Chinese food options.	9/27/2024 8:33 AM
36	Lower property taxes!	9/27/2024 7:16 AM
37	more attractions and perhaps an Aldi	9/27/2024 7:12 AM
38	More handicap access !!	9/27/2024 2:04 AM
39	I work a lot so I'm not out in the community as much as I once was, so at this time...I'm not sure. I do know that I am concerned for the youth in the area and there seems to be very little investment in our teenagers and finding out what they would like to see in the community and what would persuade them to stay as adults.	9/26/2024 10:38 PM
40	Better shopping facilities! More grocery stores.	9/26/2024 9:29 PM
41	N/a	9/26/2024 8:01 PM
42	NA	9/26/2024 6:54 PM
43	Invite stores that offer options like Lowe's, Target, automobile repair companies.	9/26/2024 5:26 PM
44	Lower property taxes	9/26/2024 3:41 PM
45	better paying jobs	9/26/2024 11:13 AM
46	Bringing in businesses that pay more. Even if those businesses are in competition with the local mom and pop stores. If pay is higher, people have more money to spend at mom and pop stores.	9/26/2024 10:46 AM

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47	More attainable housing, taking care of the sewage smell, more job positions	9/26/2024 9:34 AM
48	Read Answer 6.	9/26/2024 9:27 AM
49	Better parks and paved connected paths for cycling. Hiking	9/26/2024 8:42 AM
50	More affordable housing and groceries	9/26/2024 8:36 AM
51	We need high paying jobs with good benefits	9/24/2024 3:29 PM
52	Answered in question 6.	9/24/2024 1:32 PM
53	N/A	9/24/2024 1:25 PM
54	N/A	9/24/2024 8:47 AM
55	N/A	9/23/2024 8:55 PM
56	Focus on helping people rather than trying to do public events with all the thrills that reach those that can afford it. DORA/NOT....focus on getting help for people, incentives to get landlords to clean up property. What is wrong with people that can't get a garden hose and/or bucket of water and clean the green the crap off your siding etc. You drive through the town and it is noticable. Try to prevent the influx of drugs, druggies into our county. Take note of arrests and not Wabash people but here to bring us down. Check the ingredients of stuff some of gas stations are selling...hear about the shell station???? Ask people to take pride by cleaning up their yards, front porch, mowing, etc. come into Wabash....people wearing unsightly p.j's etc. Make people tear down or fix unsafe/unsightly residents. That place on main street just to west of post office has been an eye sore, unsafe for several years. someone buys works a little leaves for about a year. until the back of the house falls down over the bottom nothing is done. they were there and then gone about a month and now back. heard rebuilding....check roof that is left still has burned hole. This is just one of many sights.	9/20/2024 10:17 PM
57	Having a more vibrant downtown in North Manchester would help. That's why I like the river boardwalk idea. Once we get the new park across the river, the downtown vibe would benefit greatly from a focus toward the river instead of away from it. I can see the twinkly white lights, the tables filled with patrons.	9/20/2024 5:05 PM
58	N/A	9/20/2024 9:19 AM
59	More parks	9/20/2024 12:21 AM
60	More openness to "outsiders" that aren't just like me	9/19/2024 1:13 PM
61	Seeing clear commitment from community leaders to valuing and promoting cultural, sexual/gender identity, and racial diversity (2nd Fridays' Hispanic Heritage Festival and the county Diversity Coalition are good starts—more please!). Seeing investment in public art, a trail network, and continued commitment to community events like 1st and 2nd Fridays. Illingness to ask taxpayers to invest in the common good instead of always talking of slashing taxes to let those with money keep more of it - which shows valuing the individual far more than the community and contributes to keeping us more walled off from one another.	9/18/2024 11:53 PM
62	Need higher paying jobs.	9/18/2024 6:36 PM
63	More median paying jobs	9/18/2024 1:40 PM
64	Safe sidewalks and bike access to fresh food sources, groceries, daily needs, and places of employment.	9/18/2024 12:44 PM
65	Bring in high quality job opportunities.	9/18/2024 11:30 AM
66	More jobs and sit down restaurants.	9/17/2024 2:39 PM
67	N/A	9/13/2024 8:04 PM
68	More community events	9/13/2024 7:52 PM
69	none	9/13/2024 5:20 PM
70	More music and community involvement.	9/9/2024 1:46 PM
71	More activities for children of all ages to do	9/8/2024 6:03 PM

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72	Bring in life. That's not just business but community support. Hell, we had a fun fest and now we don't. We have the deadheads running things.	9/8/2024 12:59 PM
73	A good walking trail out in the country around 400 and Laketon Road (1000N).affordable housing. Lower taxes. Splash park in Roann,I am glad a Dollar General is being built	9/8/2024 12:35 PM
74	More industry	9/8/2024 9:55 AM
75	Better jobs and more arts and music in schools	9/8/2024 7:40 AM
76	Cleaner air, lower property taxes & transportation to connect towns to Fort Wayne.	9/7/2024 8:55 PM
77	Taking care of empty college spaces, dilapidated structures and attracting useful (grocery stores i.e.)	9/7/2024 7:14 PM
78	Support for local commercial / business / industry to provide employment for county residents	9/7/2024 6:23 PM
79	Better use of local rivers and trails to enhance quality of life experiences. More welcoming of diverse populations. More job opportunities for young professionals.	9/7/2024 2:09 PM
80	Begin deep rooted development in industries and occupations that are careers, not jobs. Leverage partnerships with MU to show students this county can be a home. We need to fight for growth oriented families if we want a growth oriented county. Content families don't care and this county is full of content families.	9/7/2024 12:46 PM
81	NA	9/7/2024 10:53 AM
82	New playgrounds- that are modern and sensory friendly. Please look up Wear Farm City Park and Wabash city park for reference of modern/sensory friendly. & turf grass. It would be lovely to have some shade provided at Thomas marshal as we frequent this park due to how close it is to our house. Wear Farm city park in Tennessee was phenomenal with shade/sensory and just overall modern equipment. Better access to help if you are a family in need. Such as BABE or healthy affordable food. Help for senior citizens and disable citizens.	9/7/2024 9:00 AM
83	Add things that young people like to do such as entertainment businesses aka bowling alley, ice skating rink, mini movie theater, whatever. Not as much to do in Manchester and smaller areas where at least 2-3 things could thrive on a small scale to help support options for children and young adults increase are possible with promotion to these businesses...	9/6/2024 7:04 PM
84	Healthy food options, diverse stores with international flavor, more affordable housing.	9/6/2024 5:50 PM
85	No idea. Just need change.	9/6/2024 5:21 PM
86	More good paying jobs less food restaurants an too much lower income individuals which leads to drugs an not enough rehabs we need good jobs	9/6/2024 3:41 PM
87	Better public transit.	9/6/2024 3:35 PM
88	All	9/6/2024 2:38 PM
89	Same answer as in #6	9/6/2024 1:43 PM
90	More grocery stores in North Manchester, need more activities for ages 13 - 20 and even for younger kids. Parents have to drive out of town for for there kids to do anything	9/6/2024 1:27 PM
91	I would market the attractiveness of the industrial park and low cost of living in North Manchester.	9/6/2024 1:04 PM
92	sdfgdfg	9/6/2024 12:48 PM
93	Property tax decrease. Awhile back county tax rate and vehicle registrations were higher which was to lower property tax and now property tax through the roof. Typical politics. Some honest leaders would be nice.	9/6/2024 12:47 PM
94	Improved health facilities, better restaurants, more diversity	9/6/2024 12:46 PM
95	Need more well paying diverse work opportunities	9/6/2024 10:59 AM
96	Unique destination items. Wabash county needs more places people want to spend the day or evening. Think beach, winery, event hall, but maybe more on the lines of fair oaks	9/6/2024 10:58 AM
97	We need more job opportunities and economic development	9/6/2024 10:42 AM

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98	Idk.. there are rude managers at fastfood telling customers to f off when the ored is not correct, people wont or dont care about themself enough to care about the job, they talk bad about working there while you are shopping or eating , i do not see community closeness, ive been here 8 years there are some who smile and say hello but most if you dont attend their place of worship or on their kids team you get ignored or talked down too... I have worked here volunteered and now am disabled and take my grandkids to the parks and i see the ugliness... I see the trying to improve as well but we have a long way to go	9/6/2024 10:31 AM
99	N/A	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
100	Besides more jobs, improvement of roads I have to travel to get to my job in another county. Even town streets could use updating.	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
101	Some of the wording feels "over the top". I understand about being enthusiastic and wanting to sell our county and communities but it also needs to sound like we are taking a realistic look at ourselves.	9/6/2024 10:15 AM
102	Social awareness from locals, more community involvement focused more towards younger generations, more entertainment options other than food, more diversity in town/city councils, affordable grocery options in the small towns, more inclusive housing opportunities for those with pets	9/6/2024 10:13 AM
103	Bring Fun Fest back and Have more community activities. Our town is small and home like feeling but we could do better. I'd love to help some time with planning.	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
104	Let's bring outdoor activities. Live bands, adult activities, trails, etc	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
105	Separate church from public school. (The "Lifewise academy" makes me seriously consider moving OUT of the county. It feels so divisive to anyone not a Christian.) Invest in arts and music education at all levels. invest in high quality daycare and pre-K services. Focus on making our schools outstanding and people will come.	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
106	Invest in small business to afford employing more people within the county. Business's seem very worn down for the cost of housing.	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
107	More housing jobs and resources to help	9/6/2024 10:07 AM
108	Bringing higher paying job to wabash county and lower housing costs that includes mortgages and renters	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
109	N/A	9/6/2024 10:01 AM
110	N/a	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
111	Need more events or entertainment businesses to go to.	9/6/2024 9:58 AM
112	Lower property taxes	9/6/2024 9:58 AM
113	Get rid of imagine one 85	9/6/2024 9:54 AM
114	Keep improving downtown Wabash and Manchester. Keep promoting community events. Attract a decent restaurant or diner to Manchester.	9/6/2024 9:53 AM
115	New leadership	9/6/2024 9:51 AM
116	More blue collar jobs- this has been my gripe with Wabash City... they're so ambitious to become a boutique and bistro community. Meanwhile permanent residents have suffered for decades. More meaningful, skilled labor jobs. More support for public schools.	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
117	It sounds insincere. Like a used car salesman line.	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
118	improving reasonable jobs and house availability	9/6/2024 9:43 AM
119	Give more job opportunities	9/6/2024 9:41 AM
120	N/A	9/4/2024 7:58 PM
121	We could do better with lower taxes for everyone. Lower property taxes to start with.	9/4/2024 7:50 PM
122	We need an enforcement officer that actually keeps properties up. He sends letters but doesn't follow up or enforce. We have a lot of run down properties or some with just simply junk everywhere in North Manchester.	9/4/2024 9:23 AM

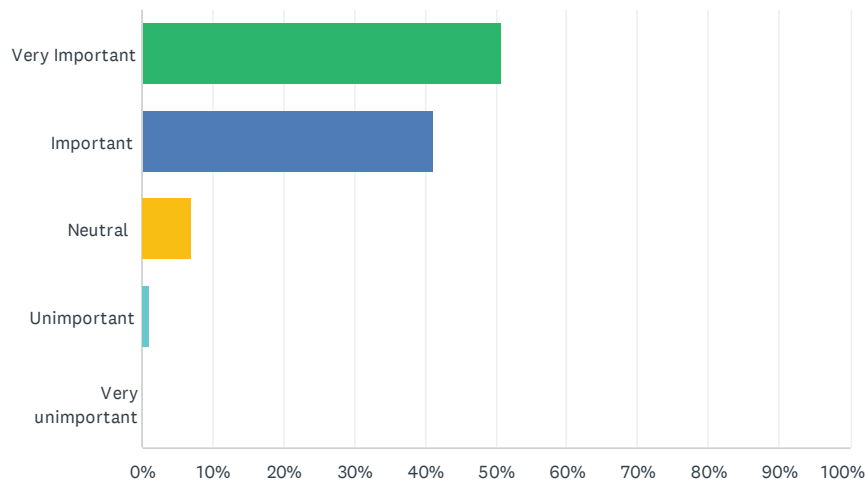
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123	Lowering taxes or brining in more jobs	9/4/2024 8:09 AM
124	I would like to see our county and city/town leaders encourage participation in the political processes of public town halls, voting, and commissioner meetings when the average person can attend and ask questions in person (not at 9:00 am -- 6:00 would be a much better time). Our county needs a reliable news resource that hasn't been reduced to a once weekly publication and relies on more than Facebook to relay important matters to local citizens. It would be awesome if Wabash city planners understood that a newly built 2,000 SF home listed for \$345,000 IS NOT AFFORDABLE HOUSING! This is especially true when 55% of school-aged children in this county live below the poverty level. Our city and towns would greatly benefit from having stores where the rents don't cause entrepreneur retailers to immediately go broke. The number of empty storefronts in our municipalities is absurd! (Make it painful for commercial property owners to allow their spaces to go empty, which also makes them an attractive nuisance.) Actively invite artists and other creators to live, work, and sell their creations here (see the comment on store rents above) and make sure they know that their liberal ideas are welcome in this county. Let's set a livable wage minimum because \$9.00/hour isn't enough to keep people here from being homeless. We need leaders who understand the benefits of a well operated animal shelter with a highly qualified animal control officer. We need those leaders to also understand that Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) programs are highly effective in controlling the exploding feral cat populations throughout the county. We need a justice system that works to help those who want treatment and to keep families healthy, both physically and mentally. And, as stated before, update our government website so that potential visitors don't laugh when they look at it. Everything else -- marketing, branding, trail connections, etc. -- is simply window dressing.	9/3/2024 11:48 PM
125	Because some people think you have your house and yard,the same as everyone else. Like they think you have to keep up with the Jones.	9/3/2024 5:40 PM
126	Bring jobs in	9/3/2024 5:12 PM
127	All of my family that still lives here wants to live here. All of my family that has moved away, will never move back here because they like bigger cities and vote democrat.	9/3/2024 5:09 PM
128	no housing unless you have thousands of dollars	9/3/2024 4:58 PM
129	Basically anything in my answer for question #6. Anything that remedies boredom that does NOT include outdoor activities.	9/3/2024 11:29 AM
130	None	9/3/2024 10:50 AM

Q8 How important is it for the county and towns to invest in infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer, and/or stormwater?

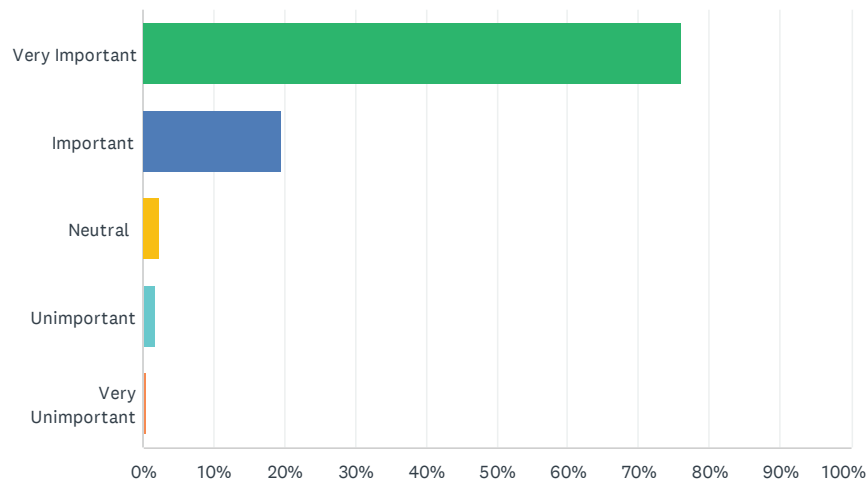
Answered: 309 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Important	50.81%	157
Important	41.10%	127
Neutral	7.12%	22
Unimportant	0.97%	3
Very unimportant	0.00%	0
TOTAL		309

Q9 How important is it for the county, and its partners, to create and preserve affordable housing options?

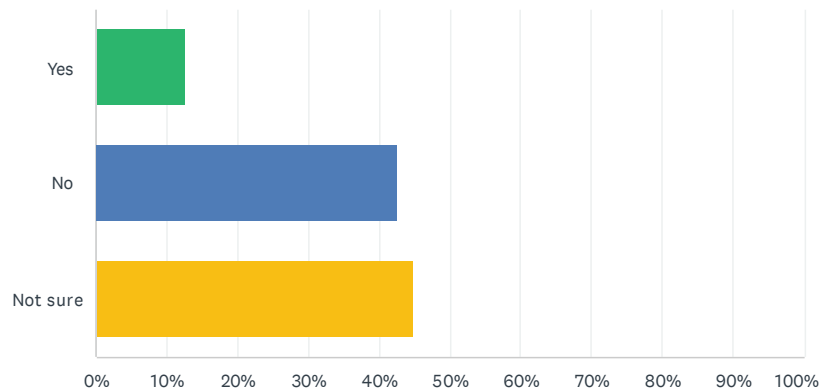
Answered: 311 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Important	76.21%	237
Important	19.61%	61
Neutral	2.25%	7
Unimportant	1.61%	5
Very Unimportant	0.32%	1
TOTAL		311

Q10 Do you feel the county has the appropriate programs in place to assist low to moderate-income individuals in obtaining housing?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 19



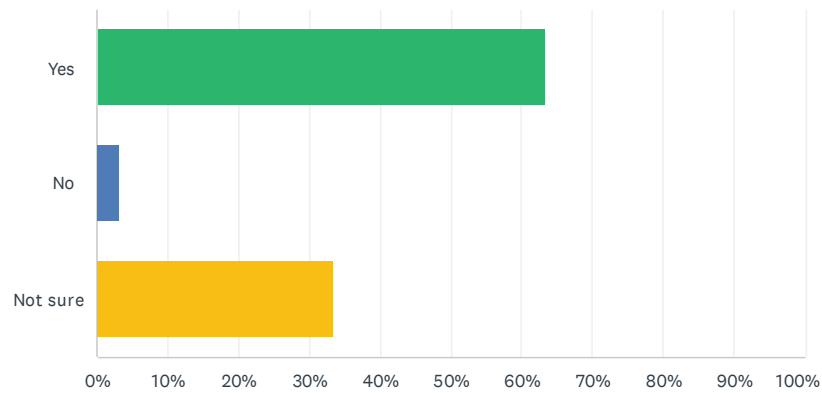
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	12.50%	39
No	42.63%	133
Not sure	44.87%	140
TOTAL		312

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Q11 Do you feel a housing infill program would positively impact the communities in Wabash County?

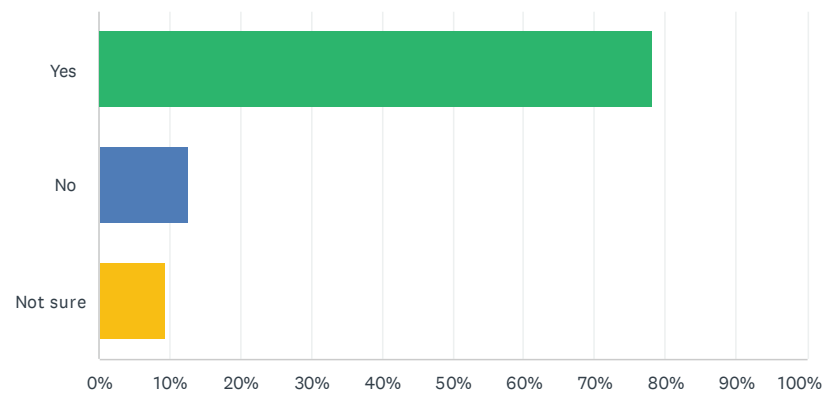
Answered: 311 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.34%	197
No	3.22%	10
Not sure	33.44%	104
TOTAL		311

Q12 Do you feel the residents of the smaller communities would benefit from additional park and recreational opportunities?

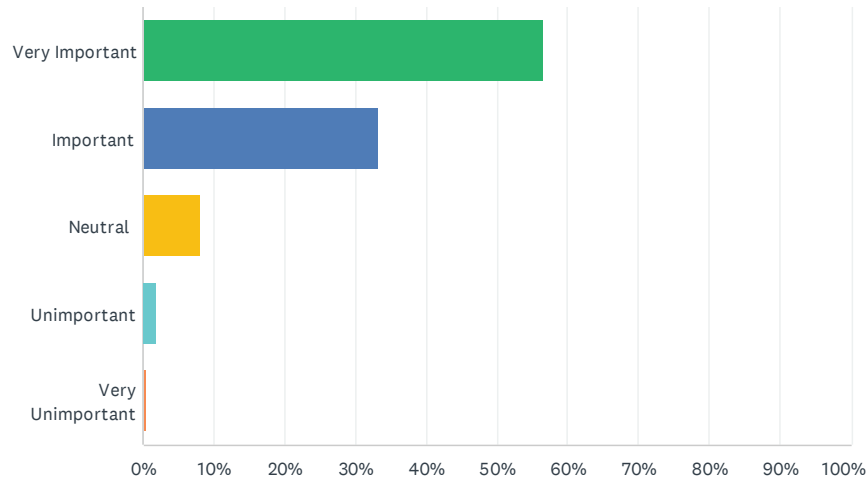
Answered: 312 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	78.21%	244
No	12.50%	39
Not sure	9.29%	29
TOTAL		312

Q13 How important is it for the county, and its partners, to provide facilities for underserved populations such as people with disabilities, low-income residents, and/or senior citizens?

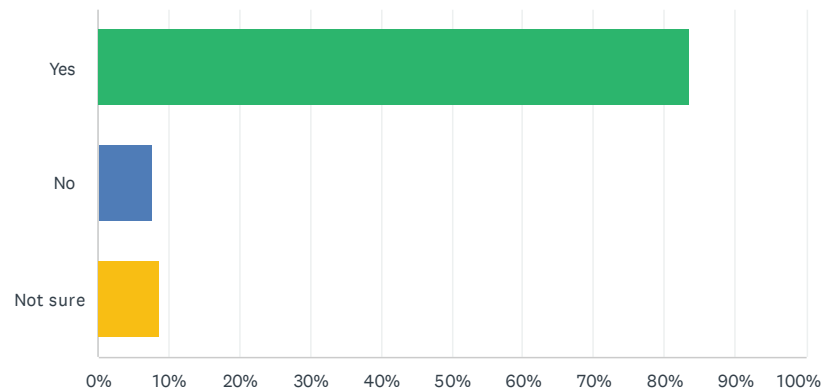
Answered: 312 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Important	56.41%	176
Important	33.33%	104
Neutral	8.01%	25
Unimportant	1.92%	6
Very Unimportant	0.32%	1
TOTAL		312

Q14 Do you feel the residents of the smaller communities would benefit from access to a more convenient grocery store?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 19



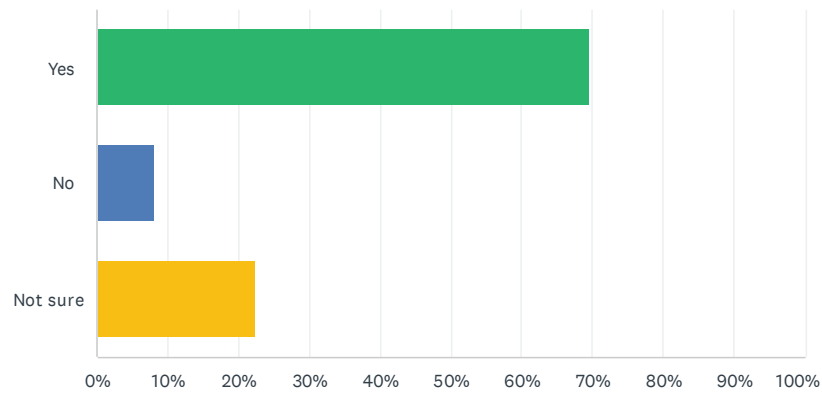
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.65%	261
No	7.69%	24
Not sure	8.65%	27
TOTAL		312

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Q15 Do you feel the residents of the smaller communities would benefit from a food service program?

Answered: 312 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.55%	217
No	8.01%	25
Not sure	22.44%	70
TOTAL		312

Q16 What other health-related resources or programs are needed in Wabash County?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 140

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Additional transportation options	10/21/2024 10:05 AM
2	More accessible transportation for seniors that need to get to medical care	10/19/2024 1:37 PM
3	A place for healthy, affordable food ready to eat!!!	10/14/2024 6:35 PM
4	Disability Respite Care	10/14/2024 8:54 AM
5	More adaptable playgrounds and resources for people and families with disabled loved ones.	10/10/2024 9:08 PM
6	More in town Drs for GI , ENT, Pain Management, Endo, OB, so you don't have to be bussed to Ft Wayne if you're possibly dying of a stomach bleed! We just need to market our cost of living and entertainment poss, in comparison to the bigger cities, and they can charge the same prices, and have an endless clientele	10/10/2024 8:57 PM
7	Family Medicine	10/10/2024 8:43 PM
8	Grocery store on the south end of Wabash	10/10/2024 8:39 PM
9	Subsidized health food options to Lower income families	10/10/2024 7:37 PM
10	More supports for people with disabilities, especially those that are job and employment training programs.	10/10/2024 7:34 PM
11	A more affordable option than the Ymca to have an exercise community.	10/10/2024 6:25 PM
12	Some better and safer walking and biking path access would help create a healthier culture.	10/9/2024 4:16 PM
13	?	10/9/2024 2:14 AM
14	Lower costs of prescription medications, more access to groceries, dialysis center	10/5/2024 12:31 PM
15	more choices other than Parkview. They are the only think in the county and now they are	10/4/2024 4:00 PM
16	Housing for poverty level such as HUD. Home prices for low income starting at under \$100k.	10/4/2024 3:30 PM
17	North Manchester would benefit from a part time urgent care clinic	10/4/2024 11:30 AM
18	Restore Women Infant and Children clinic in our town.	10/4/2024 11:23 AM
19	Nutrition education for children.	10/4/2024 11:16 AM
20	Illegal drug use prevention and related education programs	10/4/2024 11:11 AM
21	Walmart	10/4/2024 11:07 AM
22	Better accessible buildings. Some are off the list for disabled because there is no way to get in the establishment.	10/4/2024 10:42 AM
23	Mental health	10/4/2024 10:36 AM
24	Unsure	10/4/2024 10:17 AM
25	Healthcare advocacy and language interpretation services	10/4/2024 10:17 AM
26	We need more health care options other than Parkview who is a monopolizing the health care system in Wabash county while simultaneously refusing to accept certain insurances such as Humana Medicare HMO and others. As a non-profit organization who benefits from the taxpayer exemptions for example not paying property taxes not paying taxes on revenue yet at the same time harming the health of the community that is unacceptable. Parkview also is getting paid tax money to provide ambulance service on the north end of the county but yet	10/4/2024 10:10 AM

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	bills enough money and makes enough profit that no subsidy is needed and the fact that we're paying them just to have an office is likewise a waste.	
27	Anything care related outside of Parkview and their greed	10/4/2024 9:55 AM
28	Medical transportation	10/4/2024 9:54 AM
29	Nothing	10/4/2024 9:49 AM
30	Mental health facilities	10/3/2024 9:05 PM
31	more advanced addiction programs	10/2/2024 9:43 PM
32	Better, more convenient, and stronger public transportation	10/2/2024 1:21 PM
33	Drug enforcement, mental health help that is affordable, and research as we have a very high Cancer rate.	10/2/2024 10:17 AM
34	Dialysis center.	10/1/2024 2:19 PM
35	It is not government's job to "create" housing. Zoning ordinances should accommodate those wanting to build homes. Promote industry that will bring in residents that will contribute to society and not bleed the healthcare and education systems. Keep our school systems separate and small so that families have a choice in what type of system they want.	10/1/2024 12:15 PM
36	Third spaces, population health education	10/1/2024 5:50 AM
37	Food Resources: Full grocery store on south side of Wabash, provide more free immunizations for all ages	9/30/2024 11:21 PM
38	I feel Wabash could benefit from a male clinic. We have the Life Center that meets the needs of women and children but there isn't anything for males. I know of quite a few men that do not go to the doctor for their male needs because they don't want to risk the embarrassment of telling a female their issues.	9/30/2024 11:15 PM
39	I can't think of any that aren't listed above	9/30/2024 8:47 PM
40	Transportation at a reasonable rate	9/30/2024 8:19 PM
41	Community education and resources on diabetes, childhood and adult obesity	9/30/2024 5:27 PM
42	Wabash County has good programs for health already	9/30/2024 4:26 PM
43	As stated before, an overnight homeless shelter	9/30/2024 3:33 PM
44	More easy access to Doctors. My Dad moved up here from Lafayette in August 2024. The earliest I could get him in to see a Primary care Doctor was November. He needs specialists to take care his physical and mental needs.	9/29/2024 10:32 PM
45	na	9/29/2024 9:00 PM
46	affordable medical care	9/29/2024 7:20 PM
47	I am not sure what is in place currently so I cannot answer this.	9/28/2024 5:29 PM
48	In the city of Wabash Parkview will have health fairs twice a year I think it would be nice to have these also in the smaller towns once a year where residents can get basic health tests a low or no cost and then bawd upon those results a follow up where the resident can b directed to other resources if further testing or care is needed. The results are given to the patient but it has been my experience there is no follow up it's just for your own knowledge and residents may not have a family doctor to advise them or know what to do to get needed health care.	9/28/2024 8:30 AM
49	Summer food program for children.	9/28/2024 7:27 AM
50	Anything really. Everything is so far away.	9/28/2024 12:28 AM
51	Family planning, programs focusing on mental health for people of all ages- Bowen Center is not enough.	9/27/2024 8:49 PM
52	A free clinic for those that can't afford a huge medical bill.	9/27/2024 3:15 PM
53	More affordable health care	9/27/2024 1:25 PM

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54	I would like to see more co-ops to provide fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the county, not just one Saturday farmers market.	9/27/2024 1:01 PM
55	Plant more trees	9/27/2024 12:39 PM
56	N/A	9/27/2024 12:30 PM
57	Not sure about this one	9/27/2024 11:57 AM
58	child birth mortality rate	9/27/2024 11:33 AM
59	Indoor public recreation asset available on Sundays	9/27/2024 11:22 AM
60	Eliminate food deserts	9/27/2024 9:05 AM
61	more health partnerships to provide provider choice	9/27/2024 8:42 AM
62	Healthy dining/restaurant, like Panera.	9/27/2024 8:35 AM
63	Family doctors	9/27/2024 8:28 AM
64	Not sure where the gaps currently are.	9/27/2024 8:14 AM
65	programs to help people who don't qualify for public assistance	9/27/2024 7:14 AM
66	Unknown.	9/26/2024 10:46 PM
67	Drop in recovery center with Mobile response teams, resource navigator and peer recovery programs.	9/26/2024 10:16 PM
68	More physicians and physician assistants.	9/26/2024 8:59 PM
69	More specialists visiting Parkview	9/26/2024 8:50 PM
70	Drug Rehabilitation Programs	9/26/2024 8:10 PM
71	not sure	9/26/2024 6:56 PM
72	More walking trails	9/26/2024 6:46 PM
73	More licensed child care	9/26/2024 6:46 PM
74	Recreational opportunities for adults.	9/26/2024 6:08 PM
75	N/A	9/26/2024 4:58 PM
76	The county population in general needs a greater appreciation for and commitment to a healthy living lifestyle.	9/26/2024 3:51 PM
77	medical	9/26/2024 11:15 AM
78	Homeless shelter, making landlords maintain their rentals	9/26/2024 10:49 AM
79	I don't necessarily agree with a housing infill program unless we have already exhausted the available housing that currently exists. Funds spent to improve the current available housing could free up funds to be spent elsewhere, like on environmental clean up and consistent maintenance. The larger we grow, the more need for environmental funding. Wabash County is a collection of small, beautiful towns. We don't want to become overcrowded cities.	9/26/2024 10:33 AM
80	Better and more accessible healthcare options	9/26/2024 9:35 AM
81	Help finding health insurance for people who can't get government assistance	9/26/2024 9:32 AM
82	Health services that address wellness	9/26/2024 8:59 AM
83	Free transportation to shopping as in across 24 to get to Walmart etc	9/26/2024 8:43 AM
84	A hospital that cares about their community. Parkview takes in millions from the community and they brag about creating a walking path and a tiny parking lot for the community.	9/25/2024 7:25 AM
85	meals on wheels	9/24/2024 3:21 PM
86	Mental Health Resources for our youth.	9/24/2024 3:11 PM
87	Access to free or inexpensive physicals can be an opportunity to catch something more	9/24/2024 3:08 PM

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	dangerous early on.	
88	Opioid rescue kits and addiction help.	9/24/2024 1:35 PM
89	Counseling for addiction and mental health that is free or very low cost.	9/24/2024 1:29 PM
90	medication help (free or low cost)	9/24/2024 1:23 PM
91	Health-mobile to travel to underserved communities for regular checkups, BP checks and wellness checks.	9/24/2024 1:11 PM
92	Free/low cost healthcare for those without insurance or expensive insurance.	9/24/2024 8:49 AM
93	N/A	9/23/2024 8:56 PM
94	A better option for a homeless shelter would be amazing	9/23/2024 11:58 AM
95	unsure	9/23/2024 10:54 AM
96	Attract family physicians	9/22/2024 6:52 PM
97	Access to free birth control, more childcare, restaurants that serve healthier foods	9/21/2024 9:46 AM
98	assist with utilities more, drug/alcohol programs, help those that can't work because of mental or physical issues	9/20/2024 10:19 PM
99	Education for adult trades, develop US highway 24 as a crossroad and bridge the gap to larger city needs	9/20/2024 9:25 AM
100	More in general	9/20/2024 12:28 AM
101	nearby emergency health	9/19/2024 1:16 PM
102	Food addiction / ultra processed food addiction	9/18/2024 6:39 PM
103	Flexible hours, non-appointment clinic and available transportation?	9/18/2024 12:47 PM
104	Resources are good. Availability of doctors is a problem	9/18/2024 11:32 AM
105	Indoor gyms with more affordable rates	9/18/2024 9:31 AM
106	County wide code enforcement	9/14/2024 2:55 PM
107	In home care	9/14/2024 11:27 AM
108	N/A	9/13/2024 8:05 PM
109	Homeless/Warming Shelter	9/13/2024 7:51 PM
110	Dental clinic	9/13/2024 6:27 PM
111	Low, to no, interest loans for small business startups.	9/13/2024 5:51 PM
112	healthcare	9/13/2024 5:22 PM
113	Example: Francis Mobile Mammogram service is great and we should have more of this type of services for all.	9/9/2024 1:48 PM
114	More access that's affordable on mental health	9/8/2024 6:05 PM
115	Realible, dependable transportation for the handicapped	9/8/2024 1:04 PM
116	More senior activity	9/8/2024 9:57 AM
117	Needle exchange, gun buybacks	9/8/2024 7:40 AM
118	Medical,housing,dental assistance	9/8/2024 1:16 AM
119	Doctor transportation to Fort Wayne for senior citizens & disabled without cars.	9/7/2024 9:05 PM
120	Easier access to physicians/ immediate care	9/7/2024 7:16 PM
121	Unknown to me	9/7/2024 6:35 PM
122	lindatroop	9/7/2024 2:09 PM

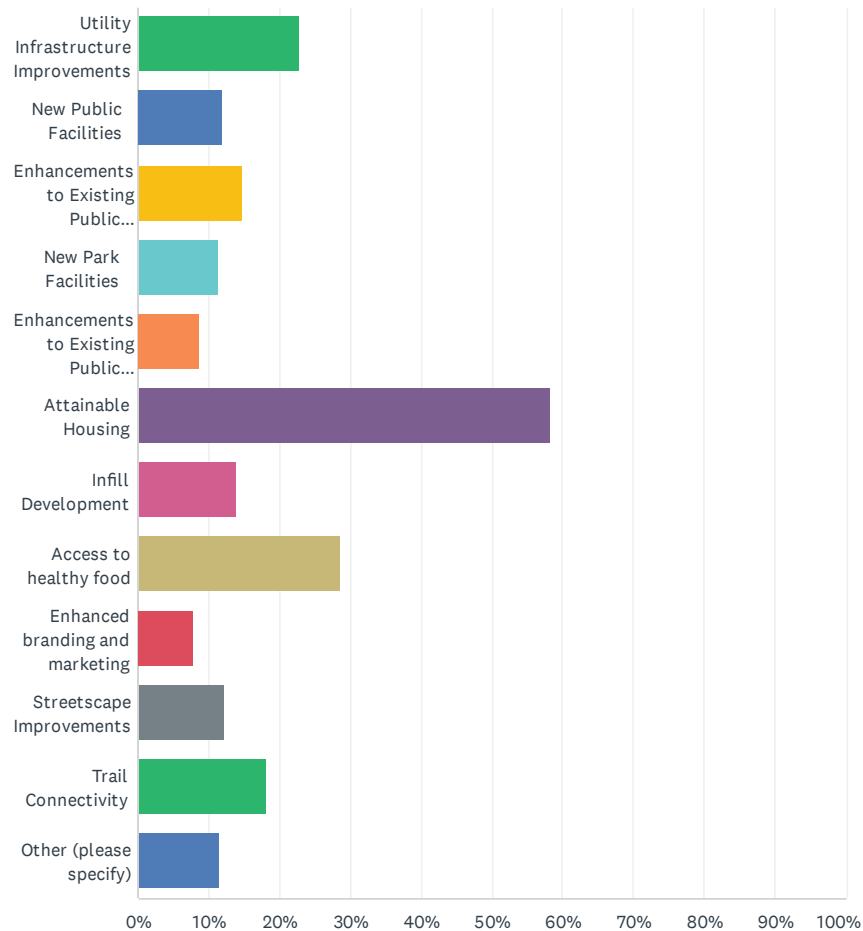
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123	Unhealthy people/families are typically near or below poverty levels due to bills and lack of ability to work. We need to prioritize making and keeping graduates healthy, work with in county farms to produce crops for schools and create stores and markets open daily for fresh foods. More healthcare related transportation for low income families. Create a healthcare consortium for medical professionals to oversee programs.	9/7/2024 12:55 PM
124	More healthy food options	9/7/2024 10:55 AM
125	Clinical and research based mental health service.	9/7/2024 8:49 AM
126	Walk in path	9/6/2024 11:24 PM
127	Natural Family Planning Instructors 🏠 Chastity education	9/6/2024 8:58 PM
128	Affordable healthcare, handicapped transportation to nearby counties	9/6/2024 8:42 PM
129	This is more a response for mental health rather than physical . I think there needs to be more spaces that dont require money to be spent so people can really come together with no financial pressure to make real community . I think fostering real community between citizens will help with mental health a lot and in turn create a thriving city/county	9/6/2024 8:09 PM
130	Cheaper gym membership access to the pool. It is out of scope for most families budget comparative to say private based gym memberships.	9/6/2024 7:07 PM
131	Healthy restaurants	9/6/2024 5:52 PM
132	Better public transit.	9/6/2024 3:37 PM
133	I have no issues with resources. We have good pharmacies, clinics, and 85 Hope (among others) that do a great job.	9/6/2024 2:59 PM
134	More doctors	9/6/2024 2:55 PM
135	Get involved to stop harrpa and cloud seeding programs it's pure pollution.	9/6/2024 2:42 PM
136	Babysitting, daily care for families,	9/6/2024 2:40 PM
137	Mental health, drug addiction and women's health	9/6/2024 1:46 PM
138	??	9/6/2024 1:21 PM
139	More in home care for disabled younger adults	9/6/2024 1:03 PM
140	I believe there are enough free handouts	9/6/2024 12:49 PM
141	More specialists, more diversity	9/6/2024 12:48 PM
142	urgent care, or 24 hour clinic	9/6/2024 11:06 AM
143	None	9/6/2024 10:59 AM
144	Assistance program that helps with insurance costs for one who wants out of poverty but cannot make the jump due to financial burdens issues.	9/6/2024 10:52 AM
145	Supplment stores	9/6/2024 10:51 AM
146	I think it is the working poor who need assistance.	9/6/2024 10:48 AM
147	more biking/walking trails	9/6/2024 10:43 AM
148	Healthier (likely higher end) restaurants / fast food	9/6/2024 10:40 AM
149	We dont need "convenient " stores we need actual stores in small communities, we need buildings fixed and roads and sidewalks and lighting, we meed vacant buildings usable for community projects or housing, we need less tax increases to cover the paperwork and to pay actual usage on a bill ex my electric usage is 97\$ my bill is 180\$ because of all the taxes and fee to have it , there was a 10%increase on the water bill incluse trash and sewer and storm EACH ON GOT THE 10%INCREASE my bill doubled on disabilty of 900 half goes to utilities and my daughter had to move in to cover rent	9/6/2024 10:38 AM
150	Free/Low cost clinic, affordable mental health facilities and/or therapy	9/6/2024 10:25 AM
151	Unsure.	9/6/2024 10:22 AM

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152	River walkway would help make exercise and socializing easier n more fun.	9/6/2024 10:19 AM
153	Unsure	9/6/2024 10:16 AM
154	Mental health help other than the Bowen Center	9/6/2024 10:15 AM
155	A mental health clinic, or a work one to help finding jobs, a place for homeless people to stay and work on getting back on their feet.	9/6/2024 10:14 AM
156	Access to health services beyond the monopoly of Parkview	9/6/2024 10:13 AM
157	Child care that's affordable and safe	9/6/2024 10:12 AM
158	Healthy restaurants	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
159	More physicians, and importantly, ways to get to the physicians. Residents without cars are frequently stuck if they cannot find someone to drive them.	9/6/2024 10:10 AM
160	Better transportation better health coverage less costs of rent and utilities	9/6/2024 10:10 AM
161	herbal medicine doctors, weightloss, exercise	9/6/2024 10:05 AM
162	Help for those on fixed incomes to purchase required medications so that they can still buy groceries.	9/6/2024 10:05 AM
163	Drug abuse- mental illnesses	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
164	There is a hospital in Wabash, as well as many dentist offices there and in North Manchester. Chiropractic offices, and basic family doctor offices, as well as a walk in clinic.	9/6/2024 10:02 AM
165	A public garden and access to healthier foods	9/6/2024 10:02 AM
166	More educational content/events to share the importance of making good nutrition choices (and how to make them)	9/6/2024 10:01 AM
167	Lower property taxes	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
168	Educational programs on healthy living topics	9/6/2024 9:51 AM
169	affordable clinics	9/6/2024 9:49 AM
170	Affordable & Subsidized Child Care	9/6/2024 9:48 AM
171	Affordable Child care, better groceries, secular therapy options	9/6/2024 9:48 AM
172	There is a lack of specialists in general. Mental health primarily. Drug interdiction, community health (yoga, free or cheap classes, etc)	9/6/2024 9:48 AM
173	cost effective internet services to enable senior citizens to access their medical and dr info online	9/6/2024 9:45 AM
174	Better walk in clinics and Better Health Insurance place	9/6/2024 9:44 AM
175	More Opportunities for locally grown food to be offered and sold locally.	9/5/2024 10:11 PM
176	We just need clean, untampered food with no chemicals sprayed on crops. The less government controls things the better.	9/4/2024 8:00 PM
177	I think N. Manchester could use a walk-in clinic.	9/4/2024 4:06 PM
178	Maternity services	9/4/2024 12:17 PM
179	Support for disability inclusion	9/4/2024 9:26 AM
180	Decades scans	9/4/2024 8:11 AM
181	A hospital with birthing facilities, instead of having women drive to the next county (which may be as long as long as 45 minutes away) to deliver their babies. Rural spaces should be moving forward, not backwards in time.	9/3/2024 11:53 PM
182	Health dept needs to be making visits to the other towns in the county for education and immunizations.	9/3/2024 10:35 PM
183	Low income dentistry of some sort	9/3/2024 10:16 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
184	Helping ALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS deal with the drugs that they are dealing with now. NOT JUST THE PAID DEPARTMENTS.	9/3/2024 5:44 PM
185	Health-related resources for everyone.	9/3/2024 5:25 PM
186	Community garden	9/3/2024 5:13 PM
187	help for the elderly	9/3/2024 5:00 PM
188	None that I can think of. I think the county does a pretty good job keeping up on all of that.	9/3/2024 11:29 AM
189	Address overall health and combat obesity	9/3/2024 10:51 AM
190	Increased access to mental health, more primary care doctors with local offices	9/3/2024 10:43 AM
191	More funding/promotion of exsisting programs: 85 Hope (free healthcare), Learn More Center (free education and coaching), Bash Bags, Free Pantries, Bowen Center health clinics includes mental health, Parkview educational programs, Purdue Extension Nutritional programs	9/3/2024 10:31 AM

Q17 What types of projects would you like to see in Wabash? Please select your top TWO priorities.

Answered: 294 Skipped: 37



Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

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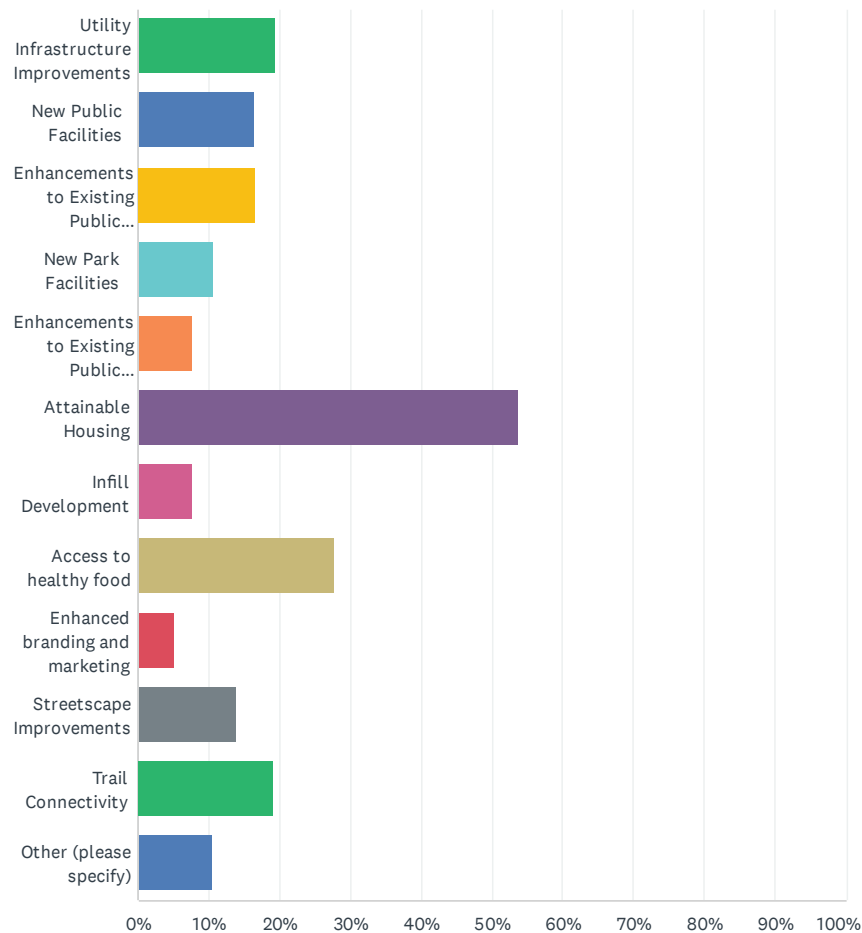
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Utility Infrastructure Improvements	22.79%	67
New Public Facilities	11.90%	35
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	14.63%	43
New Park Facilities	11.22%	33
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	8.84%	26
Attainable Housing	58.16%	171
Infill Development	13.95%	41
Access to healthy food	28.57%	84
Enhanced branding and marketing	7.82%	23
Streetscape Improvements	12.24%	36
Trail Connectivity	18.03%	53
Other (please specify)	11.56%	34
Total Respondents: 294		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Inclusion and civility training for people	10/10/2024 7:39 PM
2	'green' energy	10/10/2024 9:32 AM
3	Diversity efforts such as international student housing	10/4/2024 3:34 PM
4	Living wage jobs	10/4/2024 10:19 AM
5	Make our park a place for art and performance	10/2/2024 10:29 AM
6	We need good paying jobs	10/1/2024 2:24 PM
7	Maintenance of street, roads and sidewalks. Less emphasis on sister cities and more emphasis on American made.	10/1/2024 12:25 PM
8	What is Infill?	9/30/2024 4:32 PM
9	housing must be AFFORDABLE. \$350k is not affordable for the majority of residents in wabash county. A homeless shelter	9/30/2024 3:36 PM
10	I would love to not smell poop from my backyard.	9/30/2024 3:23 PM
11	Affordable, reliable and quality child care	9/29/2024 7:20 PM
12	clean up	9/27/2024 2:38 PM
13	Plant more trees	9/27/2024 12:44 PM
14	We market Wabash as a place to visit really well but we need to market it as a place to live.	9/27/2024 8:18 AM
15	entertainment options and an Aldi, Starbucks, Olive Garden	9/27/2024 7:16 AM
16	Good jobs	9/26/2024 8:55 PM
17	funds to improve existing homes	9/26/2024 6:59 PM
18	better paying jobs	9/26/2024 11:17 AM
19	Home repair assistance for Wabash County Citizens	9/26/2024 10:51 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
20	consolidated school system	9/26/2024 8:22 AM
21	Help for that want to work but can't because of mental or physical health, place for homeless	9/20/2024 10:27 PM
22	Support for businesses	9/7/2024 6:41 PM
23	Help for senior citizens/disabled	9/7/2024 9:03 AM
24	Professional Childcare svcs	9/6/2024 8:48 PM
25	The beginnings of public transportation would be stellar	9/6/2024 8:11 PM
26	More entertainment options to attract younger audiences	9/6/2024 7:21 PM
27	Public transit	9/6/2024 3:40 PM
28	Babysitting	9/6/2024 2:42 PM
29	sidewalks made safe so disabled can enjoy walks without the fear of falling	9/6/2024 11:15 AM
30	Not sure of what Wabash needs	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
31	Lower property taxes	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
32	Bringing in new jobs.	9/4/2024 8:14 AM
33	Job opportunities	9/3/2024 5:15 PM
34	JOBS	9/3/2024 5:13 PM

Q18 What types of projects would you like to see in North Manchester?
Please select your top TWO priorities.

Answered: 288 Skipped: 43



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Utility Infrastructure Improvements	19.44%	56
New Public Facilities	16.32%	47
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	16.67%	48
New Park Facilities	10.76%	31
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	7.64%	22
Attainable Housing	53.82%	155
Infill Development	7.64%	22
Access to healthy food	27.78%	80
Enhanced branding and marketing	5.21%	15
Streetscape Improvements	13.89%	40
Trail Connectivity	19.10%	55
Other (please specify)	10.42%	30
Total Respondents: 288		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Daniel's Place headquarters	10/14/2024 8:56 AM
2	solar power	10/10/2024 9:32 AM
3	Better streets and sidewalks, more handicap friendly.	10/6/2024 8:09 AM
4	Living wage jobs	10/4/2024 10:19 AM
5	not knowledgeable regarding this community	10/2/2024 9:48 PM
6	Good paying jobs	10/1/2024 2:24 PM
7	Less emphasis on Manchester University and it's liberal leanings.	10/1/2024 12:25 PM
8	Enhanced, improved, and progressive services and supports for people with disabilities.	9/27/2024 12:33 PM
9	We market NM as a place to visit really well but we need to market it as a place to live.	9/27/2024 8:18 AM
10	Unknown, I live in Wabash	9/26/2024 10:47 PM
11	Grocery stores!	9/26/2024 9:33 PM
12	funds to improve existing homes	9/26/2024 6:59 PM
13	Waterfront developmant	9/26/2024 6:10 PM
14	strip club	9/26/2024 1:17 PM
15	Modern Church	9/25/2024 9:42 AM
16	Daniel's Place	9/21/2024 8:10 AM
17	help for those disable phys or mental, those of drugs/alcohol	9/20/2024 10:27 PM
18	Downtown river boardwalk replacing alley	9/20/2024 5:13 PM
19	2nd story downtown housing	9/14/2024 2:59 PM
20	Support for businesses	9/7/2024 6:41 PM
21	DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION. This downtown sucks! More entertainment, less lawyers and	9/7/2024 1:02 PM

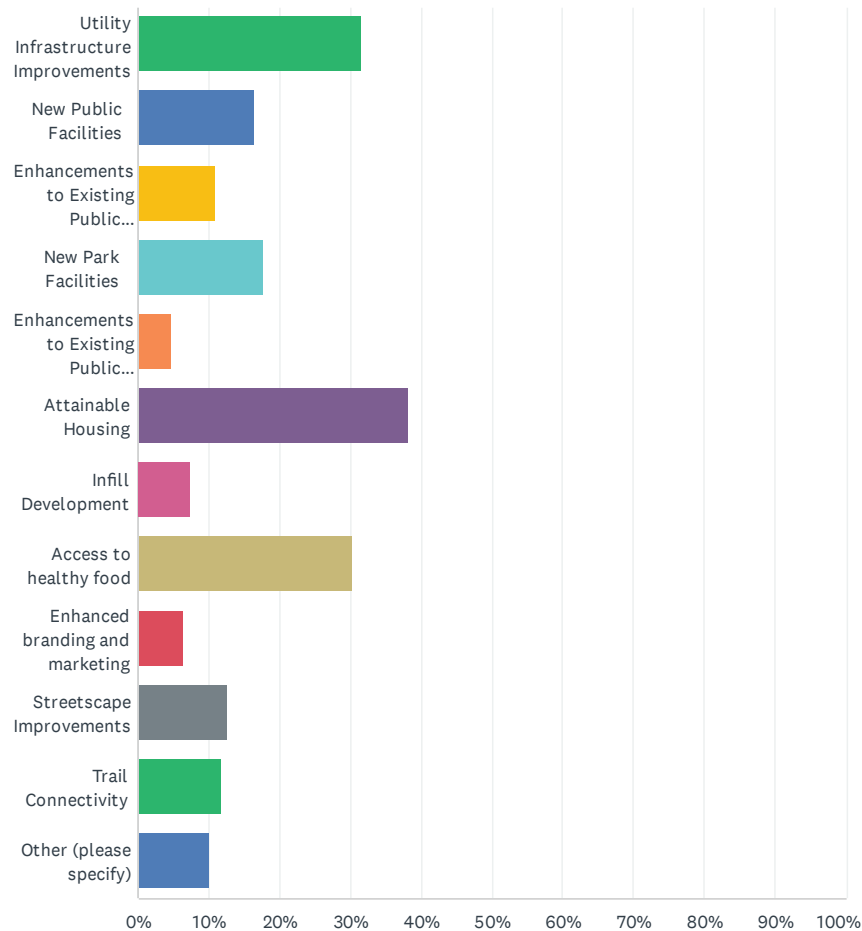
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	thrift stores.	
22	Pickleball courts	9/7/2024 6:46 AM
23	More entertainment, options, and businesses based on subsidies for younger audiences that are within scope and feasibility.	9/6/2024 7:21 PM
24	Public transportation	9/6/2024 3:40 PM
25	Babysitting	9/6/2024 2:42 PM
26	Increasing the workforce, living local that would promote more retail business	9/6/2024 1:22 PM
27	Bike Lanes & sidewalks all the way through town.	9/6/2024 10:10 AM
28	Lower property taxes	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
29	Sidewalk improvements	9/6/2024 10:02 AM
30	JOBS	9/3/2024 5:13 PM

Q19 What types of projects would you like to see in La Fontaine? Please select your top TWO priorities.

Answered: 231 Skipped: 100



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Utility Infrastructure Improvements	31.60%	73
New Public Facilities	16.45%	38
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	10.82%	25
New Park Facilities	17.75%	41
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	4.76%	11
Attainable Housing	38.10%	88
Infill Development	7.36%	17
Access to healthy food	30.30%	70
Enhanced branding and marketing	6.49%	15
Streetscape Improvements	12.55%	29
Trail Connectivity	11.69%	27
Other (please specify)	9.96%	23
Total Respondents: 231		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	solar power	10/10/2024 9:32 AM
2	?	10/9/2024 2:17 AM
3	don't know	10/4/2024 11:26 AM
4	Living wage jobs	10/4/2024 10:19 AM
5	Don't know	10/4/2024 10:06 AM
6	not knowledgeable regarding this community	10/2/2024 9:48 PM
7	Good paying jobs	10/1/2024 2:24 PM
8	Not able to answer this.	9/30/2024 8:50 PM
9	Enhanced, improved, and progressive services and supports for people with disabilities.	9/27/2024 12:33 PM
10	Unknown, I live in Wabash	9/26/2024 10:47 PM
11	don't be easy access for the bad coming from marion, help for those that abuse alcohol/drugs	9/20/2024 10:27 PM
12	NAI loop	9/17/2024 2:44 PM
13	cafe	9/13/2024 5:26 PM
14	Don't know	9/12/2024 3:16 PM
15	Support for businesses	9/7/2024 6:41 PM
16	Not informed enough to answer this question.	9/7/2024 2:14 PM
17	Professional childcare services	9/6/2024 8:48 PM
18	Public transportation	9/6/2024 3:40 PM
19	Don't know La fountain	9/6/2024 10:26 AM
20	Unfamiliar with that community	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
21	I'm not familiar enough with LaFontaine to comment	9/6/2024 10:16 AM

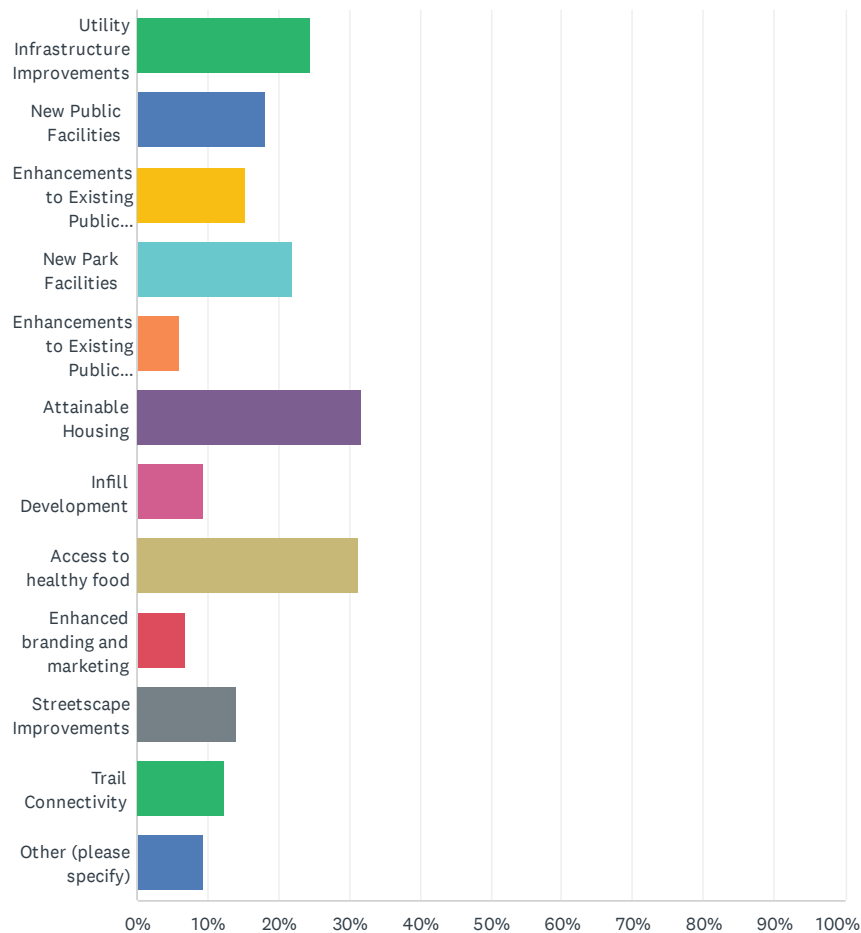
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22	Lower property taxes	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
23	JOBS	9/3/2024 5:13 PM

Q20 What types of projects would you like to see in Roann? Please select your top TWO priorities.

Answered: 236 Skipped: 95



Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

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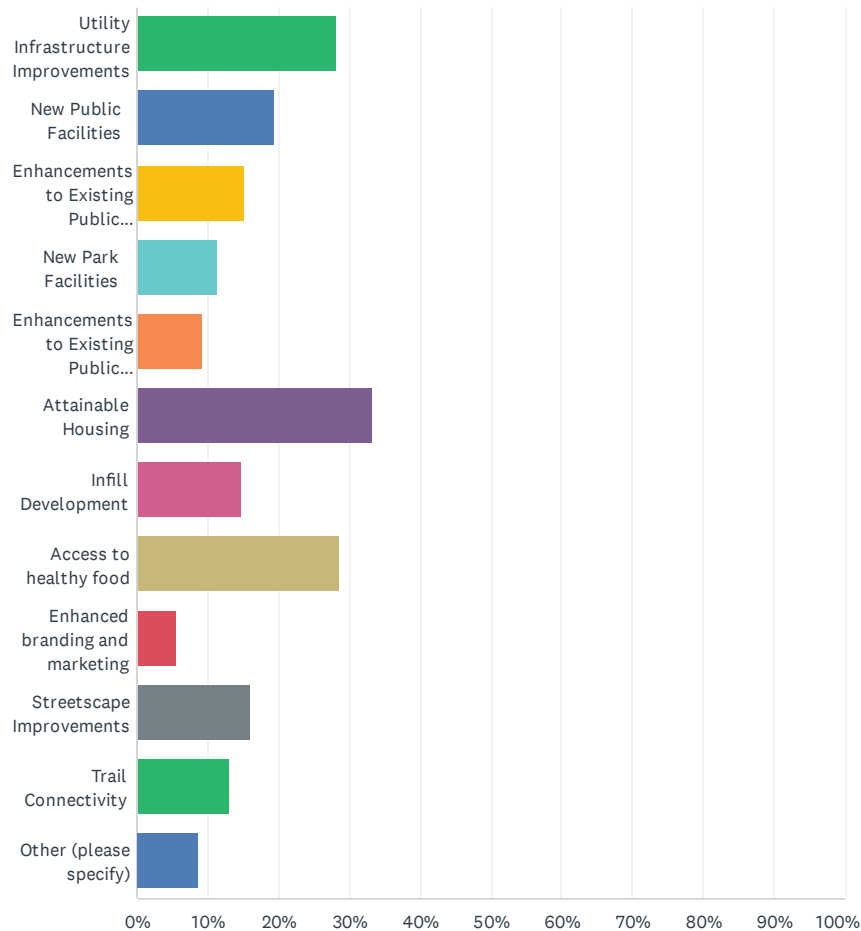
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Utility Infrastructure Improvements	24.58%	58
New Public Facilities	18.22%	43
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	15.25%	36
New Park Facilities	22.03%	52
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	5.93%	14
Attainable Housing	31.78%	75
Infill Development	9.32%	22
Access to healthy food	31.36%	74
Enhanced branding and marketing	6.78%	16
Streetscape Improvements	13.98%	33
Trail Connectivity	12.29%	29
Other (please specify)	9.32%	22
Total Respondents: 236		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	solar power	10/10/2024 9:32 AM
2	?	10/9/2024 2:17 AM
3	don't know	10/4/2024 11:26 AM
4	Don't know	10/4/2024 11:11 AM
5	Living wage jobs	10/4/2024 10:19 AM
6	Don't know	10/4/2024 10:06 AM
7	not knowledgeable regarding this community	10/2/2024 9:48 PM
8	Good paying jobs	10/1/2024 2:24 PM
9	We market Roann as a place to visit really well but we need to market it as a place to live.	9/27/2024 8:18 AM
10	Unknown, I live in Wabash	9/26/2024 10:47 PM
11	I don't know much about Roann.	9/24/2024 1:58 PM
12	Help for those that cannot help themselves and don't have family to help	9/20/2024 10:27 PM
13	NA	9/17/2024 2:44 PM
14	A walking trail	9/8/2024 12:39 PM
15	Support for businesses	9/7/2024 6:41 PM
16	A fund to help with the Covered Bridge.	9/7/2024 11:06 AM
17	Professional childcare services	9/6/2024 8:48 PM
18	Public transportation	9/6/2024 3:40 PM
19	Unfamiliar with that community	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
20	I'm not familiar enough with Roann to comment	9/6/2024 10:16 AM
21	Lower property taxes	9/6/2024 10:03 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
22	JOBS	9/3/2024 5:13 PM

Q21 What types of projects would you like to see in Lagro? Please select your top TWO priorities.

Answered: 238 Skipped: 93



Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Utility Infrastructure Improvements	28.15%	67
New Public Facilities	19.33%	46
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	15.13%	36
New Park Facilities	11.34%	27
Enhancements to Existing Public Facilities	9.24%	22
Attainable Housing	33.19%	79
Infill Development	14.71%	35
Access to healthy food	28.57%	68
Enhanced branding and marketing	5.46%	13
Streetscape Improvements	15.97%	38
Trail Connectivity	13.03%	31
Other (please specify)	8.82%	21
Total Respondents: 238		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	solar power	10/10/2024 9:32 AM
2	?	10/9/2024 2:17 AM
3	don't know	10/4/2024 11:26 AM
4	Dont Know	10/4/2024 11:11 AM
5	Living wage jobs	10/4/2024 10:19 AM
6	Don't know	10/4/2024 10:06 AM
7	not knowledgeable regarding this community	10/2/2024 9:48 PM
8	More small businesses	10/2/2024 10:29 AM
9	Good paying iobs	10/1/2024 2:24 PM
10	Programs to involve all residents in keeping properties clean.	10/1/2024 12:25 PM
11	We market Lagro as a place to visit really well but we need to market it as a place to live.	9/27/2024 8:18 AM
12	Unknown, I live in Wabash	9/26/2024 10:47 PM
13	Help for those abusing alcohol/drugs, they have tried hard to change their image but yet those that still bring the town down.	9/20/2024 10:27 PM
14	NA	9/17/2024 2:44 PM
15	Support for businesses	9/7/2024 6:41 PM
16	Unsure	9/6/2024 4:56 PM
17	Public transportation	9/6/2024 3:40 PM
18	Don't know	9/6/2024 10:26 AM
19	Unfamiliar with that community	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
20	I'm not familiar enough with Lagro to comment	9/6/2024 10:16 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

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21

Lower property taxes

9/6/2024 10:03 AM

Q22 Do you have any additional comments? Please share here.

Answered: 81 Skipped: 250

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We need more industrial jobs here in Wabash county. Perhaps a skilled trade program for our youth so they can earn a good living and be employable for life	10/19/2024 1:39 PM
2	Food and housing are two basic needs of life, so if you're wanting to maintain and grow a population, those are two things to look at first.	10/14/2024 6:37 PM
3	Instead of bringing in outside people we need to utilize persons w ideas for bettering our communities that have actually lived in and or visited these communities for many yrs!	10/10/2024 9:04 PM
4	I would like there to be more crossover between spanish speakers and English speakers	10/9/2024 4:22 PM
5	New Leadership. Adam Penrod as the Town Manager is not qualified. He was the former sewer head and does not even live in town. How is he qualified to run the town.	10/4/2024 4:02 PM
6	North Manchester has a highway right through town that produces semi truck noise, pollution and traffic but no or little local revenue. Property tax and water rate hikes can not be the answer to everything	10/4/2024 11:41 AM
7	I appreciate the concerted effort to improve Wabash County and the individual towns.	10/4/2024 11:11 AM
8	Grow Wabash county should be the only chamber of commerce organization for the county so that it has the ability to advocate for growth and the needs of local businesses especially in the smaller communities	10/4/2024 10:12 AM
9	Collaboration among schools may be an opportunity to give students more training opportunities.	10/3/2024 9:09 PM
10	I love Wabash! With all my heart. I would love to be a part of its development. I would love to see the Sposeep building be a local art gallery. Earthy, yet classy with amazing lighting and a multiuse parking area.(fun lighting and outdoor interactive art)	10/2/2024 10:29 AM
11	We need good paying jobs and housing.	10/1/2024 2:24 PM
12	Wabash has been a good place to live and raise children. It doesn't need to change to suit someone's culture. Many don't realize or recognize the importance of the ag economy in this county. There is little respect shown for the capabilities of the farmer. There is a political machine in the City of Wabash that tries to control the entire county. Many realize it, but are unsure how to overcome it. I feel a new day is coming. Grow Wabash represents a small minority of people in this county.	10/1/2024 12:25 PM
13	It would be awesome if we could fill empty buildings/ houses with either housing, a business or tear them down. Empty or dilapidated buildings and houses are an eyesore. Thank you for your efforts to make Wabash County better.	9/30/2024 11:30 PM
14	I think that all towns in Wabash County that are situated on a River should explore greatly enhancing their public facilities on the river.	9/30/2024 8:50 PM
15	Affordable housing in the county for 1st time home buyers and a consolidated school system is what we need to attract and retain young families	9/30/2024 4:32 PM
16	One advantage to living in Wabash county that I tell others about frequently is the YMCA's commitment to youth development. The after care programs, school days out care, parent's night out, options for care when school is cancelled / delayed strengthens our workforce by supporting parents who do not have a natural support system. It is a game changer.	9/30/2024 3:23 PM
17	I feel that is we can do anything with the current or create trails or anything with parks and recreation it would help grow the county and small towns.	9/28/2024 5:33 PM
18	Wabash county has come a long ways but we still have more to accomplish to stem the trend of population decline and being able to receive grant monies like this helps curb the costs of	9/28/2024 8:33 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

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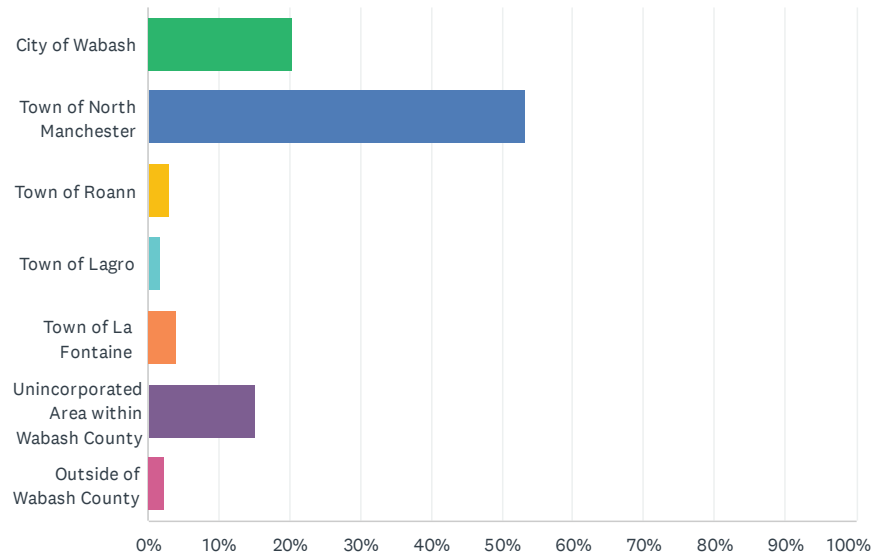
	reaching our Imagine One 85 goals	
19	Jobs that pay living wage are needed.	9/28/2024 7:30 AM
20	Spending this money on branding or marketing seems pretty ridiculous when compared to the other items listed.	9/28/2024 12:30 AM
21	Great things are happening here but often with younger professionals in mind. Novelty and diversity are great but thousands of folks here are suffering from decades of significant industrial downsizing. Drug interdiction, mental health apparatuses need to be employed along with expanding job programs.	9/27/2024 8:54 PM
22	We need to stop worrying about residents to come to Wabash and worry about the ones we have and helping them. Then in time we can take care of more residents to come. At this point we can't take care of the ones we have let alone more.	9/27/2024 3:18 PM
23	No	9/27/2024 1:14 PM
24	Plant more trees	9/27/2024 12:44 PM
25	N/A	9/27/2024 12:33 PM
26	A bike, running, and walking trail connecting the county would be fantastic!	9/27/2024 12:03 PM
27	The last section kept asking "feel" questions, you don't base your community investments on "feelings", for the next survey, please state "think" instead of "feel". Thank you.	9/26/2024 10:47 PM
28	Transportation on Saturday	9/26/2024 6:50 PM
29	I believe all of our communities need more market rate rental units to bring working age families to our county.	9/26/2024 6:07 PM
30	N/A	9/26/2024 5:00 PM
31	We know folks who have moved to North Manchester from high cost of living locations out west. They are very pleased with the town. However, affordable housing (housing in general) is in short supply.	9/26/2024 3:56 PM
32	please get better paying jobs	9/26/2024 11:17 AM
33	Any new infill development needs to be priced reasonably. The ones where the hospital used to be, I have been told cost upwards of 300k+. Most people in this county can't afford that.	9/26/2024 10:51 AM
34	I don't go to the other cities besides Wabash, so I don't really know the needs	9/26/2024 9:37 AM
35	No	9/26/2024 8:45 AM
36	N/A	9/24/2024 1:58 PM
37	Again, we are great show for those with money....how about the average people and those that really struggle...mission/we try to help them, but others need to pitch in. put some grants out their to help them and not extend the trails, etc.	9/20/2024 10:27 PM
38	This is aspirational, not what's here. Nothing wrong with that, but it's really not accurate: "We, the communities of Wabash County, are connected, resilient, and growing. We are open, welcoming, and prosperous. Our spirit, like our natural resources, is flourishing and vibrant. Leadership shines bright in our county. We produce and attract energetic and capable young citizens. Wabash County is a great place to live, work, and learn. Residents and visitors thrive here."	9/20/2024 5:13 PM
39	Midsize project develop and open land to develop	9/20/2024 9:31 AM
40	no	9/20/2024 12:29 AM
41	N/A	9/13/2024 8:06 PM
42	We need to keep peace, and Gods love in mind moving forward	9/8/2024 6:06 PM
43	Your questions are not aimed at the center of problems.	9/8/2024 1:08 PM
44	There aren't any good paying jobs for older adults (50's), who need employment. We need companies that will hire people like me who need to make over \$16/hour to be able to support	9/8/2024 12:39 PM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
	myself living alone.	
45	I live between a garbage dump, a paper mill & the sewer plant - all within town limits! It stinks & it's unacceptable, Wabash deserves better! I moved here from N Manchester due to lack of affordable housing & can't wait to get out & return to N Manchester.	9/7/2024 9:12 PM
46	Terms of art, such as "infill housing" should be hyperlinks to definitions, and more opportunity for options not preselected should be provided	9/7/2024 6:41 PM
47	I think every day about leaving this county for one with motivated and cohesive leadership. I want a community that focuses on clearly agreeable needs and doesn't allow their narrow, small minded politics to hinder MY family's progress.	9/7/2024 1:02 PM
48	none	9/7/2024 10:58 AM
49	Manchester added some sidewalks but didn't fix any of the sidewalks that are not easy to use a stroller on...	9/7/2024 9:03 AM
50	You all aren't considering making Projects are you? (Low income housing) That's a bad idea. That's where I came from and where I worked. It would not bring more people in. People would leave, a la Baltimore City	9/6/2024 9:03 PM
51	Good luck.	9/6/2024 8:48 PM
52	Focus on getting the average age of the towns, specifically retirement town, such as North Manchester to be more balanced so there's more diversity and more fluctuation happiness. Promote business investment.	9/6/2024 7:21 PM
53	I appreciate how thae communities are all working to improve, and sharing knowledge	9/6/2024 6:49 PM
54	Don't know much about smaller communities	9/6/2024 5:53 PM
55	The housing market seems nuts. I don't know how younger people will be able to afford it. In North Manchester, we have probably a hundred Victorian homes that are falling apart, but could be beautiful. However, as they currently stand, I'd not want to move in near half of them. It also wouldn't hurt to have a couple innovative restaurants open for dinner, eating in North Manchester is like traveling back to the 1980s.	9/6/2024 4:56 PM
56	I moved to Wabash County over a decade ago, best decision I've made.	9/6/2024 3:02 PM
57	Babysitting needs to be addressed. I am a stay at home mom and i would love to have a relationship with someone who could come watch my kids off and on. We live in a town with a college. Why aren't there more programs with that	9/6/2024 2:42 PM
58	Don't have knowledge of needs for 19, 20 and 21	9/6/2024 1:22 PM
59	What is "infill"?? Please use plain words	9/6/2024 12:49 PM
60	North Manchester needs to update the waterlines	9/6/2024 11:15 AM
61	No	9/6/2024 11:01 AM
62	No	9/6/2024 10:31 AM
63	Keep moving forward. 🏡	9/6/2024 10:26 AM
64	N/A	9/6/2024 10:23 AM
65	No additional comments	9/6/2024 10:21 AM
66	The small towns, including North Manchester, are in desperate need for affordable healthy food	9/6/2024 10:18 AM
67	I know in North Manchester alot has been done but I would like to see more jobs and affordable housing.	9/6/2024 10:17 AM
68	Need to attract more jobs and tourist to wabash county	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
69	N/a	9/6/2024 10:06 AM
70	N/A	9/6/2024 10:04 AM
71	Lower the property taxes you are making life difficult	9/6/2024 10:03 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
72	Need to see more US mail communications from the town. A lot of people don't have access to social media.	9/6/2024 9:59 AM
73	Help our friends at Manchester Alive! Entrenched, hostile business owners and out of state landlords need to be held accountable.	9/6/2024 9:52 AM
74	jobs, housing and internet service are so expensive...need to work to bring these costs down especially for senior citizens and poor families	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
75	Every where could always use improvement	9/6/2024 9:47 AM
76	As a local business owner I would love for more of the county to be incentivized to interact with local businesses.	9/5/2024 10:15 PM
77	Wabash county is a great place to live. We don't need bigger government or more programs. We the People need to keep more of their paycheck.	9/4/2024 8:10 PM
78	We need to maintain what we have to keep our town beautiful and inviting. Living in North Manchester we are missing the mark when not on Main Street. We are allowing run down properties, illegal immigrants to take over commercial buildings, and concerned more with houses that people can't afford making the average wage in Wabash County.	9/4/2024 9:29 AM
79	Define "attainable housing" in terms of employment opportunities and mean wages in the the county versus other cost of living expenses. Define "access to healthy food," because Dollar General is not it.	9/3/2024 11:59 PM
80	This has to benefit everyone, not just the wealthy.	9/3/2024 5:46 PM
81	I have loved all of the attention to streetscapes, cleaning up our county, beautification projects and enhancing our outdoors areas. However, I think those things have set the foundation for a period of time for the county to move on to other endeavors to attract/keep people in the county. It's time to focus on activities, business enhancement, better utilities, etc. After those have been bolstered, maybe look back to streetscapes and beautification to finish or polish what already exists and then hit the branding hard again.	9/3/2024 11:39 AM

Q23 Where do you live?

Answered: 298 Skipped: 33



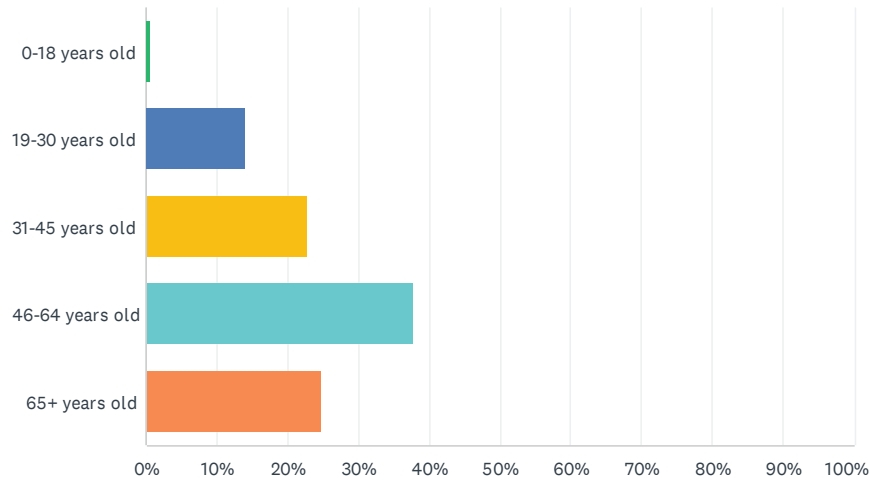
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Wabash	20.47%	61
Town of North Manchester	53.36%	159
Town of Roann	3.02%	9
Town of Lagro	1.68%	5
Town of La Fontaine	4.03%	12
Unincorporated Area within Wabash County	15.10%	45
Outside of Wabash County	2.35%	7
TOTAL		298

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan

SurveyMonkey

Q24 How old are you?

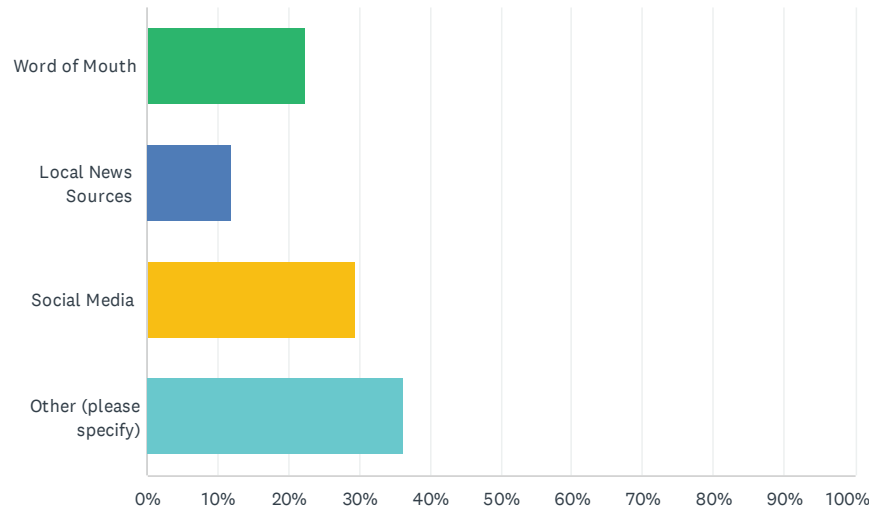
Answered: 299 Skipped: 32



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-18 years old	0.67% 2
19-30 years old	14.05% 42
31-45 years old	22.74% 68
46-64 years old	37.79% 113
65+ years old	24.75% 74
TOTAL	299

Q25 How did you hear about this planning effort?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Word of Mouth	22.33% 67
Local News Sources	12.00% 36
Social Media	29.33% 88
Other (please specify)	36.33% 109
TOTAL	300

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Grow Wabash County Annual Dinner	10/10/2024 9:11 PM
2	Just accidentally ran into it on a friends Facebook	10/10/2024 9:06 PM
3	GWC business of the year	10/10/2024 8:45 PM
4	Award Ceremony	10/10/2024 8:42 PM
5	I got an email	10/10/2024 9:33 AM
6	email	10/9/2024 4:23 PM
7	Facebook	10/9/2024 2:18 AM
8	School email	10/5/2024 12:34 PM
9	Text	10/5/2024 12:13 PM
10	Email	10/4/2024 3:34 PM
11	email/text blast	10/4/2024 2:33 PM

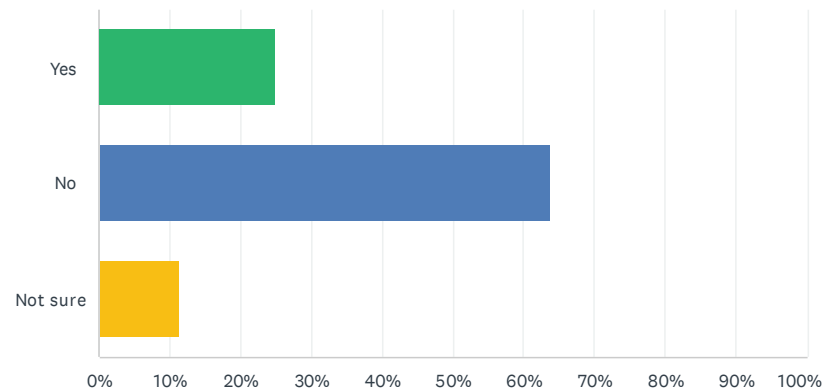
Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
12	Email	10/4/2024 11:20 AM
13	Text	10/4/2024 10:44 AM
14	Text from town of North Manchester	10/4/2024 10:38 AM
15	North Manchester notification system	10/4/2024 10:21 AM
16	email	10/4/2024 10:02 AM
17	Town of North Manchester alert	10/4/2024 9:57 AM
18	Text from town	10/4/2024 9:56 AM
19	Town message	10/4/2024 9:56 AM
20	Manchester Alive	10/4/2024 9:51 AM
21	Town alerts	10/4/2024 9:50 AM
22	membership in Grow Wabash	10/2/2024 9:49 PM
23	email at work	10/2/2024 10:30 AM
24	email	9/30/2024 11:32 PM
25	MSDWC Newsletter	9/30/2024 11:17 PM
26	Manchester Alive	9/30/2024 8:51 PM
27	MSD email	9/30/2024 4:33 PM
28	MSD newsletter	9/30/2024 3:36 PM
29	MSD newsletter via email	9/30/2024 3:24 PM
30	email	9/29/2024 9:02 PM
31	From Tenille	9/29/2024 7:21 PM
32	Grow wabash county	9/28/2024 8:34 AM
33	work email	9/27/2024 3:18 PM
34	North Manchester texted me	9/27/2024 12:45 PM
35	Was emailed about it directly from GWC	9/27/2024 11:23 AM
36	Email	9/27/2024 8:37 AM
37	Email from Grow Wabash County	9/27/2024 8:31 AM
38	work email	9/27/2024 7:16 AM
39	Through my employment.	9/26/2024 10:48 PM
40	Heather Cruz	9/26/2024 8:11 PM
41	Email	9/26/2024 8:07 PM
42	Grow Wabash County	9/26/2024 6:48 PM
43	Employer	9/26/2024 3:45 PM
44	Work	9/26/2024 2:06 PM
45	my job	9/26/2024 11:18 AM
46	Employer	9/26/2024 10:35 AM
47	My job	9/26/2024 9:37 AM
48	Work. Employer	9/26/2024 8:46 AM
49	Josiah White's	9/26/2024 8:39 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
50	Employer - Josiah White's	9/26/2024 8:23 AM
51	Grow Wabash	9/25/2024 7:26 AM
52	shared with me	9/24/2024 1:58 PM
53	GROW Wabash	9/24/2024 1:12 PM
54	Young Professionals of Wabash County	9/23/2024 10:57 AM
55	Flyer	9/14/2024 2:59 PM
56	2nd Friday	9/13/2024 8:06 PM
57	Text	9/8/2024 10:58 PM
58	You sent it to me	9/8/2024 1:09 PM
59	Roann festival	9/8/2024 12:40 PM
60	Text	9/8/2024 9:59 AM
61	Manchester Alive, Kiwanis	9/7/2024 7:20 PM
62	Email from Town of N. Manchester	9/7/2024 6:42 PM
63	Survey sent via cell phone text	9/7/2024 2:14 PM
64	I got an email stating there was a survey about wabash co	9/7/2024 9:03 AM
65	Text	9/6/2024 9:03 PM
66	City wide text alerts	9/6/2024 8:12 PM
67	Town text message alert	9/6/2024 7:22 PM
68	Text	9/6/2024 5:53 PM
69	town of north manchester alert	9/6/2024 5:03 PM
70	Spouse	9/6/2024 4:56 PM
71	Trxt	9/6/2024 3:41 PM
72	Text	9/6/2024 2:44 PM
73	You sent it to me	9/6/2024 1:46 PM
74	Message from the town	9/6/2024 1:29 PM
75	On the GWC Board	9/6/2024 1:23 PM
76	Town alert message	9/6/2024 1:23 PM
77	Former town councilman	9/6/2024 1:08 PM
78	I didn't	9/6/2024 1:07 PM
79	text from the town	9/6/2024 12:51 PM
80	The town messaged me personally	9/6/2024 10:52 AM
81	text	9/6/2024 10:45 AM
82	Town wide text	9/6/2024 10:42 AM
83	Community website	9/6/2024 10:41 AM
84	Water department and local paper.	9/6/2024 10:27 AM
85	Town text alerts	9/6/2024 10:19 AM
86	Town text message	9/6/2024 10:18 AM
87	Text message	9/6/2024 10:17 AM

Wabash County - Strategic Investment Plan		SurveyMonkey
88	town alert - I am the Administrator for Peabody Retirement Community, a large retirement community located in North Manchester, IN	9/6/2024 10:17 AM
89	Text from town offices	9/6/2024 10:15 AM
90	Text message	9/6/2024 10:13 AM
91	Text from town	9/6/2024 10:13 AM
92	Text	9/6/2024 10:12 AM
93	Text from the town	9/6/2024 10:11 AM
94	Text Alert from the town of NM	9/6/2024 10:08 AM
95	North Manchester town updates	9/6/2024 10:07 AM
96	Email	9/6/2024 10:05 AM
97	Text notifications	9/6/2024 10:04 AM
98	Town info	9/6/2024 10:03 AM
99	Alert app	9/6/2024 10:01 AM
100	Text message	9/6/2024 10:00 AM
101	N	9/6/2024 9:57 AM
102	Text alert	9/6/2024 9:56 AM
103	town text	9/6/2024 9:52 AM
104	Direct communication from town via text town alert	9/6/2024 9:48 AM
105	Reach alert	9/6/2024 9:41 AM
106	Work	9/4/2024 4:08 PM
107	email	9/3/2024 5:13 PM
108	Committee	9/3/2024 10:53 AM
109	I work for a community organization involved with the planning	9/3/2024 10:44 AM

Q26 Did you participate in the Imagine One 85 Comprehensive Planning Process?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.00%	75
No	63.67%	191
Not sure	11.33%	34
TOTAL		300



APPENDIX C

Construction Projects

IN THIS SECTION:

LETTERS OF SUPPORT
SUPPLEMENTAL
DOCUMENTATION
SUPPORTING DATA
COST ESTIMATES

**Town of LaFontaine
PO Box 207
13 W Branson St
LaFontaine, IN 46940**

Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support
November 1, 2024

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

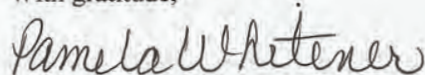
It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

The Town of LaFontaine is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process for the LaFontaine Stormwater Improvement Project. This project will improve the quality of life for all residents of our community. This project has been prioritized by the community through the Imagine One 85 planning process and again in the planning and engagement efforts of the Stellar Pathways Program. We have continued to move this project forward through various due diligence efforts including stakeholder engagement and the completion of a preliminary engineering report. Because of this preliminary work, this project has been positioned to where all it is missing is funding. If successful in receiving the Stellar Pathways designation, the Town of LaFontaine is committed to bringing this important project to fruition and is prepared to consider all necessary financing including rate adjustments, bonding, and any other available resources needed to supplement the CDBG funding that the Stellar designation presents.

The LaFontaine community continues to be supportive of all countywide collaborative efforts that make Wabash County a more desirable place to live for all people and we are committed to continuing to work together to define a better future for our community. We are not only writing to express our full support of the Stormwater Improvement Project, but the entire submission of projects and programs that will make our community a better place.

We kindly request the full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

With gratitude,



Pamela Whitener
LaFontaine Town Clerk

Executive Summary

Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. (Commonwealth) has prepared this Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to evaluate the present conditions and future needs for the Town of La Fontaine.

ES.1 Project Planning

This Section defines the proposed Planning Area and Planning Period, as well as current characteristics of the Planning Area, for the Town of La Fontaine proposed Stormwater Utility Improvements Project. This information is important to the engineering analyses and the decision-making processes discussed in subsequent Sections. The Planning Period for this study is 20 years.

The Town of La Fontaine is located in Wabash County, Indiana, approximately nine (9) miles northwest of the City of Marion. The stormwater from the Town is primarily directed into Grant Creek which flows approximately 3.5 miles into the Mississinewa Reservoir. The Planning Area is defined as the existing service area for the Town of La Fontaine.

ES.2 Existing Facilities

Stormwater within the Town of La Fontaine is collected by a network of catch basins, inlets, and storm sewers which discharge into either North Branch Grant Creek, Grant Creek, Badger Creek, or an unnamed tributary to Grant Creek. These receiving streams ultimately flow into Grant Creek.

The history of the Town's stormwater infrastructure is largely unknown. A survey was performed in support of the PER to develop an Asset Inventory. The total length of pipe within the entire system is approximately 18,432 LF. There are also approximately 112 stormwater inlets within the system. The oldest pipes within the system are unknown but are assumed to have been installed in the 1960s, around the time the original sanitary sewer was installed. The typical life expectancy of stormwater pipes is approximately 50 years, depending on soil condition, water chemistry, etc. The oldest stormwater pipes and infrastructure in the system are assumed to be beyond their useful life.

The Town has noted frequent ponding and flooding during rain events. The creeks within the Town have been known to flood and overtop bridges and nearby streets, which has negatively impacted local traffic due to periodical road closures. During a previous rain event in 2019, two homes were destroyed and approximately \$2,000,000 in damage occurred near the bridge at Parker St.

ES.3 Need for Project

A. Areas of Concern

The Town has identified areas which have historically experienced frequent flooding. These areas include the area north of the bridge that crosses Grant Creek on Willow St., the area around the bridge which crosses the unnamed tributary on Parker St., and the areas surrounding the unnamed tributary on W Kendall St. The flooding from these areas results from the nearby streams overtopping, and in the past the flooding has also spread to several streets. The Town has additionally

indicated several areas where ponding frequently occurs due to lack of existing infrastructure.

B. Health, Sanitation, and Security

Flooding within the Town represents an ongoing safety, health, and financial burden on the Community. Insufficient capacity within the receiving streams and inadequately sized, lack of, or failing stormwater facilities have contributed to flooding, property damage, surface erosion, road overtopping, ponding water for significant periods of time, and created roadside and pedestrian traffic hazards. Stagnant ponding water are ideal breeding grounds for insects such as mosquitos that can carry diseases such as Malaria.

A stormwater improvements project is recommended to address the aforementioned conditions. Even small rainfall events can produce enough runoff to create concentrated areas of ponding and flooding. Temporary flooding can reduce vehicle braking distance and increase the likelihood for hydroplaning. During the winter season, these conditions create an increased amount of ice formation on roads and sidewalks. Existing facilities were also found to be undersized such that storm flows are unable to be adequately conveyed. Failed piping can cause sinkholes to develop and roadway infrastructure to collapse. These flooding events do not merely provide temporary inconveniences to traffic but have the potential to cause significant property damage.

C. Aging Infrastructure

Failing pipes and structures are attributed to aging infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life. These facilities should be replaced once maintenance becomes too costly and the intended conveyance is no longer being achieved. There are also existing facilities that appear to have been abandoned and no longer convey stormwater as originally intended.

D. Population Trends

As discussed in **Section 1**, the population for the Town of La Fontaine has historically been decreasing, but for the purposes of the PER is assumed to have an annual increase in population of 0.10%. Despite the projected decrease in population for Wabash County, it is not prudent to decrease the capacity of stormwater infrastructure. Increases in population can result in establishing more development within the Town and increasing surface runoff. The standards and regulations surrounding stormwater best management practices today are much more complex and comprehensive than when the system was originally constructed.

E. Storm Sewer Capacity Analysis

Results of the required capacity calculations from the rational method for the Town's storm sewer sections were compared to the existing capacity of each pipe section, as calculated from the Manning's Equation. Pipe sections with capacities less than the required capacity are identified in **Table ES-1**. Values for all the sections are included in **Appendix C**.

Table ES-1
Existing Pipe Sections with Deficiencies

Area	Structures		Pipe Sizes and Lengths		Approx Slope	Existing Capacity (gpm)	Required Capacity (gpm)
	Upstream	Downstream	Length (ft)	Diameter (in)			
Section 2	Culvert	107	233.5	8	0.004	393	2,849
	107	Field	46	8	0.004	393	2,946
Section 3	132	131	101	8	0.006	405	550
	131	130	133.5	8	0.025	800	1,439
	130	128	93	8	0.024	785	1,907
	128	CPP from School	206.5	8	0.006	393	2,141
	CPP from School	108	335	12	0.003	884	2,187
	108	110	125.5	12	0.015	2,103	2,329
	109	111	97	12	0.015	2,102	2,534
	111	118	367.5	12	0.003	884	2,702
	118	117	39	12	0.041	3,535	-
	117	116	63.5	15	0.033	5,727	-
	116	115	293	15	0.005	2,291	3,284
	115	114	25.5	15	0.025	4,310	-
	114	121	93	15	0.014	3,192	3,969
	121	Canal	130	15	0.003	1,381	4,053
Section 5	183	182	99.5	12	0.009	884	108
	182	181	108	12	0.021	1,368	278
	181	180	40	6	0.022	221	490
	180	184	495.5	18	0.004	3,389	7,246
	184	185	256.5	18	0.004	3,292	9,216
	185	186	346.5	18	0.005	3,555	10,139
	186	Outfall	55	18	0.002	1,988	13,345
Section 5 – Side Branch	201	Drain to 179	46	6	0.005	221	258
	179	Drain to 180	22.5	12	0.003	884	6,692
	Drain to 180	180	N/A	10	0.011	614	6,734
Section 6	210	211	72.5	15	0.006	1,381	1,212
	211	Culvert	438	8	0.015	393	2,656
Section 7	204	205	163	8	0.020	708	-

Area	Structures		Pipe Sizes and Lengths		Approx Slope	Existing Capacity (gpm)	Required Capacity (gpm)
	Upstream	Downstream	Length (ft)	Diameter (in)			
	205	206	42	8	0.003	393	431
	206	Creek	348	10	0.004	614	822
Section 9	170	168	408.5	10	0.021	1,554	-
	168	165	148	10	0.009	1,039	531
	165	164	32	10	0.028	2,150	-
	164	166	111.5	10	0.002	614	1,715
	166	167	33.5	10	0.021	1,324	1,824
	167	Creek	509	12	0.004	884	1,999
Section 11	135	136	39	8	0.006	393	414
	136	133	326.5	8	0.021	734	727
	133	Creek	27.5	8	0.015	393	825
Section 13	192	191	110	12	0.010	1,603	-
	191	Detention Pond to 190	59.5	12	0.003	893	1,030
	190	Outfall	67.5	12	0.003	893	1,825
Misc. 2	209	Creek	293.5	12	0.004	884	1,272
Misc. 14	154	Creek	383.5	4	0.008	98	120

The analysis shown above indicates that there are sections of the Town's storm sewer system that are under capacity. While there is the possibility that the assumed slopes for certain sections may be less than actual conditions, there are sections which are significantly below capacity or have larger diameter pipes flowing toward smaller diameter pipes. The analysis indicates that there are pipe sections that should be upsized to allow for adequate flow.

F. Capacity Analysis of Surrounding Streams

The Town has indicated that certain sections of streams have been known to overflow and cause flooding within the Town. The majority of pipe sections within the Town are within capacity, and many of the Town's issues have resulted from the surrounding streams flooding certain areas within the Town. Since improving the capacity of the pipe sections will not solve capacity issues with the surrounding streams, the capacity of the surrounding streams will need to be analyzed to determine the extent of the issue.

From speaking with the Town Operator and analyzing the provided photos that are included in Section 3, Grant Creek is shown to be above capacity. Before the unnamed tributary meets with Grant Creek, the tributary has neared full capacity with other locations likely exceeding capacity. Specifically, the culvert the tributary flows through under S Old State Rd was noted as not being able to handle the flow from a previous storm event and flooded the surrounding streets. Further modeling of the tributary and stream is necessary to determine the extent to which an

overflowing Grant Creek may be causing issues with the unnamed tributary and to determine possible solutions for each of the streams.

DNR and FEMA provide Flood Hazard Maps of Grant Creek, but the unnamed tributary only has a drainage area of 0.6 mi² and does not meet the 1.0 mi² drainage area requirement to be modeled. Historical flooding along Grant Creek, however, has significantly exceeded the flood zones boundaries of the Flood Hazard Maps. The Flood Hazard Maps show the Grant Creek Flood Zone largely staying in close proximity to the creek itself, but historical flooding shows two to three feet of water reaching close to the end of Walnut St and W Kendall St and overtopping of the S Main St and Walnut Street bridges. Because of this, these models are likely based on outdated or inaccurate data and need to be updated. The flood zone boundaries likely exceed what is currently marked, but the extent of this is not able to be determined without further modeling. The DNR and FEMA Flood Hazard Maps are included in **Appendix D**.

ES.4 Recommended Project

The existing stormwater facilities were evaluated in order to identify viable alternatives for addressing the Town's needs. Alternatives were compared using a life cycle cost analysis, the results of which were presented in **Section 5**. The Proposed Phase 1 Improvements Project is shown in **Figure ES-1**.

A. Phase 1 Project

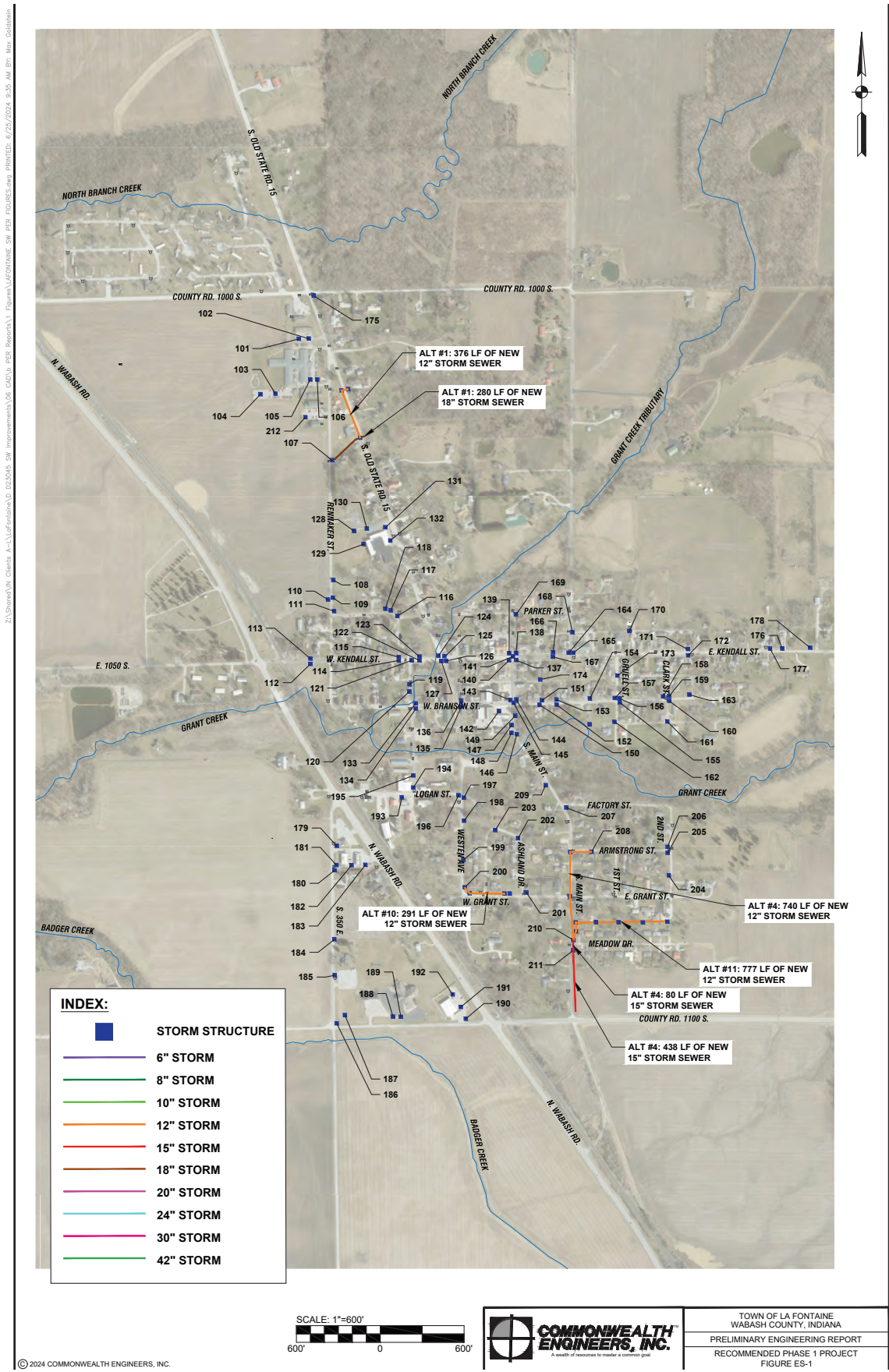
1. Alternative No. 1 – Increase Basin #2 Storm Sewer Capacity

Approximately 280 LF of 18" storm sewer would be installed to replace the existing undersized storm sewer sections and approximately 376 LF of 12" storm sewer, two (2) storm sewer manholes, and one (1) inlet would be installed to extend the storm sewer. This location consists of the existing storm sewer sections that cross S. Old State Rd 15 and Rennaker St. and an extension of the storm sewer northwest along S. Old State Rd 15.

2. Alternative No. 4 – Increase Basin #6 Storm Sewer Capacity

Approximately 438 LF of 15" storm sewer would be installed to replace the existing undersized storm sewer sections and 740 LF of 12" storm sewer, 80 LF of 15" storm sewer, one (1) inlet, and four (4) storm sewer manholes would be installed to extend the existing storm sewer. As a part of the extension segment, one (1) inlet would be installed to replace STR #208 which is in poor condition, two (2) storm sewer manholes would replace STR #210 and STR #211, and 80 LF of 15" storm sewer extension would replace the storm sewer segment between STR #210 and STR #211 to ensure that the grade is acceptable. This location consists of replacing the storm sewer section that follows south down S Main St. from Meadow Dr. to County Rd. 1100 S and extending the storm sewer north along S. Main St. from Meadow Dr. to Armstrong St.

La Fontaine Stormwater Improvements
2024 Preliminary Engineering Report: Executive Summary



3. Alternative No. 10 – Western Ave Storm Sewer Extension

Approximately 291 LF of 12" storm sewer, one (1) inlet, and two (2) manholes to extend the storm sewer. Approximately 438 LF of 15" storm sewer would be installed to replace the existing undersized sections within Basin #6 of the storm sewer system. This location consists of extending the Western Ave storm sewer from STR #200 to between the entrances of Ashland Dr

4. Alternative No. 11 – New Storm Sewer at Alley between E Grant St. and Meadow Dr.

Approximately 777 LF of 12" storm sewer, four (4) inlets, and two (2) manholes would be installed to cover the flooding prone area. This location includes adding an additional storm sewer section to address the flooding which occurs at the alley between E. Grant Street and Meadow Dr.

B. Phase 2 Project

1. Study & Modeling of Surrounding Streams

Addressing stormwater infrastructure deficiencies within the Town of La Fontaine, while helpful, will not solve flooding within the Town caused by the surrounding streams. Because of this, it is recommended that a study and additional modeling be performed on Grant Creek and the unnamed tributary to identify potential solutions to the streams being overcapacity.

C. Project Schedule

Each section of the project should be constructed in a timely fashion. **Table ES-2** shows the proposed schedules for the Stormwater Utility Improvements Project.

Table ES-2
Proposed Schedule for Stormwater Utility Improvements Project

Item	Date to be Completed
Utility Submits OCRA Proposal	October 2024
Community Submits OCRA Grant Application	December 2024
Community Receives OCRA Grant	February 2025
Community Authorizes Design	March 2025
Community Applies for Construction Permit from IDEM	April 2025
Community Obtains Construction Permit from IDEM	July 2025
Community Advertises for Construction Bids	July 2025
Community Receives Construction Bids	August 2025
Community Authorizes Construction	September 2025
Final Inspection (Final Completion)	March 2026

D. Total Project Cost Estimate (Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost)

Table ES-3 shows the estimate of probable construction costs and non-construction costs for the proposed Phase 1 project.

Table ES-3
Estimate of Total Project Cost– Phase 1

Item	Base Bid
Construction Costs	Estimated Cost
Phase 1 – Stormwater Utility Improvements	\$667,000
Subtotal	\$667,000
Contingency (10%)	\$66,700
BABA (10%)	\$66,700
Construction Total	\$800,400
Non-Construction Costs	
Bidding and Negotiation	\$15,000
Design	\$72,000
Construction Inspection	\$60,000
Construction Engineering	\$25,000
Post Bid Doc Assembly	\$2,500
Post-Construction	\$5,000
Erosion Control Plan	\$5,000
Soil Borings	\$15,000
Field Investigation & Survey	\$20,000
Regulatory Assistance	\$5,000
Local Attorney	\$5,000
BABA Compliance	\$5,000
Rate Consultant	\$10,000
Total Non-Construction Cost	\$245,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,045,400

E. Annual Operating Budget

1. Operation and Maintenance Expenses

Phase 1 is not projected to have any additional O&M&R costs as it relates to storm sewer replacement.

F. Debt Repayments

The proposed project will require financing either fully or partially with a loan. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) guidance documents for Preliminary Engineering Reports direct that the report be based on loans, not grants from RUS. RUS will then evaluate the proposed project for possible RUS grant funding.

Estimated monthly user rate increases for the proposed project will be calculated for different funding scenarios. These rates are preliminary in nature and are presented only to provide the Town with estimate user rate following the completion of the proposed project. Additional rate studies would be completed by the Utility's financial consultant to determine a more accurate user rate.

The annual debt repayment for the Town associated with this project for a 100% loan scenario for Phase 1 is \$67,059, as shown in **Table ES-4**. Considering the annual O&M, as well as the SLA reserve, the annual cost of the Phase 1 project is \$73,765. Based on the annual cost, a preliminary rate schedule was determined and is presented below in **Table ES-4**.

Table ES-4
Phase 1 - Estimated Annual Debt
Repayment and Proposed Rate Structure

OCRA Funding Scenarios	Loan (100%)	25% Grant	50% Grant	75% Grant
Total Project Cost	\$1,045,400	\$1,045,400	\$1,045,400	\$1,045,400
Less Grant	\$0	\$261,350	\$522,700	\$784,050
Total Bonds Issued	\$1,045,400	\$784,050	\$522,700	\$261,350
Annual Debt Repayment (20 years at 2.0% interest)	\$67,059	\$50,295	\$33,530	\$16,765
Increase in Annual O&M&R Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Debt Service Reserve (10%)	\$6,706	\$5,029	\$3,353	\$1,676
Total Annual Cost	\$73,765	\$55,324	\$36,883	\$18,441
Total Monthly Cost	\$6,147	\$4,610	\$3,074	\$1,537
Number of Existing Customers	396	396	396	396
Estimated Monthly User Rate Increase For Project	\$15.52	\$11.64	\$7.76	\$3.88
Current Monthly Rate	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Total Monthly User Rate	\$17.52	\$13.64	\$9.76	\$5.88



Daniel's Place, Inc.
113 W Main St.
North Manchester, IN 46962
260-306-5451
EIN: 83-1190602
www.daniels-place.org

Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support
November 1, 2024

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

Daniel's Place is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process for the Daniel's Place respite care facility project. The mission of Daniel's Place is to make available quality care for people with disabilities, providing respite for their care givers, and enhancing the quality of life for the entire family. We offer an interactive, stimulating, and safe environment that addresses the physical, emotional, and social needs of each individual. We promote a culture of compassion, integrity, stewardship, collaboration, creativity, and joy, enabling our personnel to provide excellent service to our clients.

Caregiving for elderly, ill, or disabled family member is a demanding job, and no one is equipped to do it alone. Respite care provides temporary relief for a primary caregiver, enabling them to take a much-needed break from the demands of caregiving. Daniel's Place provides respite care for persons with disabilities and their caregivers. Respite care can help ease the burden of family caregiving and help to relieve stress, restore your energy, and promote life balance. It can also prevent caregivers from becoming exhausted, isolated, or even burned out. Respite care benefits the person being cared for as well, providing them with variety, stimulation, and a welcome change of routine. 86% of family caregivers of adults receive no respite. 75% of family caregivers of children have unmet needs for respite.

After searching for care for my own son, I discovered that in Northern Indiana, there are very few options for short-term respite. Daniel's Place is now one of only two organizations in this region that provide short-term respite care, outside of the home. We offer our services seven days a week from 7am-11pm. While making our home in Wabash County, we do serve individuals from surrounding counties as well. We accept guests from birth to the end of life, provided they are not medically fragile.

Over the past few years, Daniel's Place has continued to move this project forward through the purchase of the property where the new facility will be located, completing all necessary facility design and engineering, and pursuing various funding sources to make this project a reality. We have successfully raised over \$500,000 in private donations and were awarded a \$950,000 grant from the United Way. With



Daniel's Place, Inc.
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EIN: 83-1190602
www.daniels-place.org

the successful submission of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan and a Stellar Pathways Program designation, Daniel's Place is fully prepared to complete the necessary steps to access the CDBG funding that will get this project across the finish line.

Founded in 2018, utilizing the classrooms in a church, Daniel's Place has steadily grown. The size of our current location not only limits the number of guests we can care for, but also prohibits us from expanding our services. We strive to construct a high-quality facility that meets accessibility standards and caters to the unique needs of our guests. This larger facility will allow Daniel's Place to provide overnight care, and more than triple our capacity.

Respite care has a profound impact on communities by offering essential support to caregivers, promoting well-being, and enhancing quality of life for entire families. Caregivers are better able to maintain their physical and mental health, enabling them to continue providing care. Respite care also strengthens family units. When caregivers can step away, even temporarily, they can return to their responsibilities refreshed, helping maintain a stable and positive family environment. Organizations such as Daniel's Place help normalize the experiences of families with special needs, building awareness, empathy, and inclusiveness within the broader community. Respite care services create a supportive community network, connecting families with resources, support groups, and other families in similar situations, which fosters community resilience and solidarity. Lastly, respite care can enable some caregivers to pursue employment or continue working, which benefits local economies. This can help prevent economic hardship for families who might otherwise need to leave jobs to provide full-time care.

We kindly request the full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl K Working".

Cheryl K Working
Daniel's Place Founder and President of the Board

APPLICATION for Grant Approval
STATEWIDE CAPITAL PROJECTS INITIATIVE
Administered by Indiana United Ways

Date: 03/22/2024

Total Project Costs: \$2,053,000

Total Grant Request: \$950,000

Matching Funds Required: \$950,000

Local United Way Name: United Way of Grant County

Non-Profit Organization Name: Daniel's Place, Inc.

Street Address: 113 W Main St, North Manchester, In 46962 (Wabash County)

Executive Director: Samantha Evans

Phone: (260) 578-1988

I. Project Description

- ☐ New Property Acquisition / Renovation
- ☒ New Property Development
- ☐ Existing Property Renovation
- ☐ Existing Property Expansion
- ☐ New Property Lease
- ☐ Modification of Existing Property Lease

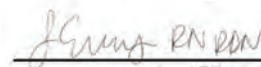
II. Project Location(s): 103 W 7th St. North Manchester, IN 46962 (639 N. Market St)

III. Required Attachments Included (*Template file provided):

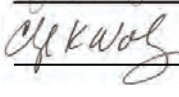
- ☒ Agency Information Form – attached – Part 1
- ☒ Case Statement (limited to two pages) – attached – Part 1
- ☒ Project Information Form* & Excel file exhibit* - Part 2
- ☒ Site Plan / Aerial Photo / Conceptual Plans – Part 2
- ☐ Agency Audit (most recent) – Part 1, Compilation only, **Financial Review needed for final submittal?**
- ☒ Agency Current Year Budget – Part 1 (included in Proforma)
- ☒ Board Letter and Resolution approving project* - Part 1
- ☒ Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest (related parties, including Board, staff, consultants, or any payees directly or indirectly of capital funds who are also donors to capital campaign or NPO, etc.) – Part 1

IV. Other Supporting Documentation (check all that apply)

- ☐ Planning Assessment
- ☐ Facility Needs Assessment
- ☐ Campaign Feasibility Results
- ☒ Letters of support from Neighborhood Organizations

, Executive Director
(Signature)

Date: 3/24/2024

, Board President
(Signature)

Date: 3/24/2024

Please upload using the secured link provided and send an electronic copy of completed application and all attachments to: SCPI@iuw.org and please copy (CC): Rachel.Lee@iuw.org

Agency Information Form
SCPI Grant Approval
United Way of Grant County

Date: 03/22/2024

Agency Name: Daniel's Place, Inc.

Current Locations: 113 W Main St, North Manchester, In 46962 (Wabash County)

Current Facility Size square feet (SF): approx. 1,600 **Floors:** 1 **Acreage:** n/a

The current facility is housed in a local church. They have provided 6 rooms for Daniel's Place

Agency Demographics & Service Area:

Daniel's Place provides respite care for individuals (guests) with mental and physical disabilities. We accept guests from birth to the end of life, there is no age limit. We do not accept guests who are medically fragile. Most of our guests and their families come to us from a 50-mile radius of Wabash County, but we do have guests from as far away as Florida. They utilize our services when they are in the area visiting family.

Program Description:

Daniel's Place is a nonprofit organization focused on providing respite care across the lifespan of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities. We care for guests of any age.

Daniel's Place gives short-term care to people whose disabilities are such that they need continual assistance. Respite allows for time off from caregiving responsibilities while providing a safe, comfortable place for loved ones. As little as 4 hours of respite per week has been shown to make significant differences in caregiver lives.

Both our guests and their families will benefit from respite care. After taking a break, caregivers can give more and enjoy doing it! Individuals who stay at Daniel's Place have an opportunity to learn that they can count on others for help. They can also form new friendships, experience new environments, and have fun!

Daniel's Place supports our guests with trained Direct Support Professionals (DSP). Those DSP's tailor each visit to the specific needs of the guests.

Number Persons Served: 57

Where does the agency fit into the marketplace of providers providing similar programs:

Unfortunately, in Northern Indiana, there are very few options for short-term respite. Daniel's Place is one of only two organizations that provides this type of respite care that is outside of the home, in a non- institutionalized environment. The Arc of Wabash County offers respite care, but only at the care-givers home. At Daniel's Place, we believe that in-home care does not afford the individuals with disabilities the opportunity to socialize, learn from a new environment, and simply make friends. The Arc also offers residential living options, but this necessitates moving a loved one out of their home to a new facility. Daniel's Place supports families that want to keep their loved one at home. Pathfinder Services offers Day Services that promote community integration such as visits to the park and community celebrations, but they only offer their services Monday through Friday from 8am-3pm. Daniel's Place currently offers services from 7am-11pm, seven

days a week. With our new facility, we will expand our service hours to include overnight stays.

Collaborative Partners & Relationships (3 of the most significant for this program):

Daniel's Place works closely with other organizations on various community events. In April of this year, Daniel's Place will work with **Wabash County Leadership Development** on the Thrive 85 event. Thrive 85 is a free community event designed to help connect individuals and families in need to resources in the community. Daniel's Place will provide a sensory friendly area for this event.

Daniel's Place works with **MyTeam Triumph** and **The Arc** to connect guests of Daniel's Place with the opportunity to participate in unforgettable race experiences.

Daniel's Place also maintains a relationship with **Manchester University**. Daniel's Place offers an internship opportunity for students in many disciplines including education, sociology, business and marketing.

When was the agency's strategic plan most recently updated: 2023

Was the proposed capital project specifically identified in that plan: ☒ YES / ☐ NO

If Yes, please attach Strategic Plan files, noting here where it was specifically identified.

When is the agency's strategic plan scheduled to be updated again: 2024

AGENCY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Most Recent Audit Year: 12/31/2023 (attach a copy of audit) – CPA Financial Compilation
Annual Operating Budget: \$ 211,326 (attached 2024 current approved detailed budget)

Major Sources of Revenue

(for the applicable budget above)

	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Individual contribution	50,000	18	
Specia event Income	13,550	5	
Program Income	25,849	10	
Business contributions	75,000	27	
Other individual contributions	100,000	35	

Most Recent Financial Data (Current):

Year-end operating balance:	<u>\$105,883</u>
Year-end operating reserves	<u>\$180,000</u>
Year-end depreciation:	<u>\$15,861</u>
Year-end unrestricted endowment or foundation assets:	<u>\$314,943</u>
Year-end line of credit available and/or utilized:	<u>\$0</u>
Other Long Term Debt Obligations	<u>\$0</u>

Have you had a Capital Campaign in the last 10 years? Yes ☐ No ☒

CASE STATEMENT
SCPI Grant Approval
United Way of Grant County
(Limit your response to these two pages)

Explain why your current facility(s) is/are inadequate to serve the agency's current needs.

Currently, Daniel's Place, a respite care center, is operating inside Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Manchester, Indiana. While we appreciate the space donated to us, we realize that a dedicated Respite Care home is necessary to serve the guests and families of North Manchester and the surrounding counties more effectively. Although our current location is cost-effective, its location, size, and resources significantly impact Daniel's Place's ability to provide the level of care that aligns with our mission and values.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, the location of Daniel's Place, is situated on the Main Street of North Manchester. Although it is at the heart of the city, it is only a few feet away from a busy state highway, which poses a potential hazard to young guests and elopement-risk individuals. While our guests are never alone, we enjoy spending time with them outdoors when the weather permits. However, the absence of fencing, coupled with the busy road conditions and the hazardous drop down to the river, makes it unsafe to interact with our guests outdoors. Consequently, we are forced to keep our guests indoors to ensure their safety, which limits their interaction with the community.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is a relatively large building, whereas Daniel's Place has only two small, dedicated rooms each measuring fourteen feet by fourteen feet, available for accommodating guests. We have observed that these two rooms tend to fill up quickly with guests and staff members, which creates issues with the comfort and safety of both guests and staff. While we want to care for as many guests as possible, we must limit the number of guests we can accommodate at any given time to ensure their safety and comfort during their stay.

Explain how the proposed project, (purchase, addition, renovation, and/or new construction, etc.) will improve the agency's ability to serve the community.

The new facility will allow Daniel's Place to serve more clients and expand the services offered. The large fenced in yard will provide a safe environment for outdoor activities. Bedrooms in the facility will allow for Daniel's Place to provide overnight stays for guests. The larger footprint will also allow for more guests in a building simultaneously. Unlike the small divided rooms at Zion, the open concept care area gives Direct Support Professionals (DSP) a constant line of site to all guests, adding to their safety. Additionally, we do have potential families that are concerned with the public space we occupy at Zion and have let it be known that they will utilize our services when we are in a private, more secure location.

List the other agencies in the area that provide similar services to your agency and address existing or potential overlaps of service.

As stated earlier, there are no other organizations in the area that provide the type of respite care offered by Daniel's Place. Agape Respite Care in Berne, IN is the closest, similar facility. They do provide overnight stays but are often completely booked months in advance. Agape does refer families to Daniel's Place.

How did you determine that the proposed project was needed? What metrics will be tracked and measured for community impact, and how often will these metrics be collected and reported?

As Daniel's Place has continued to grow its client base, the need for a dedicated facility was clear. With the current facility at capacity, the need to turn away families because of the lack of overnight stays, and the absence of a private environment, the directors of Daniel's Place recognize that this new facility will allow the organization to provide a level of care that better aligns with its mission.

Daniel's Place will measure success of the project and community impact in the following ways:

1. Number of Clients Served: This metric quantifies the reach of the facility and provides insight into the demand for respite care services in the community. It will be measured monthly.
2. Client Satisfaction Surveys: Regular surveys will assess clients' satisfaction with the services provided, helping to identify areas for improvement. Surveys will be conducted twice a year.
3. Caregiver Support and Satisfaction: Measure the level of support provided to caregivers and their satisfaction with our services. This will be done through caregiver surveys and interviews, conducted biannually.
4. Community Engagement: Monitor the level of engagement with the local community through events, partnerships, and outreach efforts. This will be assessed quarterly.
5. Referral Sources: Track where clients are coming from (e.g., hospitals, community organizations, word of mouth) to understand referral patterns and sources of community need. This will be done quarterly.
6. Community Partnerships and Collaborations: Keep track of partnerships with other community organizations, healthcare providers, and government agencies to assess the breadth and depth of collaboration. Review these partnerships annually or biannually.

Regular reporting of these metrics, along with analysis and interpretation of the data, will provide valuable insights into the impact of the facility on the community we serve. Reports will be shared with stakeholders such as funders, community partners, and the public to demonstrate accountability and transparency.

How does this project support the strategic goals of the agency?

The construction of a new facility is part of the organization's long-term strategic plan. The facility will address threats identified, such as a loss of guests due to lack of overnight stays and perceived lack of professionalism for being housed in a local church. Additionally, the facility addresses opportunities for further outreach and increased service hours.

Alternatives Explored: *(Please indicate what, if any, alternatives were explored and why each was rejected or accepted.)*

1. Purchasing the Zion Lutheran Church Facility – Although this would allow for the availability of overnight stays in the very near future, the facility will require extensive remodeling. This facility will also not address the issue of safe outdoor space. The age of the facility also causes concern for the costs of ongoing maintenance.
2. Unutilized space at Peabody Retirement Community – This space is not ideal for Daniel's Place. Rooms are on different floors, increasing the staff to guest ratio. General review of the property showed the need for extensive maintenance.

**Capital Project Information Form – NPO Owned Property
SCPI Grant Approval
United Way of Grant County**

Project Title: Daniel's Place New Construction

Proposed Project Address: 103 W 7th St. North Manchester, IN 46962 (Wabash Co)

Is the legal NPO entity providing services also the owner on title of the land/facility where new construction/renovations are needed? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Describe briefly the physical work to be done under this project; including gross square footage to be added, renovated or purchased.

There are three parcels of land owned by Daniels Place:

103 W 7th was originally purchased personally by Cheryl Working. Recently Daniel's Place bought the property from Cheryl in July of 2023, paying the balance of the outstanding mortgage. This property was purchased with monies from the Daniels Place savings account. There is no debt on this property. This property has an existing structure that is an old bowling alley and will be demolished as part of the building project.

The other two parcels are adjacent to 103 W 7th to the west. These properties have no structures. They were purchased by Daniel's Place in December of 2020. There is no debt on these properties.

This project will consist of demolition of the above referenced building and the new construction of a 5,190sf building with a 350sf canopy.

Project Timing:

Pending the final fundraising push (6 months), MKS anticipates an 18-month construction schedule to deliver a completed project.

Please name the general contractor and the soft cost consultants with the largest \$ contracts used in developing your plans (do not include any hard cost/contractor contracts unless contracting directly). *By providing this information, you agree to allow IUW to reach out for no more than a 5-10 minute call regarding details of the project.*

Name of Individual

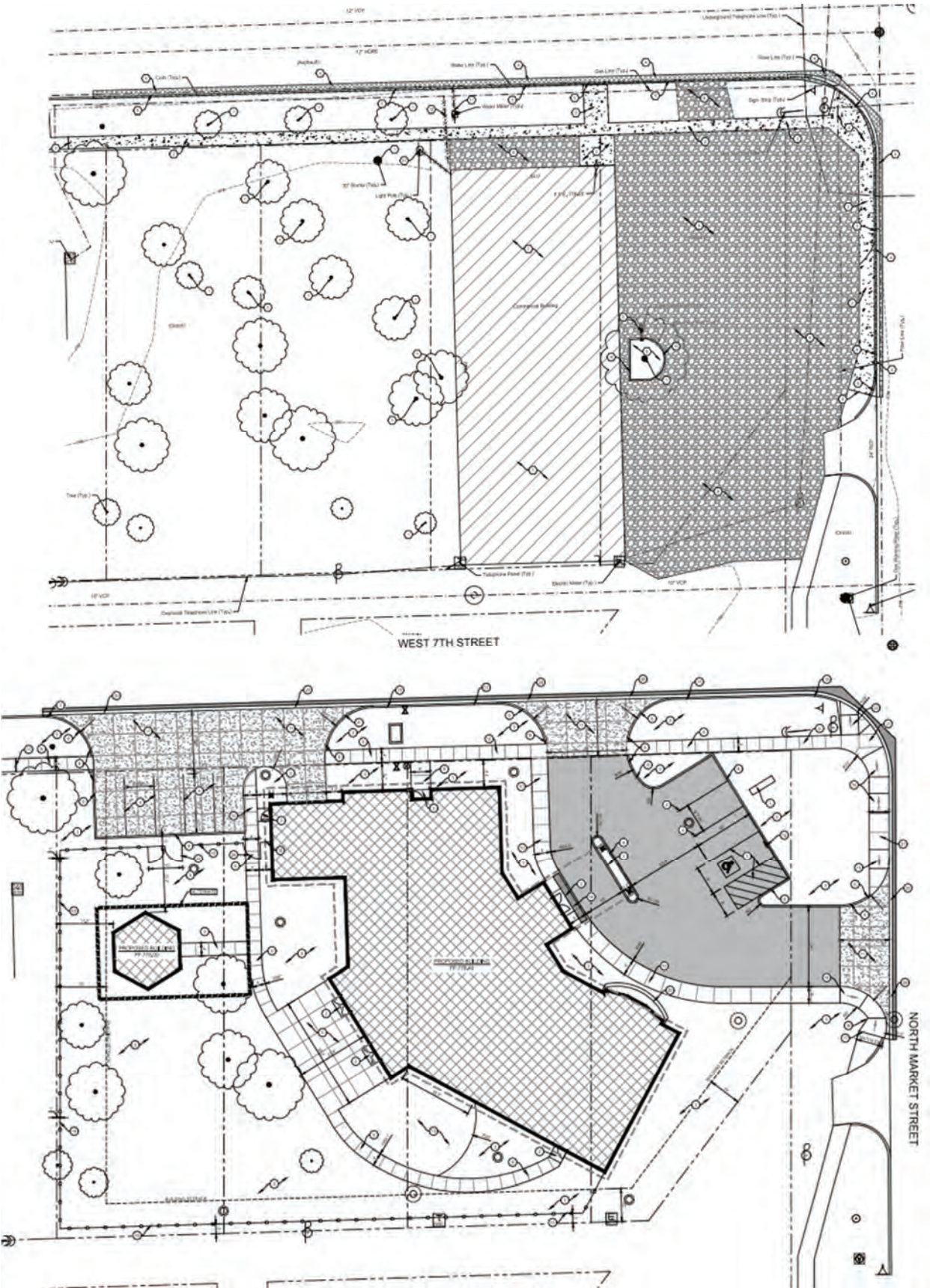
Firm Name

Phone/Email

Doug Kinder Michael Kinder & Sons (260) 744-4359 / DKINDER@KINDERANDSONS.COM
Alex Downard alex@downarddevstrategies.com

If you have a Board Building or Facility Committee (unpaid/volunteer):

Byron Brunn	Turnstone	260-578-1067
Heather Cruz	Manchester Alive	260-317-6057
Zachary Gentile	Ford Meter Box	205-566-1275





List the approvals which must be obtained for construction and operation of this project. Indicate your status on obtaining these approvals.

Approval from the State for a State Design Release will take 60-90 days and we will concurrently put the project out for final bids from all contractors/subcontractors. Once those final bids come in, we will just include the final amount in an amendment to the contract.

Special Exception for land use meeting is scheduled for June 24th with the North Manchester Plan commission.

After the State Design Release, the town building permit can be completed in 2-3 days.

Approvals Needed

Date Received/Pending

Will be provided for Final Approval Submittal.

Project Costs (Uses) and Funds (Sources)

Project Cost Uses			Total		Spent to Date		Remaining	
Property Acquisition Costs			\$ -		\$	%	\$	%
Due Diligence			\$ -					
Testing	MKS ROM		\$ 5,000					
Design Fees	MKS ROM		\$ 100,000					
Licenses, Permits, Fees, Utilities			\$ 350					
Construction Costs	MKS ROM (Detail @Final)		\$ 1,802,850					
Contingency Costs	3% MKS ROM		\$ 50,000	10% Recommended until costs/timing certain				
Technology Requirements			\$ -	TBD				
Communications			\$ -	TBD				
Security Requirements			\$ -	TBD				
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	MKS ROM		\$ 75,000					
Relocation Cost			\$ -					
Signage	MKS ROM		\$ 20,000					
Total Estimated Costs for the Capital Project			\$ 2,053,200					
Total Funding Uses			\$ 2,053,200	\$ 395.61	Above average costs for ground up construction \$300-350/sf			

Project Cost Funding Sources							
SCPI Grant Award		\$ 950,000	46%	Match requirement needed			
NPO Funds Collected to Date		\$ 87,000	4%				
Current unrestricted	\$ 87,000	Paid to Architect to date					
Sale of Property							
Unrestricted Endowment Funds							
Government	\$ -						
Foundations	\$ -						
Capital Campaign		\$ 636,200	31%	Target needed in fundraising for entire project			
Board Commitment		\$380,000 Board Designated Funds					
Foundations		Foundation grants, personal gifts will be the remainder					
Individuals	\$ -						
Corporations							
Government							
Collaborative Partner(s)							
In-Kind Contributions							
Other							
Total Funding Sources				\$ 2,053,200	100%		

Project Funding Plan

If planning to conduct a Capital Campaign:

Do you intend to utilize a consultant? Yes ☐/ No ☒ Consultant selected _____

Volunteers identified to serve on Campaign:

Cabinet Honorary Chair - Cheryl Working
 Volunteer - Daniel's Place Director, Tom Lower
 Volunteer - Daniel's Place Director, Marie Hardy
 Volunteer – Community Member – Marceil Kemper
 Volunteer – Community Member – Jensen Lassiter
 Volunteer – Community Member – Chloe Steele

Projected timing of Campaign:

Commencement of Silent Phase 01/01/2024
 Commencement of Public Phase 07/01/2024
 Projected Completion 09/01/2024

How do you intend on recognizing key sponsors or donors to the capital campaign? Do you have the branding guidelines and logo needed from United Way of Grant County?

All key sponsors and donors to the campaign will be recognized unless they ask to remain anonymous. Donors will be recognized on a donor wall, as well as having naming rights to spaces within our facility. Donors will also be recognized in press releases and all media updates provided during the construction project.

Daniel's Place will obtain the branding guidelines and logo needed from United Way of Grant County.

Analysis of Operational Impact:

See Application Files Part 1: 02. Capital Campaign Info > 3-11 Version Draft 5 Year Pro Forma Daniel's Place (1).xlsx

Previous Capital Expenditures:

Project/Description	Year	Funding Source	Amount
103 W 7th St Property	2023	Savings	\$25,618
Two empty lots adjacent to 103 W 7th St Property	2020	Savings	\$34,617

Facility Maintenance Planning and Budgeting:

1. Does your organization utilize a Facilities Committee to assist with facilities planning and budgeting? Yes ☒ No ☐ If (No), who is currently responsible

2. Does your organization fund annual depreciation expense or maintain some form of reserves specifically to help fund future property maintenance and capital needs? Yes ☒ No ☐

If (Yes) – What is the current balance in the reserve account? \$180,000



Town of Roann

P.O. Box 276 ❖ 110 North Chippewa St. ❖ Roann, Indiana 46974 ❖ (765)833-2100
Email: townofroann@centurylink.net

Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support
November 1, 2024

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

The Town of Roann is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process for the Roann Park project. For nearly a decade, the community has been working towards this initiative. Prioritized as the Town of Roann's top priority in Imagine One 85 and again in the Stellar Pathways planning process, we have continued to move this project forward as much as we can. As always, funding has been a challenge for starting the project. After completing a master plan and all required design and engineering for the project, the Town was able to secure private donations totaling over \$417,000 to support the project. With a successful Stellar Pathways designation, our project becomes a reality.

The Town of Roann knows that it is important to have a place for the residents and the surrounding communities to gather and play. We want to give the community the amenities that would draw new people to our town. Here in the Town of Roann we see this Park Project as a bridge that will do exactly what Wabash County strives for, which is a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status and The Town of Roann wants to be that place.

The Town of Roann is strongly committed to completing the necessary steps required for accessing the CDBG funding that the Stellar Pathways designation presents. Additionally, we are fully committed to continuing to collaborate with all stakeholders across Wabash County to ensure a brighter future for current and future residents. We kindly request the full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

With gratitude,

Robert "M" Ferguson Jr., CMO, IAMCA, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer



**TOWN OF ROANN
PARK AMENITIES**

- 1 EXISTING BASEBALL FIELD
- 2 BASKETBALL & PICKLEBALL COURT
- 3 WALKING TRACK
- 4 LABYRINTH WALK
- 5 NEW PAVILLION
- 6 RESTROOM BUILDING
- 7 PRE-K PLAYGROUND
- 8 EXPANDED PARKING LOT
- 9 SPLASHPAD
- 10 PLAYGROUND
- 11 FUTURE PLAYGROUND OR ATHLETIC FIELD EXPANSION

**DONATE TO SUPPORT
THIS COMMUNITY
PROJECT HERE:**



Roann Park Project

Phase 1

Ground Preparation	\$121,706.00
Concrete Work (sidewalks, pavilion floor)	105,600.00
Parking Lot (Asphalt)	67,500.00
Pavilions and Restrooms (men/women)	185,577.08
Playground Equipment	136,260.00
Fence	14,160.00
Lighting (parking lot/around pavilions (32))	59,168.00
Picnic Tables (40)	50,360.00
Park Sign (as per SHPO)	1,000.00
Total	\$741,331.08

Phase 2

Cross Fit Equipment	\$55,012.00
Total	55,012.00

Grand Total	\$796,343.08
-------------	--------------



Living Well in Wabash County CoA, Inc.

239 Bond Street, Wabash, IN 46992
(260) 563-4475 Transit: (260) 563-7536
www.livingwellwabashcounty.org

WINCHESTER SENIOR CENTER • COMMUNITY CUPBOARD • WABASH COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION • LIVING WELL DOWNTOWN

November 1, 2024

Community Cupboard Pantry and Wabash County Public Transportation receive Wabash County United Fund Support



To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is an honor to declare our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a foundation of years of dedicated work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects the theme that Wabash County is committed *to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.*

Living Well in Wabash County CoA, Inc. (formerly Wabash County Council on Aging) gratified by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process for the renovation of the Dallas L Winchester Senior Center (Winchester Senior Center).

This building, the agency's base of operation, continues to serve older adults across Wabash County meeting basic needs and more. Winchester Senior Center eliminates isolation and enriches the autumn and winter of life for Wabash County's older adults through a variety of programs and services.

The Center provides opportunities for lifelong learning, fellowship with peers, health and wellness, without a membership fee, and with most activities offered free of charge.

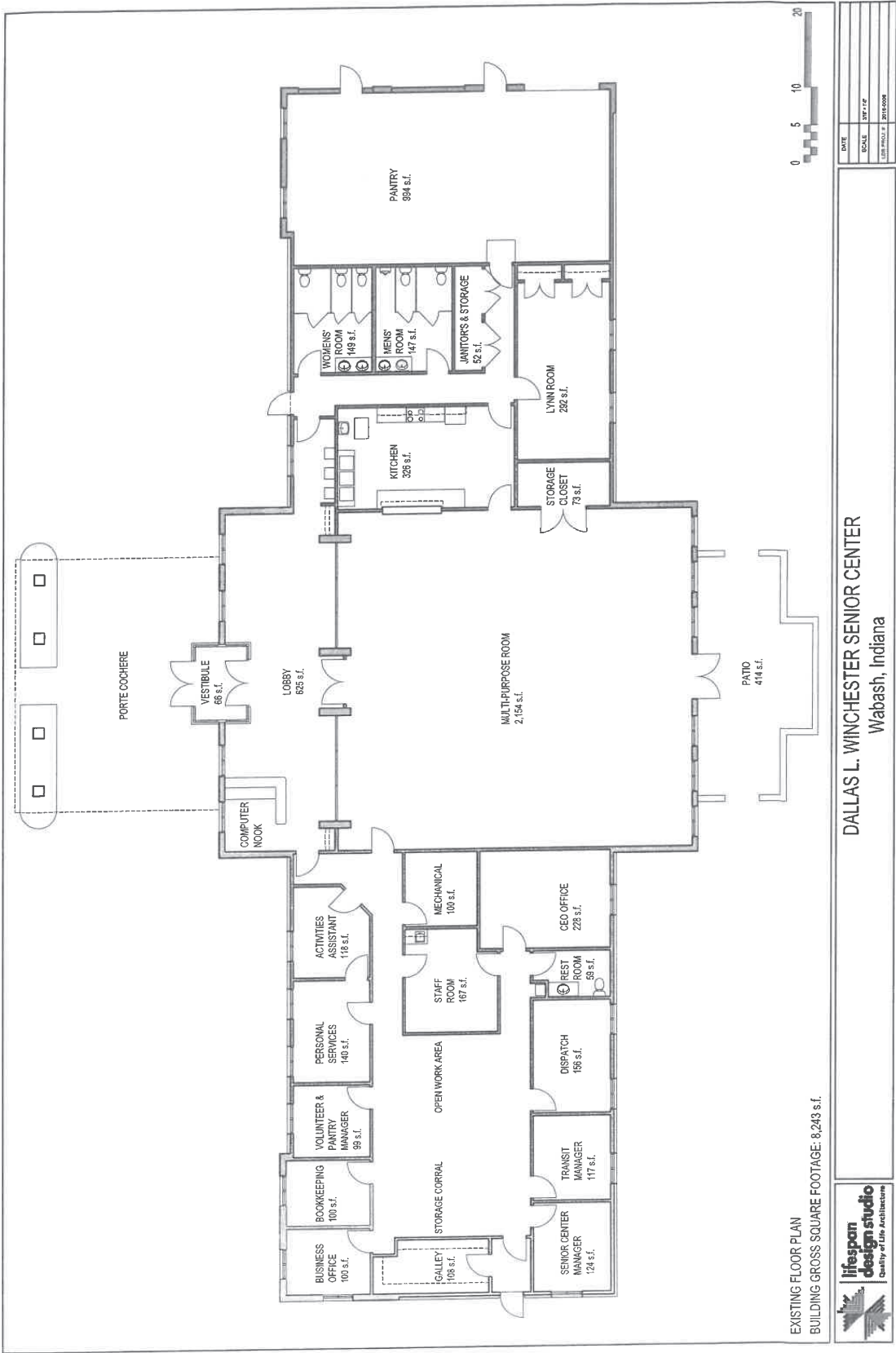
Winchester Senior Center is like coming home for those who now live alone. On-going programming provides opportunities for developing and maintaining relationships, a key to battling the effects of isolation. Traditional programs are offered as well as being home to the Wabash Community Band, an intergenerational band of forty-two members ranging in age from high school to retirement from across Wabash County as well as neighboring counties.

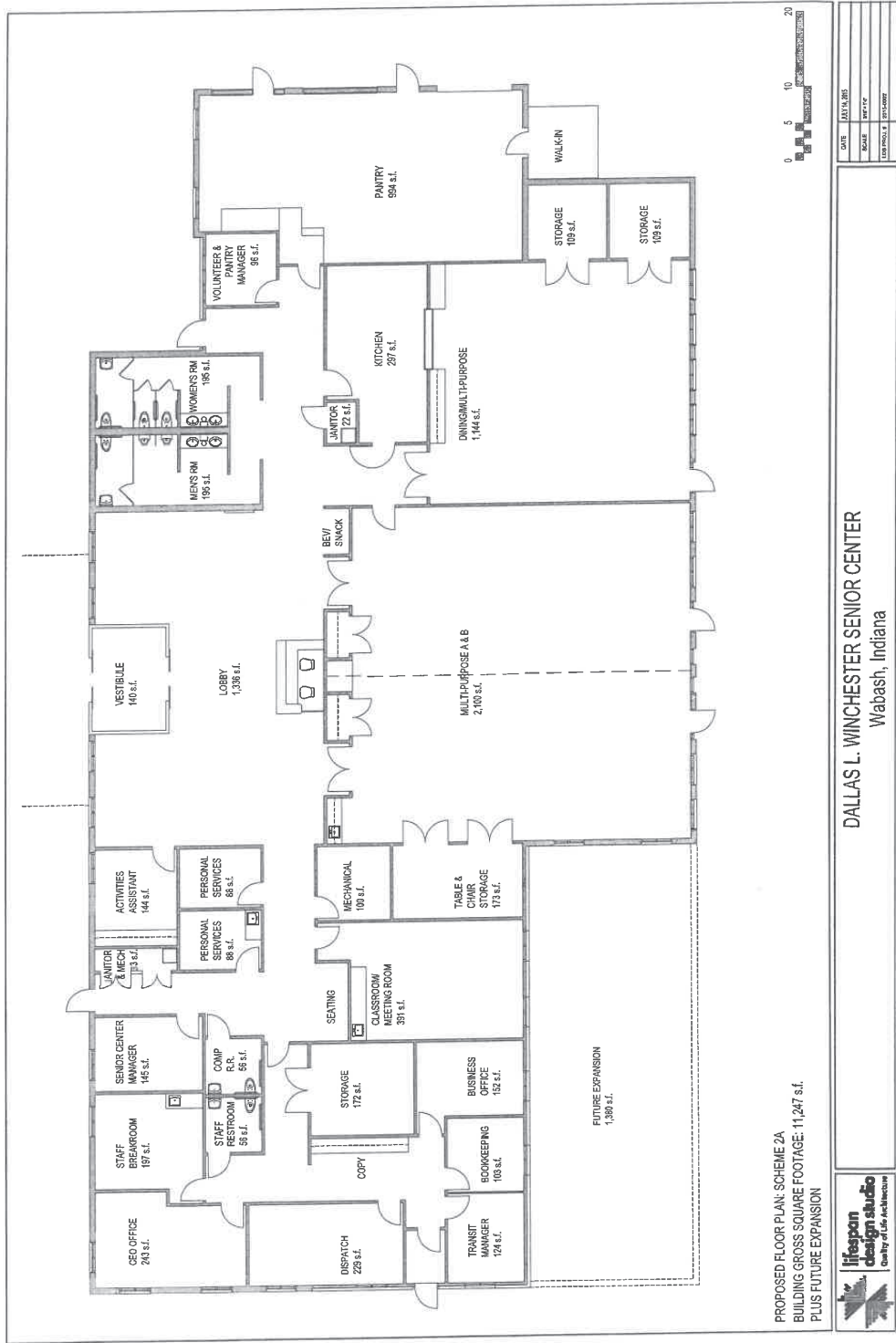
Living Well is committed to moving this project forward. With a Stellar Pathways designation, Living Well commits to fundraising \$300,000 to support the renovation project and working through the necessary steps to access the CDBG funding through OCRA to bring this long-awaited project to fruition.

We respectfully request full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

With gratitude,

Beverly Ferry
Chief Executive Officer







TOWN OF LAGRO

P.O.Box 305
230 Buchanan Street
Lagro, IN 46941



Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support
November 1, 2024

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

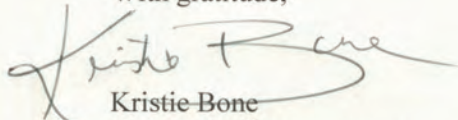
The Town of Lagro is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process for the Lagro sidewalk improvement project. Capitalizing on recent investments in our community such as the Wabash River Trail, new businesses, and other amenities has been prioritized throughout Imagine One 85, Level Up Lagro (Lagro's Economic Development Plan), and the Stellar Pathways process. We firmly believe that improved connectivity and accessibility is crucial to our community's future. The proposed project benefits residents, visitors, and businesses by connecting along a main corridor in Downtown. If successful in receiving the Stellar Pathways designation, the Town of Lagro is

committed to using the \$15,000 budgeted as the local match for Community Crossings towards this sidewalk improvement project.

Lagro remains committed to collaborating across community lines to define a better future for all current and future residents in Wabash County. Imagine One 85 set a strong foundation for working together to accomplish this goal and a Stellar Pathways designation as well as the funding that accompanies this, rewards our entire County's commitment to engagement, planning, collaboration, and implementation.

We kindly request the full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

With gratitude,



Kristie Bone
Lagro Clerk Treasurer



Asphalt Paving & Concrete Construction

5511 West Old 24 Wabash, IN 46992 (260) 563-1821 Fax (260) 563-0279
www.gauntasphaltpaving.com

Town of Lagro
230 Buchanan Street
Lagro, IN 46941
Attn: Kristy Bone

September 18, 2024

RE: Davis Street/SR 524 Walk Replacement

Ms. Bone:

Following is our quotation for replacing the sidewalk on Davis Street / State Road 524 between Main Street and Washington Street. We propose the following:

West Side:

1. Remove existing walk.
2. Furnish, place and compact 4" of #53 limestone.
3. Form and pour 4" of 4000 PSI Reinforced Concrete.
4. Install 2 ADA ramps with detectable elements.

East Side:

1. Remove existing walk and curb.
2. Furnish, place and compact 4" of #53 limestone.
3. Form and pour 4" of 4000 PSI Reinforced Concrete walk with integral curb to make a curb-faced walk.
4. Install 2 ADA ramps with detectable elements.

Your budget for this work: \$49,500.00

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare this budget this work for you. Let me know if you want anything figured differently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Knight".

Sam Knight
Vice President



TOWN OF NORTH MANCHESTER

101-103 East Main Street
North Manchester, IN
46962-1899
Phone: (260) 982-9800

Town Manager, Adam Penrod
Clerk-Treasurer, Carrie Mugford

Town Council

Jim Smith, *President*
Laura Rager, *Vice President*
Chalmer "Toby" Tobias
Allen Miracle
Gary Montel

RE: Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support

November 1, 2024

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

The Town of North Manchester is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process for the Manchester Mile safety enhancement and State Road 114 sidewalk projects. These projects improve much needed connectivity of amenities across the community. The Manchester Mile connects Manchester University, Peabody Senior Living Facility, Manchester Jr./Sr. High School, Strauss Peabody Aquatic Center, N. Manchester Public Library, Daniel's Place's future facility, the Thrift Store, and other amenities to the heart of Downtown North Manchester as well as the new Eel River Commons riverfront park project. If successful in the Stellar Pathways designation, the INDOT safety funds will allow for safety enhancements to be made to the complete streetscape project ensuring safety of all residents along the newly improved connector. The State Road 114 sidewalk project will physically connect the Downtown to assets located on the west side of Town including grocery stores, eateries, and other business and residential areas. This pedestrian sidewalk will allow for an accessible connection to necessary resources for all residents. Currently, bicycles and pedestrians either use the highway for travel or they walk across unimproved grass areas in the State ROW. In addition, this route is the highest traffic count road through town. If successful in the Stellar Pathways designation, the Town of North Manchester is committed to the 10% financial match for each of these projects.

Our community remains committed to countywide collaboration and implementation of initiatives that invest in quality of life and place which make Wabash County a more desirable place to live for all residents. We kindly request the full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

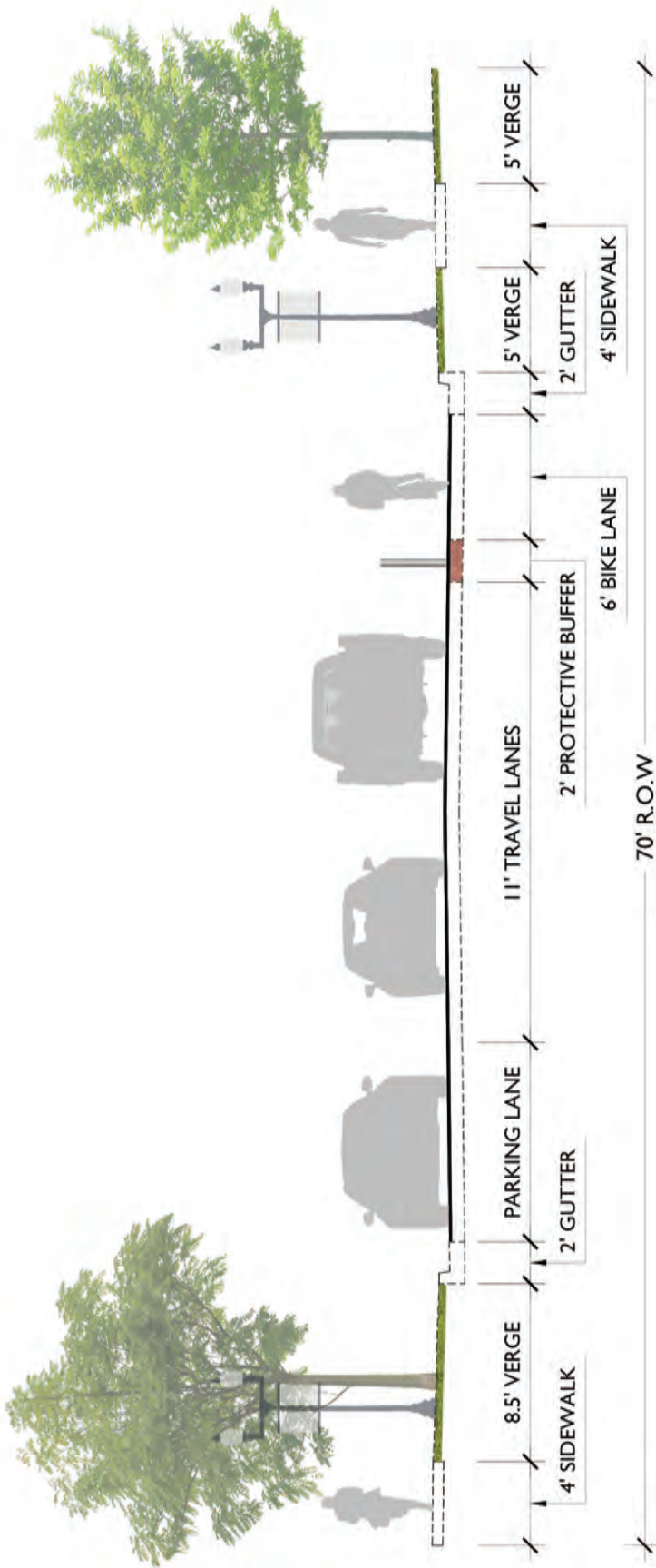
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam R.", is written over the printed name.

Adam Penrod
Town Manager
260-306-3540

MARKET STREET						
Cost Breakdown October 17, 2024						

MARKET STREET - OPTION B



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rationale

Manchester Together seeks to make the Town of North Manchester and Manchester University more vibrant places to live, work, learn, and play by increasing amenities, expanding housing opportunities, improving cultural facilities, and physically connecting the Town and University.

Project Description and Timeline

Eel River Commons

A marquee downtown park adjacent to the river offering a vibrant and engaging outdoor environment aimed at supporting both large-scale events and individual experiences.

› Implementation Timeline: 3 Years

Manchester Mile

A complete streetscape connecting the downtown to the campus offering a safe, attractive alternative for walking and bicycling and connects those in the community to a variety of new and existing amenities along the route.

› Implementation Timeline: 3.5 Years

College Row

A housing endeavor which offers newly constructed townhomes, a missing form of housing in the Town, that will be an attractive and more affordable choice for current and future members of the community.

› Implementation Timeline: 3.5 Years

Cultural Facilities

Expanded Cordier Auditorium and Winger Hall for 21st century arts education and entertainment.

› Implementation Timeline: 3 Years

Request

With Lilly Endowment Inc. support of \$12,128,000 Manchester Together is prepared to deliver \$40,432,200 of impactful community investment. This is a generational opportunity for the community to continue to work with Lilly Endowment to create enhanced quality of life for all people of the community.

Collaborators and Responsibilities

- › **Manchester Together Leadership Group:** General Oversight (See Below)
- › **North Manchester Town Council:** Project Investment and Leadership
- › **Imagine One 85:** Research, Coordination and Leadership
- › **Community Foundation of Wabash County:** Listening Session Hosts, Comprehensive Leadership
- › **Grow Wabash County:** Economics and Leadership
- › **Mark Becker:** Grant Consultant
- › **planning NEXT:** Project Manager
- › **Nicole Prewitt:** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Expert
- › **Heather Presley-Cowen:** Housing Expert
- › **John Stafford:** Financial Expert

Leadership Group

- › **Stacy H. Young, Ph.D.,** President of Manchester University
- › **Abigail L. Van Vlerah, Ph.D.,** Vice President for Student Life at Manchester University
- › **Julie J. Knuth,** Executive Assistant to the President at Manchester University
- › **Adam Penrod,** Town Manager for the Town of North Manchester
- › **Patty Grant,** President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Wabash County
- › **Alex Downard,** Director of Imagine One 85
- › **Tenille Zartman,** President and CEO of Grow Wabash County
- › **Keith Gillenwater,** former, President and CEO of Grow Wabash County

Main Street Northside Sidewalk - West St. to Meridian St.
Town of North Manchester

PRE-DESIGN CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE					
Item No.	Item description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Extension
1	Common Excavation	250	CYS	\$50	\$12,500.00
2	Concrete Sidewalk, 4"	1600	SYS	\$110	\$176,000.00
3	Concrete Curb Ramp	50	SYS	\$300	\$15,000.00
4	Concrete Curb & Gutter, Remove & Replace	500	LFT	\$50	\$25,000.00
5	Compacted Aggregate for Drive Approach	500	TON	\$50	\$25,000.00
6	PCCP for Drive Approach	1100	SYS	\$100	\$110,000.00
7	Seeding / Restoration	1800	SYS	\$10	\$18,000.00
8	Detectable Warning Surface	10	SYS	\$500	\$5,000.00
9	Crosswalk Marking, 6"	400	LFT	\$10	\$4,000.00
10	Transverse Marking, Stop Line	250	LFT	\$10	\$2,500.00
11	Storm Drainage Improvements	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000.00
12	Street Light/Pole Relocations	1	LS	\$25,000	\$25,000.00
13	Erosion & Sediment Control	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
14	Misc/ & Contingency 15%	1	LS	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
15	Removals & Disposals	1	LS	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
16	Construction Engineering	1	LS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
17	Maintaining of Traffic	1	LS	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
18	Mobilization & Demobilization	1	LS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Total Estimate					\$650,000.00

Prepare By: Apex Consulting & Surveying, Inc
Date: September-24

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101 W Sycamore Street, Suite 1A
Kokomo, IN 46901

Office/Mobile 765-271-2435
dbliss@advantagehousing.org
www.advantagehousing.org

November 1, 2024

Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

Advantage Housing is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community and the consideration of us as a worthy partner in the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process. 599 S. Wabash seems to be well known in our community. Not only is it known for its history of "colorful" activities, but most recently it is known for its dilapidated condition. This project will restore its activity to a noble purpose; to serve as low-barrier, low-income rental housing. Once renovated, it will become a welcoming sight as residents and guests enter the downtown Wabash area. The project will reduce the structure to a standalone property. It will be separated from 571 S. Wabash to the north and separated from the sidewalk to the west. The space between the buildings will become a lighted walkway to the rear parking for both buildings. Once complete, this property will offer two, 2-bedroom townhouse apartments and one, 1-bedroom handicapped accessible apartment. These units will all be qualified as "Ongoing HOME Rental Housing." They will have income and rent limits to help battle the lack of quality and healthy affordable housing in Wabash County.

In anticipation of the award, I have completed the required HOME Rental Housing Compliance Training and Certification, which took place September 18-19, 2024, in Cincinnati, OH. This certification, along with my current HOME program certification, should certainly enhance our application to OCRA and the IHCD. Advantage Housing is also committed to meeting the required 25% funding match through the HOME Rental Housing program.

We kindly request full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dale Bliss".

Executive Director
Advantage Housing, Inc.



101 W Sycamore Street, Suite 1A
Kokomo, IN 46901

Office/Mobile 765-271-2435
dbliss@advantagehousing.org
www.advantagehousing.org

Wednesday, September 10, 2024

Alex Downard
Grow Wabash County & Imagine One 85 Initiative
214 S. Wabash Street
Wabash, IN 46992

Dear Alex,

I am pleased to submit this project overview and the estimated cost amount to you and the grant committee. Thank you for considering Advantage Housing, Inc. as a worthy partner in this Stellar Community initiative.

599 S. Wabash seems to be well known in our community. Not only is it known for its history of "colorful" activities, but most recently is known for its dilapidated condition. This project will restore its activity to a noble purpose; to serve as low-barrier, low-income rental housing. Once renovated, it will become a welcoming sight as residents and guests enter the downtown Wabash area.

The project will reduce the structure to a stand-alone property. It will be separated from 571 S. Wabash to the north and separated from the sidewalk to the west. The space between the buildings will become a lighted walkway to the rear parking for both buildings.

Once complete, this property will offer two, 2-bedroom townhouse apartments and one, 1-bedroom handicapped accessible apartment. These units will all be qualified as "Ongoing HOME Rental Housing." They will have income and rent limits to help battle the lack of quality and healthy affordable housing in Wabash County.

In anticipation of the award, I have enrolled in the required HOME Rental Housing Compliance Training and Certification, which takes place September 18-19, 2024, in Cincinnati, OH. This certification, along with my current HOME program certification, should certainly enhance our application to IHCD.

Please let me know of any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Gratefully Submitted,

Dale Bliss
Executive Director

Wabash County Stellar Community Grant Proposal
Advantage Housing, Inc. - Affordable Rental Housing Project
599 S. Wabash Street, Wabash, IN 46992

Item Name	Description	Cost Estimate
Demo	East and north additions, exterior surface, interior walls, old chimney	\$ 7,950.00
Foundation	Repair and stucco	\$ 1,590.00
Roof	Remove and replace with metal roofing	\$ 31,800.00
Exterior Framing & Siding	Install new windows, doors, OSB (subsiding), and vinyl siding	\$ 7,950.00
Exterior Doors	5 - exterior doors including basement and accessibility entrance to unit #3	\$ 1,590.00
Windows	20 - windows (36x48)	\$ 16,960.00
Interior Framing	2 - stairways, 2x6 separating walls, 2x4 interior walls	\$ 10,600.00
Insulation	Exterior insulation for energy, interior insulation for sound	\$ 6,360.00
Electric	3 - meter bases, new service wiring, power, lighting and appliances	\$ 31,800.00
Plumbing	3 - baths, 2 - 1/2 baths, 3 kitchens, 3 - laundry service	\$ 25,440.00
HVAC	2 - 60K BTU, 1 - 40K BTU Furnace and A/C	\$ 38,160.00
Drywall	Hang, finish, texture ceiling	\$ 19,080.00
Paint	Paint walls, trim, ceiling, doors	\$ 12,720.00
Exterior Passage	Deck between building, new sidewalk on south side. Fill in basement steps	\$ 10,600.00
Flooring	All areas - vinyl plank flooring	\$ 19,080.00
Cabinets	Cabinets and countertops for 3 - kitchens, 2 -bathrooms	\$ 15,900.00
Appliances	Refrigerators, stoves, microwave ovens, stacked washer & dryer	\$ 7,420.00
Finish Capentry	Finish trim for doors, windows, stairway, baseboard	\$ 7,500.00
Contingency	Funds to cover unexpected materials and labor < 12 %	\$ 29,000.00
Project Subtotal	Total Materials & Labor	\$ 301,500.00
General Contractor	7 % for managing the all materials, labor, inspections, codes, permits, etc.	\$ 21,105.00
Grant / Project Admin	7 % for managing all grant compliance, fundraising, match reporting, etc.	\$ 21,105.00
Project Total	Total All Costs	\$ 343,710.00
Grant Funding	Funds from Wabash County Stellar Community Grant	\$ 257,782.50
Match Funding	Funds from Advantage Housing, Inc.	\$ 85,927.50

Annual Operating Budget July 2024 - June 2025

Income	Amount Awarded
Government Grant Income - IHADA	\$ 110,000.00
Indirect Public Support	\$ 35,000.00
Match Funding - AHI Warehouse	\$ 150,000.00
Program Income	\$ 25,000.00
Real Estate Investments - Rents	\$ 26,400.00
Misc. Income	\$ 10,000.00
Total Income	\$ 356,400.00

Expenses	Awarded
Rapid Rehousing Expenses	\$ 55,000.00
Shelter [H.O.S.T.	\$ 60,000.00
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 47,400.00
Vehicles	\$ 15,000.00
Staff	\$ 147,000.00
Business Expenses	\$ 21,000.00
Misc. Expenses	\$ 11,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 356,400.00

Advantage Housing - Grant Awards and Renovated Properties

IHCDA Grant Program	Grant Cycle	Effective Period	Award Number	Amount Awarded
Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	2016-2017	July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	ESRRHP-016-001	\$ 50,000.00
TANF Rapid Rehousing Program Grant	2016-2017	Sept 1, 2016-Dec 31, 2017	TANFRR-016-001	\$ 30,900.00
Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	2017-2018	July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018	ESRRHP-017-001	\$ 232,067.00
Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	2018-2019	July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019	ESRRHP-018-001	\$ 138,489.00
TANF Rapid Rehousing Program Grant	2019	Jan 1, 2019-Dec 31, 2019	TANFRR-019-001	\$ 78,344.00
Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	2019-2020	July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020	ESRRHP-01-001	\$ 131,555.00
TANF Rapid Rehousing Program Grant	2020	Jan 1, 2020-Dec 31, 2020	TANFRRHP-020-001	\$ 57,350.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2019-2020	July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020	ES-019-002	\$ 37,887.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2020-2021	July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021	ES-020-003	\$ 45,969.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2021	Mar 15, 2021-June 30, 2021	ES-019-002-C	\$ 100,000.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2021-2022	July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022	ES-021-003	\$ 33,500.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2022	Feb 1, 2022-Sept 30, 2022	ES-020-003-C	\$ 106,000.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2022-2023	July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023	ES-022-003	\$ 43,000.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2023	Jan 1, 2023-June 30, 2023	ES-021-003-C	\$ 120,000.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2023-2024	July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024	ES-023-006	\$ 41,400.00
Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	2023-2024	July 1, 2023-Dec 31, 2024	ESRRHP-023-002	\$ 50,000.00
ESG Grant Shelter Program	2024-2025	July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025		
Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	2024-2025	July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025		

Other Grants Awarded	Year	Description	Awarded
PNC Foundation	2017	Housing Counseling Grant	\$ 17,000.00
St Charles Borromeo	2017	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 10,000.00
Community Foundation Wabash County	2018	Shelter	\$ 6,000.00
Community Foundation Wabash County	2018	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 5,000.00
United Way Miami County	2018	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 557.08
Wabash County United Fund	2018	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 5,000.00
Community Foundation Howard County	2019	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 5,000.00
Community Foundation Howard County	2019	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 4,000.00
Community Foundation Wabash County	2019	Shelter	\$ 5,007.50
Community Foundation Wabash County	2019	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 765.00
Community Foundation Wabash County	2019	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$ 2,750.00

Eel Township Trustee, Cass County	2019	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$	5,000.00
FCA Fiat Chrysler Automobiles	2019	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$	5,000.00
Wells Fargo	2019	Housing Counseling Grant	\$	2,500.00
Community Foundation Wabash County	2020	Shelter	\$	10,000.00
United Way Howard County	2020	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$	15,000.00
United Way Miami County	2020	Rapid Rehousing & Homeless Prevention	\$	10,000.00
Wabash County United Fund	2021	Shelter	\$	10,000.00
Wabash County United Fund	2021	Shelter	\$	3,559.00
Community Foundation Wabash County	2022	Shelter	\$	25,000.00
Ford Meter Box Foundation	2023	Shelter	\$	10,000.00
Housing Action of Wabas County	2023	Shelter	\$	5,000.00
First United Methodist Church of Wabash	2024	Shelter	\$	5,000.00
Sam's Club	2024	Shelter	\$	500.00
Wabash County United Fund	2024	Shelter	\$	1,875.00
Walmart-Kokomo	2024	Shelter	\$	500.00
Walmart-Wabash	2024	Shelter	\$	1,000.00
Wabash County United Fund	2025	Shelter		

Properties Renovated / Sold or Rental

100 Schiele Road, Logansport	Rental
110 E Monroe, Kokomo	Sold
171 W 2nd St, Peru	Sold
173 E 8th St, Peru	Sold
178 E 8th St, Peru	Sold
284 E 6th St, Peru	Sold
370 W 6th St, Peru	Sold
415 W Elm, Kokomo	Sold
417 S Webster, Kokomo	Sold
500 W Park Ave, Kokomo	Rental / Sold
514 W Park Ave, Kokomo	Rental
516 N Market, Kokomo	Rental
571 S Wabash, Wabash	Shelter
599 S Wabash, Wabash	Next Rental Project



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Indiana Trails Program

Application

City of Wabash

WABASH RIVERWALK EXTENSION

03/01/2023



City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application



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INDIANA TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Y 1. Application Form. One Application Form signed by the applicant. (Appendix) Costs should only add up to a maximum \$500,000.00 project (including \$100,000.00 match); if a larger project then add those costs and description in the Remarks area at the bottom.
- N/A 2. Proof of Eligibility for Not-for-Profits. Documentation from the IRS verifying Not-for-Profit 501(c)3 Status. Not-for-profit 501(c)3 status must be granted and active at time of grant application to be eligible. Not-for-profits must also provide proof that the organization's central mission via a webpage link, planning document, or other resource that clearly states the organization's mission.
- Y 3. Cost Breakdown. One detailed cost breakdown for the project showing the estimated cost of all development, by major work unit (not to exceed the total project amount, grant+match).
- Y 4. Match Documentation. A statement from the clerk-treasurer, county auditor, or fiscal agent certifying the availability and source of local funds and/or letters of intent for project donations.
- Y 5. Project Narrative. One project narrative including:
- Y a. Detailed description of the project (DO NOT include work outside of/beyond the grant project). Include acreages for existing property and any acquisition. Mention all features/amenities the grant will cover and include the length of the trail. Address all measurable in the narrative.
 - Y b. A detailed project timeline from grant approval to construction completion. Milestones should be organized in a month/year format.
 - Y c. Description of how the project will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.
 - Y d. Indicate that the facilities developed by the project sponsor will be maintained for a minimum of 25 years.
- Y 6. Public Participation. Provide documentation addressing all public participation.



City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application

- Y 7. Jurisdictional Approval. Provide letter(s) of support from relevant authority.
- Y 8. Environmental Information. Include a description of any environmental, archaeological, or historic/cultural resources known. Provide the Early Coordination documentation and mention any known/anticipated permits.
- Y 9. Location Map. One map clearly showing the boundaries of the project site within the local area/municipality.
- Y 10. Site Map. One overall site map showing project boundaries, existing and proposed facilities, any easements/ROWs, property lines, streets, natural/cultural resources, etc. and drawn to scale. Be sure to include all measurables that can be identified on a map, such as land acquisition (include acreages and/or linear footage & width), trail location, notable natural features or resources, bench location, connections to other trails, etc.
- Y 11. Design and Engineering Plans. Provide a copy of any design plans that have been completed.
- Y 12. Current easement(s). One copy of all existing easements that cross the property to be developed, such as utility lines, roads, access drives, etc.
- Y 13. Current deed(s). One copy of the property deed for each parcel of land to be developed showing clear ownership by the grantee.
- Y 16. Photographs. Photos keyed to a site map showing the natural features, existing recreation facilities, buildings, and trail area.
- Y 14. Letters of Intent to Sell or Donate land, signed by the landowner.
- N/A 15. Estimate of value/appraisal for each acquisition parcel (or full appraisal, if available)



SECTION 1

APPLICATION FORM



Existing Riverwalk Trail in Wabash



GRANT APPLICATION

State Form 55049 (R / 3-20)
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPLICATION INFORMATION		
Type of grant (Please check one.) ☐ Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) ☐ Recreational Trails Program (RTP) ☐ Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) ☒ Other: <u>Indiana Trail Program (ITP)</u>		
Name of organization City of Wabash	Employer identification number 35-6001222	
Name of contact person Adam Hall	Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number GPUHK4F8PBK3	
Address (number and street, city, state, and ZIP code) 202 S. Wabash Street City Hall, Wabash, IN 46992		
Telephone number (260) 563-4171	Fax number ()	E-mail address parkdept@cityofwabash.com
Name and brief description of project: Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension and bypass - The extension project will provide an 8' wide, multi-use path continuation of the Wabash Riverwalk Trail from River Street to Charley Creek and the Wabash City Park for approximately 6500'. An additional 660' of multi-use path will be constructed between Huntington Road and SR 15 to improve access for the existing riverwalk during flood events.		
COST CLASSIFICATION		
1. Preliminary expenses	\$ N/A	
2. Land, structures, and rights-of-way	\$ N/A	
3. Architectural and engineering basic fees	\$ 96,674	
4. Relocation expenses	\$ N/A	
5. Construction and equipment	\$ 787,950	
6. TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT (Lines 1 through 5)	\$ 884,624	
7. Grant Request in line 6	\$ 400,000	
8. Applicant's share of line 6	\$ 484,624	
METHOD OF FINANCING APPLICANT'S SHARE		
1. Local Appropriations (by applicant)	\$ 484,624	
2. Donations	\$ N/A	
a. Land	\$	
b. Cash	\$	
c. Labor	\$	
d. Equipment	\$	
e. Materials	\$	
3. Federal source (Specify in Remarks.)	\$ 0	
4. Force account (Specify in Remarks.)	\$ 0	
5. Other (Specify in Remarks.)	\$ 0	
6. TOTAL APPLICANT'S SHARE	\$ 484,624	
Remarks: The Wabash Riverwalk Trail extension is considered a Proposed Visionary Trail and is the next step in extending the link towards Peru. This section of trail will provide connections to the Wabash City Park and Charley Creek Trail and is included in the Wabash Trail System Master Plan. The section of trail between Huntington Road and SR 15 will allow continuous access to the Wabash Riverwalk, as the current section is prone to high water conditions that require closure of this area. This new section will also allow direct and visible access for the planned housing along Fulton Street on the newly acquired City property.		
To the best of my knowledge, information in this application is true and correct, the grant application has been duly authorized by the applicant and it will comply with all conditions of the program if funding is approved.		
Signature 	Date (month, day, year) 02/27/2023	
Printed name Scott A. Long	Title Mayor	

SECTION 2 PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY

Not Applicable



Existing Riverwalk Trail section that is often closed due to flooding

City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application

SECTION 3 COST BREAKDOWN

Wabash Riverwalk Trail Extension
Summary of Costs
3/1/2023

Design and Engineering		
	Trail Design	\$ 86,674.50
	Environmental Review and Permitting	\$ 10,000.00
	Total Soft Costs (r/w not included)	\$ 96,674.50

Construction		
Trail Extension		\$717,000.00
	See Exhibit A for detailed items	
Trail Bypass		\$ 48,000.00
	See Exhibit B for detailed items	
	<i>Total Construction</i>	<i>\$765,000.00</i>
	<i>3% annual inflation (2024)</i>	<i>\$787,950.00</i>

Project Total **\$884,624.50**

ITP Award	\$400,000
City of Wabash	\$484,624
Match Percentage	55%



INNOVATIVE IDEAS
EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN
UNMATCHED CLIENT SERVICE

PROJECT WABASH RIVERWALK TRAIL PHASE II
PROJ NO. FW23001520
SUBMITTAL DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
CALC BY ADL DATE 2/3/2023
CHK BY DATE

QUANTITY SUMMARY SHEET

* Note: All quantities have been rounded in accordance with INDOT Design Manual Chapter 17-1.03

								PERCENTA
No.	Item	Description	Quant.	Unit	Unit Price	Extension	Comments	Percent
1	105-06845	CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING	1.00	LS	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00		2.00%
2	110-01001	MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION	1.00	LS	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00		3.00%
3	201-52370	CLEARING RIGHT OF WAY	1.00	LS	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00		5.00%
4	203-02000	EXCAVATION, COMMON	1,801.00	CYS	\$ 21.00	\$ 37,821.00		
5	not found	CONCRETE CULVERT	1.00	EACH	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00		
6	207-08268	SUBGRADE TREATMENT, TYPE IV	1,268.00	SYS	\$ 28.00	\$ 35,504.00	Undistributed	
7	303-01180	COMPACTED AGGREGATE NO. 53	1,972.00	TON	\$ 39.37	\$ 77,637.64	6"	
8	401-07321	QC/QA-HMA, 2, 64, SURFACE, 9.5 mm	488.00	TON	\$ 105.00	\$ 51,240.00	1.5"	
9	401-07371	QC/QA-HMA, 2, 64, INTERMEDIATE, 12.5 mm	814.00	TON	\$ 95.00	\$ 77,330.00	2.5"	
10	603-09066	FENCE, CHAIN LINK, PVC COATED, 72 IN.	3,654.00	LFT	\$ 45.00	\$ 164,430.00		
11	801-06775	MAINTAINING TRAFFIC	1.00	LS	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		1.00%
12	not found	AMENITIES/SIGNING ALLOWANCE	1.00	LS	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		1.00%
13	999-99998	EROSION CONTROL	1.00	LS	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00		3.00%
14	999-99999	MISC. ITEMS	1.00	LS	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00		5.00%
					Total	\$ 716,962.64		
					Total (Rounded)	\$ 717,000.00		
					Total w/ 3% Annual Inflation (2024)	\$ 739,000.00		



INNOVATIVE IDEAS
EXCEPTIONAL DESIGN
UNMATCHED CLIENT SERVICE

PROJECT WABASH RIVERWALK TRAIL BYPASS
PROJ NO. FW23001520
SUBMITTAL DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
CALC BY ADL DATE 2/3/2023
CHK BY DATE

QUANTITY SUMMARY SHEET

** Note: All quantities have been rounded in accordance with INDOT Design Manual Chapter 17-1.03*

No.	Item	Description	Quant.	Unit	Unit Price	Extension	Comments	Percent
1	105-06845	CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING	1.00	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		2.00%
2	110-01001	MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION	1.00	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		3.00%
3	201-52370	CLEARING RIGHT OF WAY	1.00	LS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		5.00%
4	203-02000	EXCAVATION, COMMON	270.00	CYS	\$ 21.00	\$ 5,670.00		
5	207-08268	SUBGRADE TREATMENT, TYPE IV	190.00	SYS	\$ 28.00	\$ 5,320.00	Undistributed	
6	303-01180	COMPACTED AGGREGATE NO. 53	295.00	TON	\$ 39.37	\$ 11,614.15	6"	
7	401-07321	QC/QA-HMA, 2, 64, SURFACE, 9.5 mm	73.00	TON	\$ 93.35	\$ 6,814.55	1.5"	
8	401-07371	QC/QA-HMA, 2, 64, INTERMEDIATE, 12.5 mm	122.00	TON	\$ 86.75	\$ 10,583.50	2.5"	
9	801-06775	MAINTAINING TRAFFIC	1.00	LS	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00		1.00%
10	999-99985	AMENITIES/SIGNING ALLOWANCE	1.00	LS	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00		1.00%
11	999-99998	EROSION CONTROL	1.00	LS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		3.00%
12	999-99999	MISC. ITEMS	1.00	LS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		5.00%
Total						\$ 47,802.20		
Total (Rounded)						\$ 48,000.00		
Total w/ 3% Annual Inflation (2024)						\$ 50,000.00		

SECTION 4

MATCH DOCUMENTATION





City of Wabash

WENDY FRAZIER
CLERK-TREASURER

CITY HALL
202 S. WABASH ST
WABASH, IN 46992

(260) 563-4171
FAX: (260) 563-0876
wfrazier@cityofwabash.com

February 27, 2023

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Letter of Commitment

Dear IDNR:

The City of Wabash is requesting State matching funds from your department.

The City of Wabash is making the financial commitment for the local match for Wabash Riverwalk West Extension project. As the Common Council of the City of Wabash signatory, David W. Monroe is authorized to allocate funds and pass within the City budget for this project and Wendy Frazier, Clerk-Treasurer that distributes funds is also committing these funds for the project.

Wabash will commit up to \$484,624.00 for this project, payable from the CEDIT Fund and the Rainy-Day Fund.

Sincerely,

David E. Monroe
President, Common Council
260-563-4171

Wendy Frazier
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Wabash
260-563-4171

SECTION 5

PROJECT NARRATIVE



Existing Riverwalk Trail along Smith Street

City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application

a) Project Description

The City of Wabash desires to expand upon the success of the Wabash Riverwalk and construct an extension that will connect to the Wabash City Park. The trail extension will continue the existing riverwalk cross section with an 8-foot wide, paved, multiuse path.

The City also intends to improve access of the existing Riverwalk trail between SR 15 and S. Huntington Street. During flood events, the portion directly adjacent to the Wabash River must be closed due to flooding. The new trail section would provide a bypass that could be utilized during periods of flooding when the lower section is closed. The City recently gained control of property along the south side of Fulton Street and intends to construct market rate apartments that overlook the river. This trail bypass would also provide direct access to the proposed apartments along the scenic riverwalk.

The Wabash Riverwalk extension will be approximately 6,500 feet of additional trail and the 'bypass' between SR 15 and S. Huntington Street will be 800 feet. The trail will generally consist of 6" of stone, 4" of intermediate binder and 2" of HMA surface. There will also be 2' gravel shoulders on either side as shown in Figure 1. The Wabash River Trail is part of the State Visionary Trail and is the next phase of extending the trail to the west towards Peru. Alternative

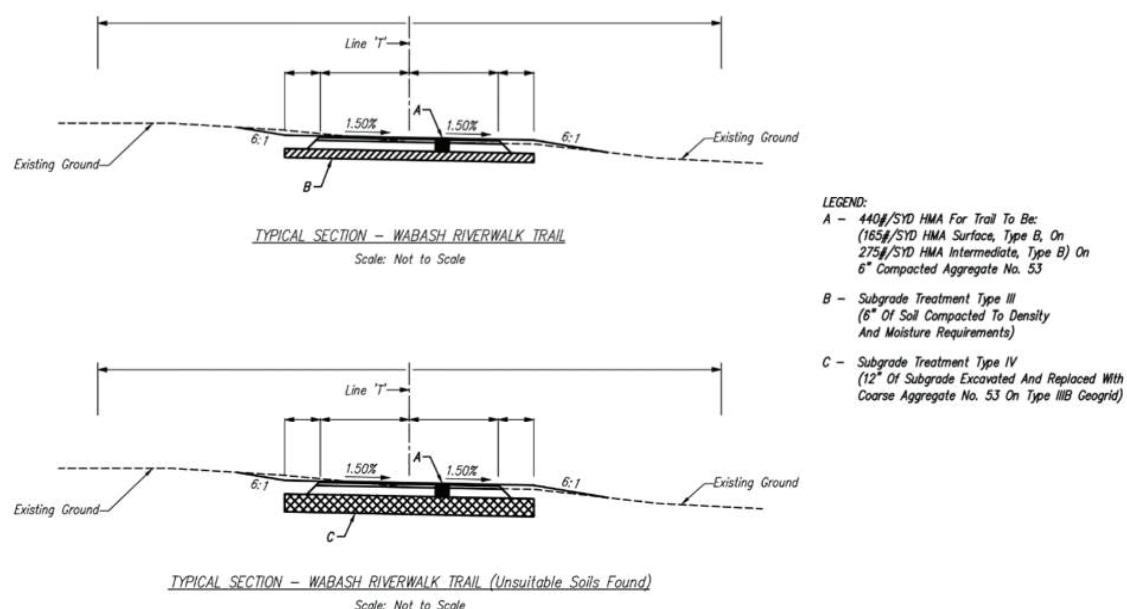


Figure 1: Typical Cross Section

The trail extension will begin at the western terminus at River Street and continue west along the utility lines for nearly 2,000 feet. The trail will continue along the Wabash River to the wood lawn along Charlie Creek where it will turn north and cross the unimproved Edsall Street. Edsall Street is a gravel roadway with no outlet only utilized to access farm property west of Charlie Creek. The trail will continue along Charlie Creek to W. Market Street. W. Market Street will be closed to vehicular traffic and the trail will utilize the existing roadway bed and structure to cross Charlie Creek and reach Lockerbie Street. W. Market is not utilized by vehicular traffic and the City will formally close the roadway for the purposes of the trail connection. A cul-de-sac, east of Charlie Creek, will be provided to allow city access for the CSO Scata Monitoring Equipment on W. Market Street.

This section of the trail extension will utilize 1800' of the existing Duke Energy easement (See Section 12: Current Easements) and then properties as shown in Section 13: Property Deeds. Letters of intent from each property was secured and is included in Section 14: Letters of Intent to sell/donate. At the time of the application, all property owners were willing to donate as included in those letters. A total of 5.06 acres will be acquired for this project.

The Wabash Riverwalk 'bypass' will connect to the existing Riverwalk trail approximately 150' west of S. Huntington Road. The trail will utilize the higher ground between E. Fulton Street and the existing Riverwalk to provide a route that will not be prone to flooding. The trail will then connect at Race Street just south of The Alley Cat Outfitters (coming in 2023) and the existing trail. The City currently owns all property in this location.



Existing Riverwalk Trail where bypass is needed

City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application

Measurables:

- a) Trail length – 7,300 ft
- b) Visionary Trail – Yes, Potential Visionary Trail, January 2021
- c) Trail deficient county - 3
- d) Trail connections and extension
 - 1. The extension of the Wabash Riverwalk will connect the current western terminus of the Wabash Riverwalk to the 35-acre Wabash City Park. The fully paved, multi-use, Wabash River Trail currently extends more than seven miles between the Town of Lagro and the City of Wabash. This extension will continue the westerly plans to reach the City of Peru and connect with their riverwalk.
 - 2. The extension project follows along the scenic Wabash River and then along the banks of Charlie Creek before reaching the City Park. Users will likely spot bald eagles nesting in the trees or river otters playing along the banks of the Wabash River. This trail allows users a different view of the great Wabash River and local fauna than one could ever see from a vehicle.
- e) Any land secured with existing State protections - none

b) Timeline

Grant Award	June 2023
Grant Agreement	October 2023
Project Design	April 2023 through November 2023
Design review	November 2023
Environmental Coordination	July 2023 through November 2023
Land acquisition	April 2023 through November 2023
Permitting	October 2023
Letting	January 2024
Construction	February 2024 through August 2024

c) Accessibility

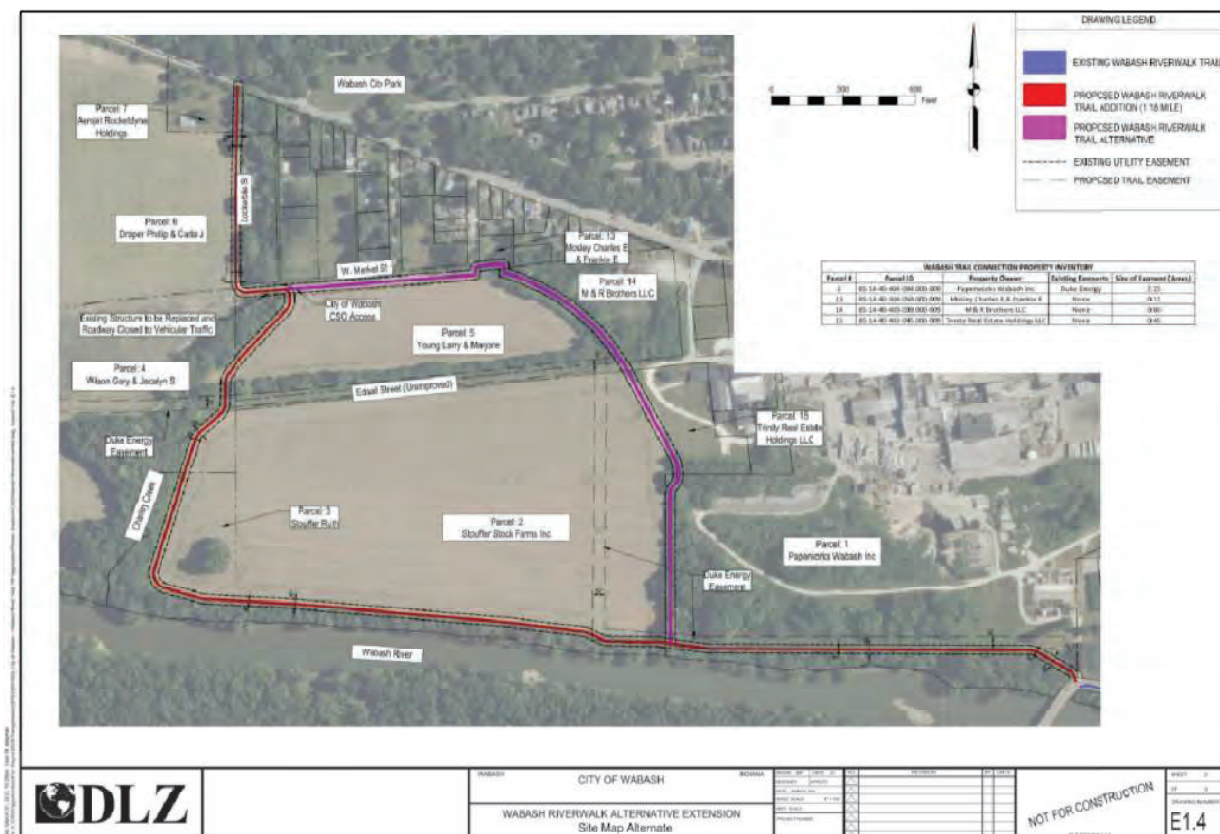
The Wabash River Trail extension will be designed and constructed in accordance with the 2010 American with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design guidelines. The project will consider needs of persons with disabilities including curb cuts, surfaces, slopes, and other accepted standards. The project will meet the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) where applicable as well as with conformance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. The project will be designed to meet Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

d) Life of Facility

The Wabash River Trail extension has a minimum life expectancy of 25 years. Land acquisition will include a perpetual easement with Duke Energy and fee simple title for other properties providing the ability for the City of Wabash to properly maintain the trail. A Maintenance and Operation Plan is included in Appendix A for reference and project agreement with DNR detailing operation, maintenance, and public use will be completed as part of the design process.

Alternative Route

During the development of this application, the City of Wabash began considering an alternative route for the trail extension to avoid disruption to certain properties. This alternative route would continue along unimproved Market Street, east to the end of the existing right-of-way. The trail would then traverse the back of two properties turning south to the western edge of the Paperworks property and reconnecting with the primary route along the utility easement to the south. This alternative route is included in the Wabash Trail System Masterplan as indicated in Section 6: Public Participation. Both routes are nearly comparable in cost and do not noticeably affect the included cost estimate in Section 3: Cost Breakdown.



SECTION 6

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



Wabash River Trail: Picture Courtesy of [Next Level Trails: Wabash River Trail \(arcgis.com\)](#)

City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application

A public meeting regarding the Wabash River Extension and the Indiana Trails Program Application was held on February 8th at 7:00 PM at the Wabash City Hall. The public was invited using social media and the regularly scheduled park board meeting. General approval of the plan and excitement was expressed by those who spoke at the meeting. The sign in sheet and public advertisement is included here.



Public meeting on February 8, 2023

Isaac Stakeman	242 W Hill
Owen Stakeman	242 W Hill
Dan Stakeman	242 W Hill
De Stakeman	The Paper of Wabash County
Aria Smyth	42 W. Canal St.
Erin L. Beckman	1315 N. WABASH ST
William Carroll	Wabash Plain Dealer
Jim Garlits	945 Cottage Ave.
Dan Pilgrum	13 BONBROCK DR.
Mike Shelby	305 Linwood Ln.
Sueley Vigar	1631 W 400 N
Ferri Mattern	340 N. Wabash St.

Sign in sheet from public meeting on
February 8, 2023



Social media post of public meeting on
February 8, 2023

Jan Evans	681 Ferry St Wabash IN 46792
William Benish	13 Parkway Dr Wabash IN 46792
Joe Schoening	239 W Hill St, WABASH
Tom Hall	225 Linwood Ln. Wabash
Jason Frey	544 N. Miami St. Wabash
My Plaster-lee	344 W Maple St, Wabash
Christina Lynn	102 S. Wabash St. Wabash
John Dieder	1073 Mitten Drive Wabash IN

City of Wabash
Wabash Riverwalk Extension
Indiana Trails Program Application

Trails and walkability have been a significant subject for the City of Wabash for many years. There are numerous plans that reference the need for trails and the Wabash River Trail. Each of these plans included significant public participation and input. Several of these are:

- **The City of Wabash Park Department Master Plan 2018-2022, [Wabash Park Department Master Plan FINAL \(1\) \(2\).pdf](#)**

During stakeholder interviews and public surveys there was a repeated desire for expansion of the city's trail network and making connections. Included in the masterplan, survey results indicated that the Wabash Riverwalk was the single most important amenity that Wabash needed to continue (p. 95). The parks department is currently undertaking a plan update and similar themes are being repeated by stakeholders.

Wabash Park Department Master Plan 2018-2022

Theme #2: Community Connections

Wabash residents view trails as important and impactful and have expressed a strong desire to see the town's trail network expanded. Wabash should invest in improving and extending the trail network and connections, both trail and sidewalk, between parks and all areas of town.

Goals:

- Expand trail network as planned in the 2014 Strategic Investment Plan
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles by adding trail connections between parks and trail to create a comprehensive, city-wide recreation network
- Work collaboratively with other City departments to improve sidewalk connections to make Wabash more walkable
- Seek connections to regional trail networks to attract long-distance trail users



Figure 10: Smith Street Trailhead on Riverwalk Trail

Q13 - 9. Below is a list of recreation resources. Some of the resources are currently provided by the City of Wabash; others are not. Please rate how important you believe it is for the City of Wabash to begin or continue to provide each resource.

Question	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Total				
Additional Playgrounds	25.15%	41	23.31%	38	20.25%	33	31.29%	51	163
Additional Outdoor Basketball Courts	7.88%	13	29.09%	48	27.27%	45	35.76%	59	165
Additional Trails (Paved)	32.73%	54	26.67%	44	18.79%	31	21.82%	36	165
Additional Trails (Natural)	28.83%	47	25.15%	41	20.86%	34	25.15%	41	163
Additional Disc Golf Course	6.92%	11	11.95%	19	27.04%	43	54.09%	86	159
Additional Community Pools	10.56%	17	8.70%	14	22.36%	36	58.39%	94	161
Additional Shelters	14.91%	24	24.84%	40	21.12%	34	39.13%	63	161
Additional Softball Fields	6.25%	10	10.63%	17	27.50%	44	55.63%	89	160
Additional Tennis Courts	6.33%	10	10.76%	17	30.38%	48	52.53%	83	158
Golf Courses	7.32%	12	11.59%	19	20.12%	33	60.98%	100	164
Wabash Riverwalk Trail	40.00%	66	27.27%	45	15.15%	25	17.58%	29	165
Football Fields	8.70%	14	17.39%	28	23.60%	38	50.31%	81	161
Splash Pad	23.78%	39	25.61%	42	17.07%	28	33.54%	55	164
Dog Park	14.72%	24	20.86%	34	25.15%	41	39.26%	64	163
Horseshoe Pits	6.17%	10	11.73%	19	33.33%	54	48.77%	79	162
Ice Skating Rink	13.77%	23	17.37%	29	31.14%	52	37.72%	63	167
Interpretive Signage on Trails	21.82%	36	18.18%	30	29.70%	49	30.30%	50	165
Nature Center	21.69%	36	24.70%	41	31.33%	52	22.29%	37	166
Other	53.33%	16	13.33%	4	0.00%	0	33.33%	10	30

Wabash Park Department Master Plan 2018 – 2022

- **Wabash Trail System Master Plan, March 9, 2005.**

As a result of public input, extension of the Wabash Riverwalk Trail was given a high priority for the community. Figure 2, 3, and 4 show the overall proposed trail network as well as the Riverwalk Trail Extension and Charley Creek Trail Extension



Figure 2: Wabash Trail System Routes, Wabash Trail Master Plan, 2005



Figure 3: Riverwalk Trail, Wabash Trail Master Plan, 2005

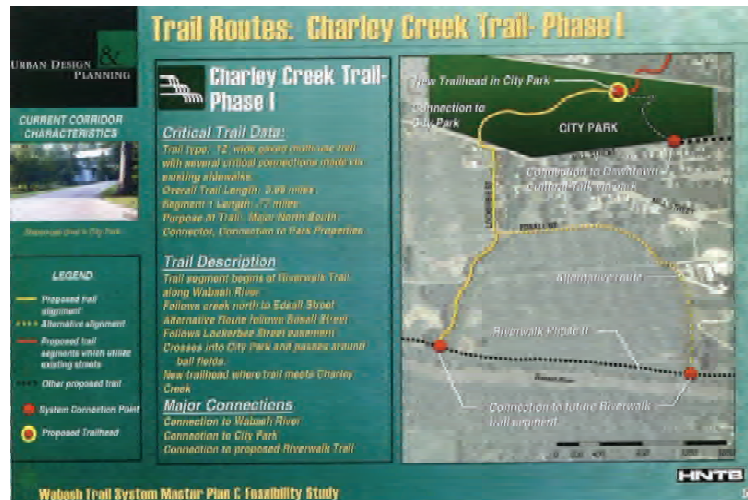


Figure 4: Charley Creek Trail, Wabash Trail Master Plan, 2005

- **Imagine One 85 Wabash County Comprehensive Plan, May 2022, [Imagine One 85 – Imagining a bold plan for the communities of Wabash County](#)**

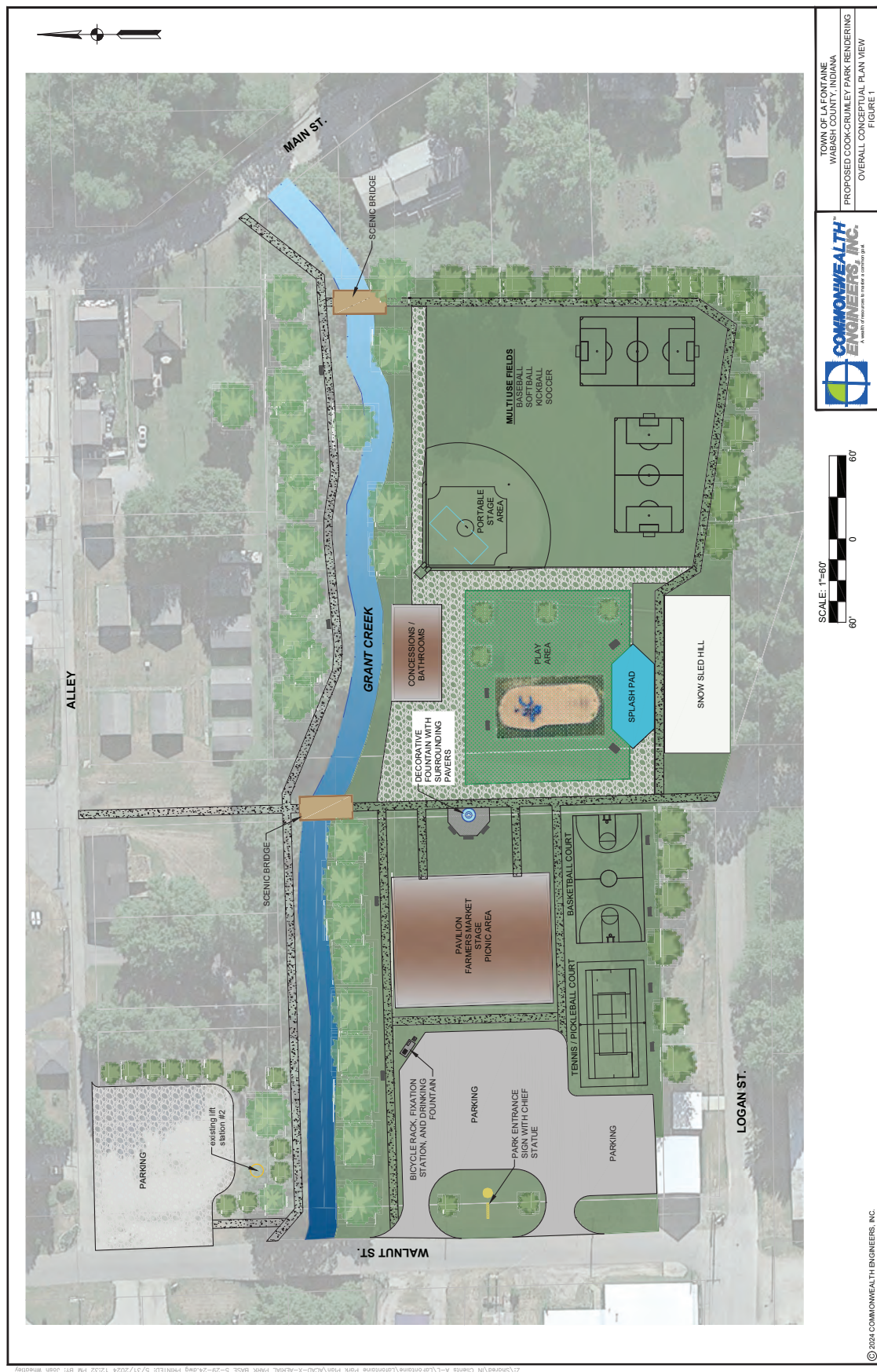
Trails and active transportation were also identified in the county wide comprehensive plan as a high priority and objective.

GP 6.2 ... Trails serve as a major recreational resource for residents and attract visitors to the County that help support local businesses...

Imagine One 85, Action Agenda for Great Places, p. 62

FD 3.4 ... perform an active transportation plan to further understand barriers and identify countermeasures to make their community more walkable and bikeable...

Imagine One 85, Action Agenda for Foundation, p. 89



La Fontaine Park Plan - Phase 1
La Fontaine, Indiana
Cost Estimate

La Fontaine Park Plan - Phase 1						
Description	Unit	Material Price	Installation Price	Total Unit Price	Quantity	Total Price
Concrete Sidewalk	LF	\$75		\$75	2,600	\$195,867
Pavilion Concrete Slab	CYD	\$1,250		\$1,250	33	\$41,667
Pavilion Structure (30' x 60')	SF	\$92		\$92	1,800	\$165,600
Aggregate Base Parking Lot	CYD	\$43		\$43	467	\$19,908
Concrete Removal	SF	\$6		\$6	900	\$5,400
Regrading	LS	\$10,000		\$10,000	1	\$10,000
Mobilization / Demobilization (5%)						\$22,000
Subtotal						\$460,500
Contingency (10%)						\$46,100
Construction Total						\$506,600

Actual

Purchase Price	\$ 38,074.25
Demo Café	\$ 513.50
Masonry	\$ 35,100.00
Roof, Floor, beams	\$ 93,488.00
Windows	\$ 20,145.00
Electric Service	\$ 10,379.32
Foam Insulation	\$ 7,200.00
Paint	\$ 2,327.31
Labor	\$ 4,000.00
Basement work downpayment	\$ 1,100.00
	<u>\$ 212,327.38</u>

QUOTED

Dann Keiser	\$ 10,000.00
Café plumbing and Labor	\$ 19,408.85
Interior Basement work	\$ 10,036.00
Café HVAC and Heating	\$ 19,925.40
	<u>\$ 59,370.25</u>

\$ 271,697.63

Lagro Café Building Cost Estimate

	Linear Feet	Square Feet	Qty	Description	Price Each	Extended Cost	Labor	Total	
Ceiling Walls		3200	71	4" x 8" - 5/8" type X fire rated	\$24.00	\$1,704.00			
		88	1540	92	2 x 4 - 10' Studs	\$5.00	\$460.00		
				14	2 x 4 - 8' Studs	\$4.00	\$56.00		
				12	2 x 4 - 16' Plates	\$8.00	\$96.00		
				2	2 x 4 - 14' Plates	\$6.00	\$12.00		
				1	2 x 4 - 10' Plates	\$5.00	\$5.00		
				47	54" x 8" - 5/8" type X fire rated	\$27.00	\$1,269.00		
				2	4" x 8" - 5/8" type X fire rated	\$24.00	\$48.00		
			2118	1	Scrap and Clean	\$600.00	\$600.00		
				1	Fill holes & cracks w/mortar	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		
Floor			1	Prime as needed & Paint	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00			
			2	16' Wood Hand Rail - \$7/ft.	\$112.00	\$224.00			
			8	Hand Rail Bracket	\$7.00	\$56.00			
			1	1-3/4" x 40" x 48" Wood Door	\$200.00	\$200.00			
			1	Lever button-lock	\$200.00	\$200.00			
			2	4" Steel hinge	\$10.00	\$20.00			
		1500	1	Sand Floor - Sander Rental & Sand Paper	\$300.00	\$300.00			
			1	Fill Holes & Material	\$100.00	\$100.00			
			6	Polyurethane Finish	\$150.00	\$900.00			
			1	Remove damaged floor		\$500.00			
Doors			4	Install sub floor - 3/4" OSB w/TP	\$30.00	\$120.00			
			11	Install Pine Flooring - 1 x 6 milled to 2-3/8" T/G	\$10.00	\$110.00			
		500	500	Laminate wood finish	\$2.50	\$1,250.00			
			10	Trim	\$40.00	\$400.00			
			3	Rubber Tread Covers - 6/Package	\$140.00	\$420.00			
			1	Concrete 6' x 8' x 4"	\$500.00	\$500.00			
		1500	1500	Repair cracks & Install Epoxy Floor - Cost					
				range \$3-\$12/ Sq. Ft					
				36" x 84" full glass, metal frame, push bar	\$8.00	\$12,000.00			
			2	exit, pull handle outside, lock entry	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00			
Interior				42" x 84" No glass Steel Door, metal frame,					
			1	push bar exit, pull handle outside, lock entry	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00			
				36" x 84" No glass Solid Core Door, metal					
				frame, lever type hardware, passage entry, 20					
			2	min fire rated	\$1,300.00	\$2,600.00			
				36" x 84" No glass Solid Core Door, metal					
				frame, lever type hardware, button lock 1					
			1	side, 20 min fire rated	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00			
				36" x 84" w/ 5 x 26 Glass Solid Core Door,					
				metal frame, lever type hardware, passage					
Contingence			2	entry, 20 min fire rated	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$800.00	\$22,000.00	
				Total Materials and Labor		\$42,950.00	\$21,400.00	\$64,350.00	
			1	10% of Total				\$6,435.00	
							Grand Total	\$70,785.00	
				Total Materials and Labor	\$42,950.00	\$42,800.00	\$85,750.00	\$85,750.00	
			1	10% of Total				\$8,575.00	
							Grand Total	\$94,325.00	
				Total Materials and Labor	\$42,950.00	\$64,200.00	\$107,150.00	\$107,150.00	
			1	10% of Total				\$10,715.00	
							Grand Total	\$117,865.00	

Note: All doors, frames, and hardware along with other materials are estimated.

Supplier	Description	Price
KaTom Restaurant Supply	MoTak MCO-1-DBL Double Full Size Gas Convection Oven	\$ 6,608.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Norlake KODF77812-C 8'X12' Outdoor Walk-in Freezer	\$ 20,700.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Amerikooler QC081277**FBSC-08'X12' Outdoor Walk-in Cooler	\$ 18,260.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Valpro VP2FG-HC 54" Two Section Glass Door Reach In Freezer	\$ 3,484.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Tru TS-72FG-HC-FGD01 78" Three Section Glass Door Reach In Freezer	\$ 15,720.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Tru TS-72FG-HC-FGD01 78" Three Section Glass Door Reach In Freezer	\$ 15,720.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	True GDM-72-HC-TSL01 78" Three Section Glass Door Merchandiser Cooler	\$ 5,842.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	True GDM-72-HC-TSL01 78" Three Section Glass Door Merchandiser Cooler	\$ 5,842.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Tru TCGG-72-S-HC-LD 72-1/4" Full Service Deli Case	\$ 8,258.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Turbo Air TOM-40-B-N 39" Vertical Open Air Cooler	\$ 9,275.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Turbo Air TOM-72EB-N 72" Vertical Open Air Cooler	\$ 13,842.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	True T-49DT-HC 54" Two Section Commercial Refr/Freezer	\$ 9,005.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	MoTak MSD-2DR-BAL 54" Two Section Reach In Refrigerator	\$ 2,330.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Marco Company 48" X 30" X 78" Select Cherry Bakery Display	\$ 3,589.00
WebstaurantStore	Shelving	\$ 18,660.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	John Boos E4S8-1620-14T18 100" 4 Compartment Sink	\$ 1,163.00
KaTom Restaurant Supply	Advanced Tabco SL-HS-12 Commercial Hand Sink	\$ 518.00
WebstaurantStore	Regency 30" X 120" 16-Gauge Stainless Steel Commercial Work Table	\$ 789.00
WebstaurantStore	Regency 30" X 60" 16-Gauge Stainless Steel Commercial Work Table	\$ 319.00
ULINE	Hand-Held Shopping Baskets	\$ 210.00
WebstaurantStore	Regency Supermarket Shopping Carts-6.3 Cu. Ft. Point Of Sale System	\$ 1,300.00
		\$ 10,000.00
	Tax	\$ 171,434.00
	Shipping	\$ 12,000.00
		\$25,000.00
		?????
		\$ 208,434.00

DRAFT September 2024

BYLAWS
OF
The Lagro Food Co-op

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1.1 – Name:

The name of this nonprofit corporation shall be the Lagro Food Coop hereinafter referred to as the “Co-op.”

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

Section 2.1 – Purpose:

The Co-op’s purposes are to promote and support the development of member-owned Co-op businesses and services, especially in Wabash County Indiana.

Section 2.2 – Mission:

The Co-op is a member-owned nonprofit corporation dedicated to serving the needs of local growers, producers and consumers by providing goods, services and healthy food choices at fair value. The Co-op will promote community well-being, economic prosperity and self-reliance through cooperation.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.11 – Admission as Members:

Membership in the Co-op shall be voluntary and open to all who support the mission and goals of the coop as purchasers of goods and services from the Co-op and who are legally qualified. Applicants shall be admitted to membership upon submitting the required application, fulfilling the terms of the membership agreement and paying the refundable membership fee established by the bylaws, subject to Board approval. Each new member shall receive a copy of these bylaws and a copy of their signed membership agreement.

Section 3.12 – Discrimination:

The Co-op shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, age, gender, handicap, sexual orientation, marital status or other arbitrary basis.

Section 3.2 Membership Classes:

There shall be two classes of membership. Members of the “primary class” shall have the same rights and responsibilities. Members of the primary class may subscribe to one of three levels of the “supporting class,” which is renewable annually. The three tiers of benefits for “supporting members” are outlined in the “supporting member” application.

Section 3.3 – Transfer of membership:

Members in good standing cannot transfer that membership to another eligible person without the consent of the Board of Directors.

Section 3.4 – Termination of Membership:

Membership may be terminated voluntarily by a member upon notice to the Co-op. Membership may be terminated by the Board for cause. Upon the voluntary termination of a membership, the member may redeem the value of the original fee paid for membership; subject to such limitations as shall be determined by the Board.

Section 3.5 – Settlement of Disputes:

In any dispute that involves normal membership transactions and that cannot be resolved through informal negotiation, it shall be the policy of the Co-op to use mediation whereby an impartial mediator may facilitate negotiations between the parties and assist them in developing a mutually acceptable settlement.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 4.1 – Annual Member Meeting:

The Board of Directors shall organize an annual meeting of members within the first four months of each fiscal year. All member meetings shall be held in Lagro, Indiana

Section 4.2 – Special Member Meetings:

A special members' meeting shall be called if warranted by special circumstances as determined by the Board of Directors, including a petition signed by not less than 10% of the membership.

Section 4.3 – Quorum: Unless a larger quorum is required by law, 40 members or 5% whichever is less of the votes entitled to be cast on a matter constitutes a quorum for action on that matter. Unless at least one-third (1/3) of the voting power is present in person the only matters that may be voted upon at a meeting of the members are those matters that are described in the meeting notice.

Section 4.4 – Notice of Member Meetings:

Notice of members' meetings shall be provided to each member in a fair and reasonable manner pursuant to any method authorized by Ind. Code 23-17-10-5 as it may exist from time to time and shall include, at a minimum, the time, date, location and purpose of the meeting. Notification will be in writing and may include but is not limited to US mail, fax, electronic mail and any other legal method. Members will be notified not less than 10 days or more than 60 days.

Section 4.5 - Voting Rights:

The record date, not more than seventy (70) days before the annual meeting, shall be established by the Board not less than thirty days prior to the meeting. The Board shall establish a list of members in good standing as of the record date. Only members in good standing as of the record date shall receive the notice and be eligible to vote at that meeting. A list of members in good standing on the record

date and entitled to notice shall be prepared and available to members not less than five (5) days before the date of the meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted.

Section 4.9 – Voting eligibility.

Members shall vote on the basis of one-member, one vote. If a membership is held by a household or business entity, one person shall be designated as the voting member. This shall be the person designated on the original or amended membership agreement.

Article V – Board of Directors

Section 5.1 – General Powers of Board of Directors.

The business and affairs of the Co-op shall be managed under the direction of the Board of Directors (sometimes referred to in these Bylaws as the “Board.”). In the conduct of its affairs, the Board shall strive to represent the interests of the membership, to advance the purpose and mission of the Co-op and to ensure the successful functioning of the Co-op’s businesses subject to the provisions of these Bylaws and all applicable laws and regulations.

Section 5.2 – Number of Directors and Vacancies.

The Board shall consist of seven to fifteen directors elected by the members. All directors shall be members and shall not have any overriding conflicts of interest. Any director who wishes to resign his or her office may do so, giving the Board thirty days prior notice whenever possible. The Board for cause may remove a director from office. Vacancies shall be filled by a vote of remaining Board members for the remainder of the term.

Section 5.31 – Meetings of the Board of Directors.

The Board shall meet on a regularly scheduled and publicized basis, usually once a month at a location to be determined by the Board. The regular meeting date for the Board shall be set by resolution of the Board from time to time.

Section 5.32 – Board Decisions:

Whenever possible Board decisions shall be made by consensus. When consensus is not possible, two-thirds (2/3rd) vote of the Board shall be required.

Section 5.4 – Open Meetings.

All meetings of the Board shall be open to all members of the Co-op and all guests of the Board. The Board may meet in executive session to conduct business concerning legal, financial or personnel matters of a sensitive nature, or other similar situations. These executive sessions shall be called by the Board and shall be open only to Directors and such other persons as the Board may expressly allow.

Section 5.5 – Election of Directors.

Subject to the provision for staggered terms, Directors shall be elected annually by the membership at large. Directors shall serve a maximum of three (3 year) consecutive terms and must sit out a full term before being eligible for re-election. The board shall have the authority to waive these term limits as needed to ensure operational efficiency and organizational continuity. Election of directors shall be staggered such that no more than one-third (1/3) plus one are elected in any year.

Section 5.6 – Quorum at Board Meetings.

A quorum shall consist of a minimum of half plus one ($1/2 + 1$) current Board members rounded up to the next whole number when the number of Board members is an uneven number. Unless otherwise required by law or these bylaws, action may be taken by a majority vote of the directors present representing the quorum.

Section 5.7 – Executive Committee.

The Board of Directors shall appoint the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of at least three officers of the Board and any other such members as shall be determined by the Board. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Board and make ad hoc decisions **only** when necessary, subject to Board approval at the next scheduled or special meeting

Section 5.8 – Committees.

The Board shall establish such committees as needed for the successful function of the Co-op.

Section 5.9 – Conflict of Interest

Potential Board members shall sign a letter declaring any potential conflicts of interest with the organization and recuse themselves from votes on issues that may present a potential conflict of interest. Board members shall further sign a confidentiality statement.

Section 5.10 – Authorization of Contracts.

The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to approve and sign contracts, or to delegate such authority as the Board shall at its sole discretion determine from time to time.

ARTICLES VI - OFFICERS

Section 6.1 – Board Officers.

The Board of Directors shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and any other such officers as may be deemed desirable by the Board of Directors. All officers are required to be elected Directors of the Board.

Section 6.2 – Election of Officers.

The officers of the Co-op shall be elected annually from among and by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the new Board of Directors

Section 6.3 – Board Chair

The Chair shall coordinate the activities of the Board, preside over meetings of the Board and members, sign formal documents on behalf of the Co-op, and as appropriate, represent the Co-op in dealings with the community and the media.

Section .6.4 – Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall have primary responsibility for familiarity with the provisions of the Co-op Policy Manual, and shall perform the duties specified in Section 6.3 as needed.

Section 6.5 – Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall oversee the maintenance of financial records, the reporting of financial information and the filing of required reports and returns.

Section 6.6 – Secretary.

The Secretary shall have responsibility for compiling and distributing the official Board meeting minutes and maintaining and updating official records including the Bylaws and Policy Manual of the organization.

Section 6.7 – Historian

The Historian shall develop an accessible archiving system for Co-op records, official documents and public relation activities, and be responsible for populating and maintaining the Co-op's records, documents and community activities in such system.

Section 6.8 – Officer Vacancies.

If an office becomes vacant it shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors, and the officer so chosen shall hold office until his or her successor is elected. Further, the Board of Directors may delegate all or a portion of the powers and duties of any officer to any other officer or director, but no officer or director shall execute, acknowledge or verify any instrument or document in more than one capacity.

ARTICLE VII – BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 7.1 – Open Books and Record

The Co-op shall maintain such books and records as are required by law. Members shall be provided access to Co-op records to the greatest extent practical, by means to be determined by the Board, subject to applicable law and privacy considerations.

ARTICLE VIII – FISCAL YEAR

Section 8.1 – Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Co-op shall begin on the first day of January in each year and end on the last day of December of the same year.

ARTICLE IX – MEMBERSHIP FEES

Statement of Intention:

The Co-op members shall pay a refundable membership fee as determined from time to time by the Board. The membership fee shall be refunded to the member, subject to board approval, when the membership is terminated by the member or the Co-op in accordance with these bylaws.

ARTICLE X – PATRONAGE REBATES

The Co-op's operations shall be so conducted that all patrons will, through their patronage, furnish capital for the Co-op. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Co-op will operate on a nonprofit basis, the Co-op is obligated to account on a patronage basis to its patrons for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of goods and services in excess of operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of goods and services. All amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses at the moment of receipt by the Co-op are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons as capital. The Co-op is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses. The books and records of the Co-op shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each calendar year the amount of capital, if any, so furnished by each patron is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record to the capital account of each patron. The Co-op shall within a reasonable time after the close of the calendar year notify each patron of the amount of capital so credited to the patron's account. All amounts credited to the capital account of any patron shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the patron in cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the patron had then furnished the Co-op corresponding amounts for capital.

All other amounts received by the Co-op from its operations in excess of costs and expenses shall, insofar as permitted by law, be:

- a. used to offset any losses incurred during the current or any prior fiscal year, and
 - b. to the extent not needed for that purpose, allocated to its patrons on a patronage basis, and
- any amount so allocated shall be included as a part of the capital credited to the accounts of patrons, as herein provided.

If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Directors shall determine that the financial condition of the Co-op will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons' accounts may be retired in full or in part. The Board shall determine the method, basis, priority and other of retirement, if any, for all amounts heretofore and hereafter furnished as capital.

Capital credited to the account of each patron shall be assignable only on the books of the Co-op pursuant to written instructions from the assignor and only to the extent the Board, acting under policies of general application, shall determine appropriate.

The Co-op, before retiring any capital credit to any patron's account, shall deduct there from any amount owed by the patron to the Co-op.

ARTICLE XI – INDEMNIFICATION

Section 11.1- Indemnification of Directors.

The Co-op shall, subject to the limitations in this Article, indemnify its current and former directors and officers against all liabilities and expenses to which they may actually and reasonably become subject by reason of their positions with the Co-op or their service in its behalf to the fullest extent of the law.

Section 11.2 – Limitations of Indemnification.

No indemnification shall be made unless the person to be indemnified is successful on the merits in defense of the action or is determined to have met the applicable standard of conduct in the manner required by law. Indemnification payments and advances of expenses shall be made only in such increments and at such times as will not jeopardize the ability of the Co-op to pay its other obligations as they become due.

ARTICLE XII – DISSOLUTION

Section 12.1 – Dissolution of the Co-op:

Upon dissolution of the Co-op, its assets shall be distributed in the following manner and order: (i) by paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities and expenses of liquidation; (ii) by redeeming any revolving capital accounts which, if they cannot be paid in full, shall be paid in the order of the oldest outstanding amounts; (iii) by redeeming capital certificates which, if they cannot be paid in full, shall be paid on a pro rata basis among all outstanding amounts; and (iv) by distributing any remaining assets, unless otherwise determined by the membership of the Co-op, to one or more legally entitled organizations affiliated with the Co-op movement and recognized as tax exempt under Code Section 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XIII – INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 13.1 – Severability:

In the event that any provision of these Bylaws is determined to be invalid or unenforceable under any statute or rule of law, then such provision shall be deemed inoperative to such extent and shall be deemed modified to conform with such statute or rule of law without affecting the validity or enforceability of any other provision of these Bylaws.

Section 13.2 – Bylaw Amendments.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to amend the Bylaws. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting at which the amendment shall be considered.

ARTICLE XIV – POLICY MANUAL

Section 14.1 Policy Manual

All matters not addressed in these Bylaws and the interpretation of the provisions of these Bylaws shall be addressed in the Co-op Policy Manual. In all questions of intent, interpretation and implementation of these Bylaws, the Co-op shall be guided by the Policy Manual, subject to applicable State, and Federal law, ordinance or regulation.

Section 14.2 Maintenance of Policy Manual

The Board Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Policy Manual at the direction of the Board of Directors. All Board members are expected to be familiar with the provisions of the Policy Manual.

| DRAFT September 2024

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APPENDIX D

Program Information

IN THIS SECTION:

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

SUPPLEMENTAL
DOCUMENTATION

SUPPORTING DATA

COST ESTIMATES

Wabash County Development Corporation

Wabash County Stellar Pathways Program Letter of Support
November 1, 2024

To Office of Community Rural Affairs Stellar Pathways Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that we write to express our full support of Wabash County's Strategic Investment Plan submission for the Stellar Pathways Program. The Stellar Pathways Program builds upon a strong foundation of years of hard work in prior planning and engagement efforts, collaboration, and execution aimed at making Wabash County the best place to live. Through the Stellar Pathways planning and engagement process, a common theme emerged across the various project and program ideas. We are confident that our Strategic Investment Plan reflects this theme that **Wabash County is committed to being a place for all people to live regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.**

The Wabash County Development Corporation (WCDC) is humbled by the outpouring of support from this community through the Stellar Pathways engagement and planning process for the Countywide Infill Housing Program. The WCDC's mission is to increase housing and mixed-use development in Wabash County through setting the table for private development and filling the role of developer on project's that lack private sector interest. In this work, the WCDC has worked with various local units of government, nonprofits organizations, and private stakeholders to identify and assemble potential infill lots for development. If successful in the Stellar Pathways designation, the WCDC will serve as the lead entity working to implement this program in partnership with other nonprofit housing organizations such as Advantage Housing and Habitat for Humanity as well as our local unit of government partners. The WCDC is prepared to develop these new housing units utilizing the IHCD's HOME Homebuyer Program funding. We have preliminarily identified eight infill lots across the County where we or one of our partners have established site control. These future housing units will offer homebuyer opportunities to income-qualifying individuals making homeownership in Wabash County an attainable possibility for all residents regardless of socio-economic status or background.

The Wabash County Development Corporation Board of Directors respectfully requests the full consideration of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs Review Committee of Wabash County's Stellar Pathways Program Strategic Investment Plan submission.

Sincerely,



David Grant

Chair, Wabash County Development Corporation

Addresses	Owner	GIS
244 E Hill St.	Habitat for Humanity	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-14-11-403-079.000-009
610 High St.	City of Wabash	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-14-63-202-026.000-009
620 Washington St.	Lagro Canal Foundation	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-11-34-201-085.000-004
210 Canal St.	Wabash River Trail	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-11-34-201-086.000-004
Washington St.	Wabash River Trail	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-11-34-203-032.000-004
Washington St.	Wabash River Trail	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-11-34-203-031.000-004
Old Canal St.	Wabash River Trail	https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=167&LayerID=2153&PageTypeID=4&PageID=1116&KeyValue=85-11-34-203-056.000-004

Wabash County Development Corporation

Purpose & Function

Purpose:

- Support and catalyze housing and mixed-use development in order to increase quality of life and population across Wabash County through the creation of a countywide nonprofit corporation that acts as the vehicle and “owner” of residential and mixed-use development.

Functions:

- Set the table for private investment for residential and mixed-use development projects
- In absence of a private developer, act as the developer or a partner development projects
- Oversee programs to support residential and mixed-use development across Wabash County

Proposed Activities

- I. Residential Land Bank
 - A. Securing Purchase Agreements on a property with a 60-day due diligence period
 1. Have a contractor evaluate the property’s viability for renovation or demolition
 2. Work to secure an interested local developer to assign the purchase agreement to for private development
 - B. If a private developer cannot be secured, the WCDC will acquire the property.
- II. Blight Elimination Fund
 - A. For properties deemed not viable for renovation, the WCDC will demolish the property.
- III. Rehabilitation Program
 - A. The WCDC will secure necessary contractors for the renovation and disposition of real estate.
- IV. Catalyst Projects
 - A. Major projects where the WCDC acts as developer or partners in development entity
 - B. Potential Projects
 1. East Market Street
 2. College Row
 3. Canal Street Redevelopment
 4. Chester Heights Phase II
 5. Lagro Infill Lots
- V. Developer Residential Acquisition/Rehabilitation Line of Credit
 - A. Raise money (philanthropic) to establish a loan loss reserve fund in collaboration with Brightpoint to loan capital at 4% line of credit to local developers
 1. Brightpoint takes 2% for administration
 2. WCDC takes 2% to grow the loan loss reserve fund, fund operations, or invest in other WCDC activities
- VI. Employer Residential Rehabilitation Program
 - A. Raise money (investment) from local employers to invest at a 5% return to partner with the WCDC to renovate and sell one house at a time for company employees
 - B. Employers can also provide Down Payment Assistance to qualifying employees
- VII. Building Material Loan Program
 - A. This partnership with Builders Mart allows the WCDC to pay back for the cost of materials when a unit sells at 0% interest

Wabash County Development Corporation

Funding Sources

- I. Philanthropic
 - A. Tax-deductible donations to the 501c3
- II. Individual Investment
 - A. Low-interest capital with favorable terms
 - 1. Property is held as collateral
 - 2. Paid back once unit sells
- III. Bank Financing
 - A. Line of credit for renovations
 - B. Conventional loan for catalyst projects
- IV. Grants
 - A. Lilly Endowment
 - B. IHCD
- V. Government
 - A. TIF (RDC)
 - B. Municipal

AN ANALYSIS OF RESIDENTIAL MARKET POTENTIAL
Wabash County, Indiana
December, 2023

Page 7

COUNTY-WIDE ANNUAL AVERAGE MARKET POTENTIAL _____

*Where are the potential renters and buyers of new and existing housing units
in Wabash County likely to move from?*

The most recent Wabash County migration and mobility data—as derived from taxpayer records compiled by the Internal Revenue Service from 2016 through 2020 and from the most recent American Community Survey for Wabash County—shows that the draw areas for new and existing housing units located in Wabash County include the following:

- The local draw area, covering households with the potential to move within Wabash County.
- The regional draw area, covering households with the potential to move to Wabash County from Kosciusko, Huntington, Miami, and Grant counties, in Indiana.
- The Allen County draw area, covering households with the potential to move to Wabash County from Allen County, in Indiana.
- The national draw area, covering households with the potential to move to Wabash County from all other U.S. cities and counties, particularly those elsewhere in Indiana and the Midwest.

As derived from the migration, mobility, and target market analyses, then, the draw area distribution of market potential (those households of all incomes with the potential to move within or to Wabash County each year over the next five years) is shown on the following table:

Annual Average Market Potential by Draw Area
Wabash County, Indiana

Wabash County:	61.0%
Kosciusko, Huntington, Miami, and Grant Counties:	16.4%
Allen County:	2.5%
Balance of the U.S.:	<u>20.1%</u>
Total:	100.0%

SOURCE: Zimmerman/Volk Associates, Inc., 2023.

*How many households have the potential to move within
and to Wabash County each year over the next five years?*

As determined by the target market methodology, which accounts for household mobility within Wabash County as well as migration and mobility patterns for households currently living in all other

AN ANALYSIS OF RESIDENTIAL MARKET POTENTIAL
Wabash County, Indiana
 December, 2023

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counties, an annual average of 1,770 households of all incomes represent the potential market for new and existing housing units within Wabash County each year over the next five years. Just over 60 percent of the annual potential market will be moving within the county (*see also Table 2 following the text*).

What are their housing preferences in aggregate?

The tenure and housing preferences of the draw area households are outlined on the following table (*see again Table 2 following the text*):

Annual Average Potential Market for New and Existing Housing Units
Wabash County, Indiana

HOUSING TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Multi-family for-rent (lofts/apartments, leaseholder)	640	36.2%
Multi-family for-sale (lofts/apartments, condo/co-op ownership)	101	5.7%
Single-family attached for-sale (townhouses, fee-simple/ condominium ownership)	159	9.0%
Single-family detached for-sale (houses, fee-simple ownership)	<u>870</u>	<u>49.2%</u>
Total	1,770	100.0%

SOURCE: Zimmerman/Volk Associates, Inc., 2023.

The 1,770 households that represent the annual potential market for new and existing housing units in Wabash County have also been segmented by income, based on the Wabash County, IN MSA median family income (AMI), which, as determined by HUD in 2023, is \$78,000 for a family of four, and are shown on the table following this page.

Fiscal Year 2023 Income Limits
Wabash County, Indiana

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	EXTREMELY LOW 30% OF MEDIAN	VERY LOW 50% OF MEDIAN	LOW 80% OF MEDIAN
One	\$16,600	\$27,650	\$44,200
Two	\$19,720	\$31,600	\$50,500
Three	\$24,860	\$35,550	\$56,800
Four	\$30,000	\$39,450	\$63,100
Five	\$35,140	\$42,650	\$68,150
Six	\$40,280	\$45,800	\$73,200
Seven	\$45,420	\$48,950	\$78,250
Eight	\$50,560	\$52,100	\$83,300

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This study also examines the incomes and financial capabilities of the potential housing market based on income distributions at less than 30 percent AMI, from 30 to 60 percent AMI, from 60 to 80 percent AMI, from 80 to 100 percent AMI, and above 100 percent AMI. The incomes of households at 60 and 100 percent of median are shown on the following table:

Additional Income Limits
Wabash County, Indiana

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	60% OF MEDIAN	100% OF MEDIAN
One	\$33,150	\$54,600
Two	\$37,900	\$62,400
Three	\$42,650	\$70,200
Four	\$47,350	\$78,000
Five	\$51,150	\$84,250
Six	\$54,950	\$90,500
Seven	\$58,750	\$96,750
Eight	\$62,550	\$103,000

SOURCE: Zimmerman/Volk Associates, Inc., 2023.

What is their range of affordability by housing type?

The combined tenure and housing type preferences and financial capabilities of the 1,770 target households are shown on the table following this page (*reference again Table 2*).

AN ANALYSIS OF RESIDENTIAL MARKET POTENTIAL

Page 10

Wabash County, Indiana

December, 2023

Tenure/Housing Type Propensities by Income
Annual Average Market Potential for New and Existing Housing Units
Wabash County, Indiana

HOUSING TYPE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Multi-family for-rent (lofts/apartments, leaseholder)	<u>640</u>	<u>36.2%</u>
< 30% AMI	115	6.5%
30% to 60% AMI	110	6.2%
60% to 80% AMI	94	5.4%
80% to 100% AMI	96	5.4%
> 100% AMI	225	12.7%
Multi-family for-sale (lofts/apartments, condo/co-op ownership)	<u>101</u>	<u>5.7%</u>
< 30% AMI	14	0.8%
30% to 60% AMI	16	0.9%
60% to 80% AMI	17	1.0%
80% to 100% AMI	16	0.9%
> 100% AMI	38	2.1%
Single-family attached for-sale (townhouses, fee-simple/ condominium ownership)	<u>159</u>	<u>9.0%</u>
< 30% AMI	22	1.2%
30% to 60% AMI	26	1.5%
60% to 80% AMI	26	1.5%
80% to 100% AMI	24	1.4%
> 100% AMI	61	3.4%
Single-family detached for-sale (houses, fee-simple ownership)	<u>870</u>	<u>49.2%</u>
< 30% AMI	126	7.1%
30% to 60% AMI	133	7.5%
60% to 80% AMI	141	8.0%
80% to 100% AMI	145	8.2%
> 100% AMI	325	18.4%
Total	1,770	100.0%

NOTE: For fiscal year 2023, the Wabash County, IN MSA median family income (AMI) is \$78,000 for a family of four.

SOURCE: Zimmerman/Volk Associates, Inc., 2023.

Summarizing the incomes and financial capabilities of the 1,770 target households that represent the annual potential market for new units in Wabash County, an estimated 15.6 percent (277 households) have incomes at 30 percent or less than the AMI; 16.1 percent (285 households) have incomes between 30 and 60 percent AMI; 15.7 percent (278 households) have incomes between 60 and 80 percent AMI;

Impact Pantries Budget

START-UP EXPENSES/YEAR 1

Refrigeration Units (\$755 each)	\$8,305
Pantry Units (\$175 each)	\$1,925
Inventory (\$6,500 each)	\$71,500
Other (Signage and training)	\$3,270

AMOUNT STILL NEEDED

\$75,000

YEARLY REVENUE

Revenue	Amount
Health First Indiana Money (Year 1)	\$5,000
Fundraisers	(Projected) \$7000
Donations/Food Drives	(Projected) \$20,000
Stellar Community Funds	\$75,000

FUTURE YEARLY EXPENSES

Expenses	Amount
Signage	\$550
Additional Units	
Inventory (Supported through donations, food drives, gleaning, partnerships, fundraisers,	\$30,000
Other (Site pantry manager stipend)	\$4,500

1. Background

This needs analysis began after a group of individuals from Wabash County who were interested in providing support to refugees and immigrants in Wabash County, met during the spring of 2023. At the initial meetings of this group, it was discussed that there was a need for increased support for refugees and immigrants arriving in Wabash County as well as support for individuals from other countries already in Wabash County. Additionally, Alex Downard of Imagine One 85 and other persons at the meeting mentioned that making Wabash County a more welcoming place could help to attract individuals from other countries and help combat population decline. Furthermore, Julie Garber of the Community Foundation mentioned the need to support current Spanish speakers in Wabash County. After much discussion and three more meetings of this group, it was stated by several group members that a position should be developed to help address diversity projects and needs in Wabash County. Mackenzie Coulter-Kern was hired to conduct a needs analysis to examine the needs of people from other countries and minorities in Wabash County. She was also charged with putting together a position description and work plan that would address both current and future diversity needs in Wabash County. In June 2023 a description of the position was brought to the diversity coalition and a motion was passed to create the position.

For the needs analysis, Mackenzie Coulter-Kern identified key stakeholders in the county to solicit feedback and other key information for the needs analysis. Additionally, Mackenzie contacted individuals and businesses including people from other countries (especially Spanish speaking individuals) for interviews and focus groups to better understand the obstacles to living in Wabash County. Mackenzie also collected survey data from local businesses, institutions, schools, and other community members. On the survey she received feedback from 50 English speaking stakeholders comprising 28 different industries in Wabash County. Later, during focus groups she interviewed 20 additional individuals from other countries (19 of whom were native Spanish speakers). In total, 70 people (50 English speaking stakeholders and 20 Spanish speaking stakeholders) participated in this needs analysis.

The following report includes an analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data that was collected through surveys and focus groups in Wabash County that will provide useful information for the creation of the position of Diversity Projects Director for Wabash County and a two-year work plan for that position.

2. Stakeholder Feedback on the Survey and Interviews with Spanish Speakers

2a. Survey Feedback from Businesses and Individuals in Wabash County

To inform the Wabash County diversity needs analysis via a survey, Mackenzie identified several stakeholders to solicit feedback from: employers, early care and education programs, healthcare workers, a local university, community partners, and individuals interested in diversity in Wabash County. Through the survey, Mackenzie received feedback from 50 individuals¹. All individuals consented to their data being used for research purposes in the future.

Demographics

Individuals ranging from 22 to 72 years old completed the survey. The average age of the individuals that completed the survey was 47 years old.



English speaking stakeholders who completed the survey reported their race/ethnicity:

- 46 white/Caucasian
- 3 multiple ethnicities
- 1 Hispanic/Latinx

Quantitative Responses in Survey: Obstacles to Daily Life that Individuals from other Countries Face

Stakeholders were asked about potential obstacles that individuals from other countries face. Participants were able to select multiple responses for this question. The quantitative results indicated that stakeholders in Wabash County believe that the barriers to daily living are the following: healthcare (45), language (44), transportation (40), finding housing (39), access to education (38), finding work (32), and other (29).

The quantitative data in Table 1 indicates that stakeholders more frequently selected health care as an obstacle to daily life for individuals from other countries followed by language barriers and transportation.

Table 1. Obstacle Responses

Obstacle	# of responses	%
Health care	45	16.85%
Language	44	16.48%
Transportation	40	14.98%
Finding housing	39	14.61%
Access to educational opportunities	38	14.23%
Finding work	32	11.99%
Other	29	10.86%

Participants were asked to explain their responses, particularly if they selected “other”, in 1-3 sentences. Below are selected qualitative responses that are representative of that qualitative data, and which indicate that access to resources in Spanish, driving safety, mental health care, food, social service programs, low-paying jobs, and access to community involvement are all additional obstacles that individuals from other countries face in Wabash County.



APPENDIX E

Maps

IN THIS SECTION:

WABASH COUNTY

CITY OF WABASH

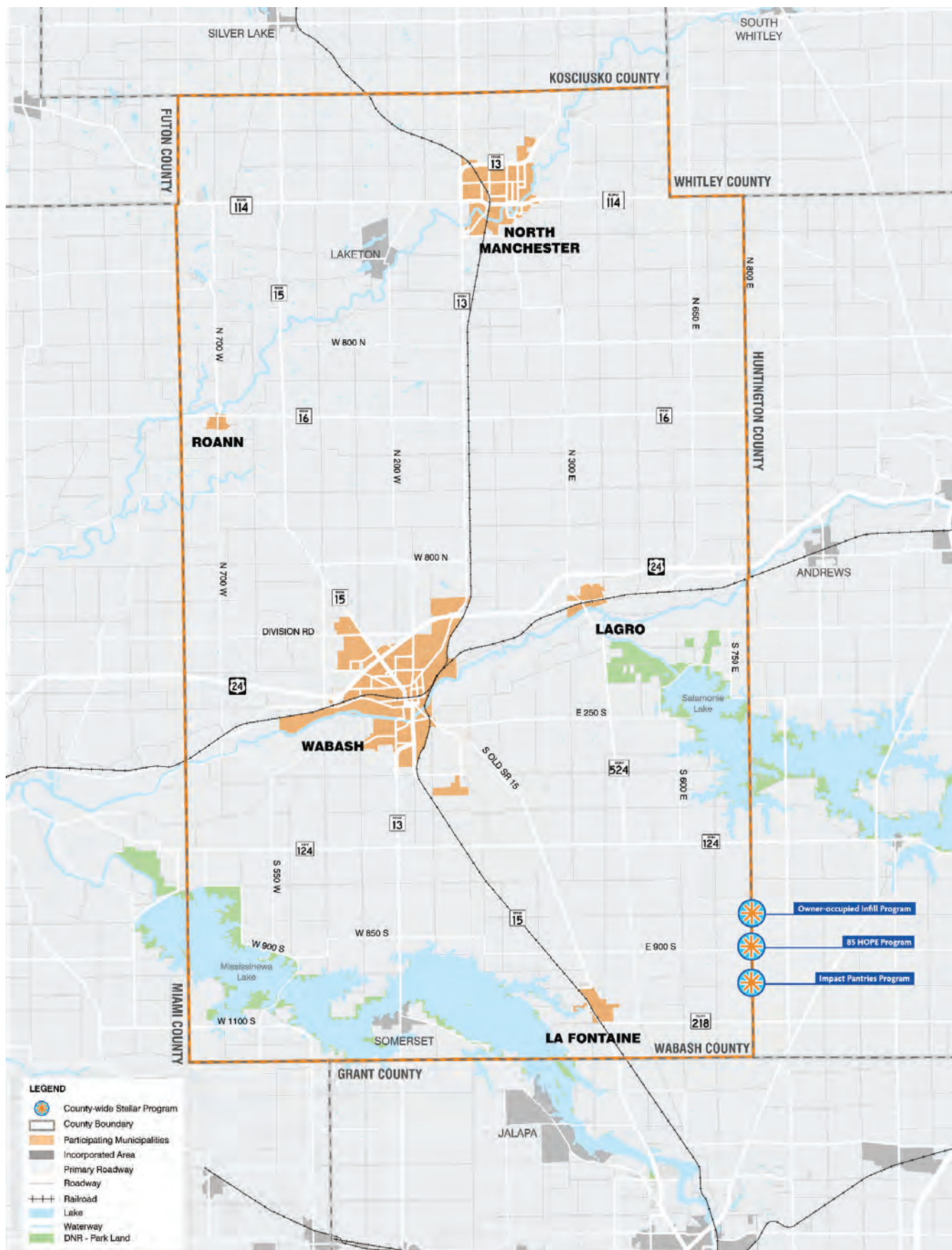
TOWN OF NORTH MANCHESTER

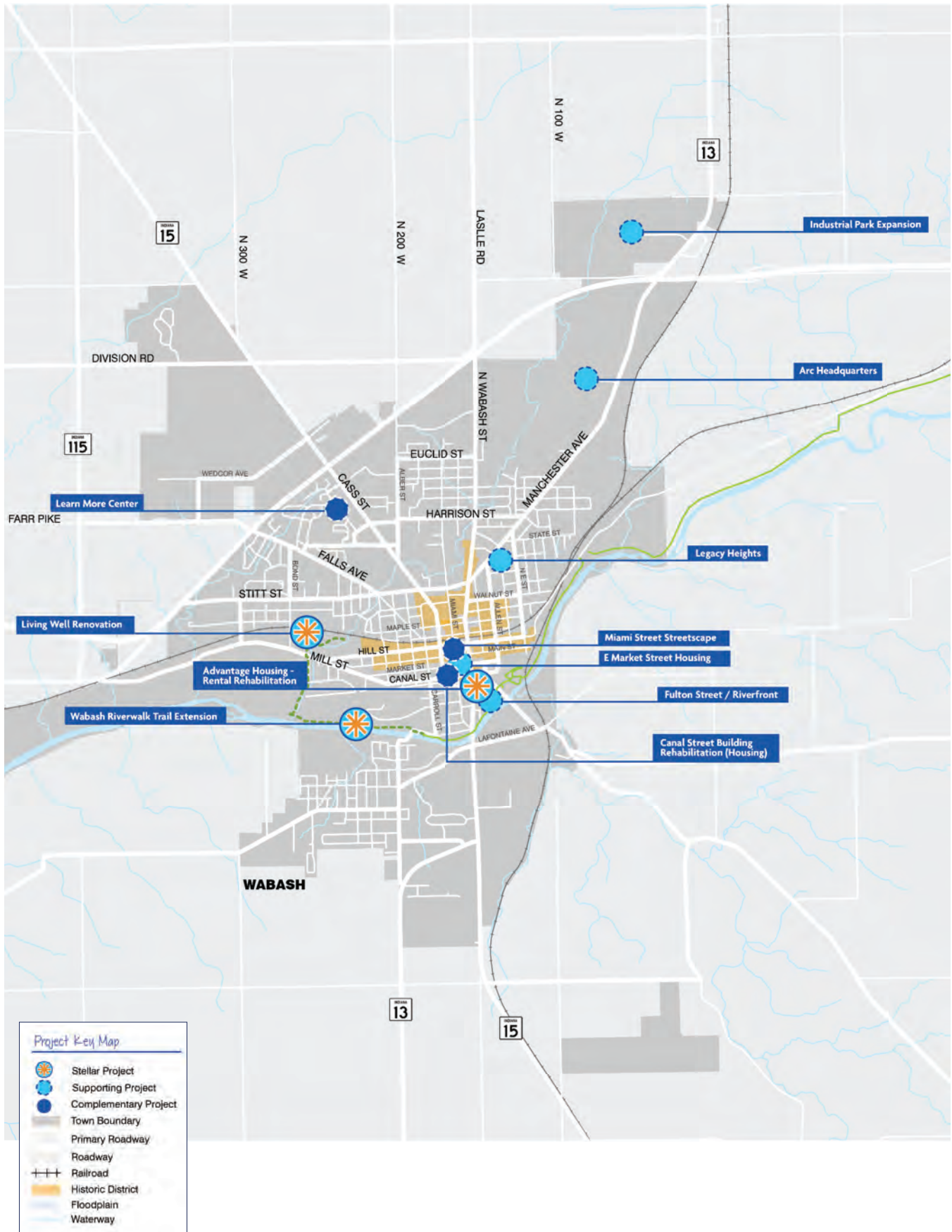
TOWN OF ROANN

TOWN OF LAGRO

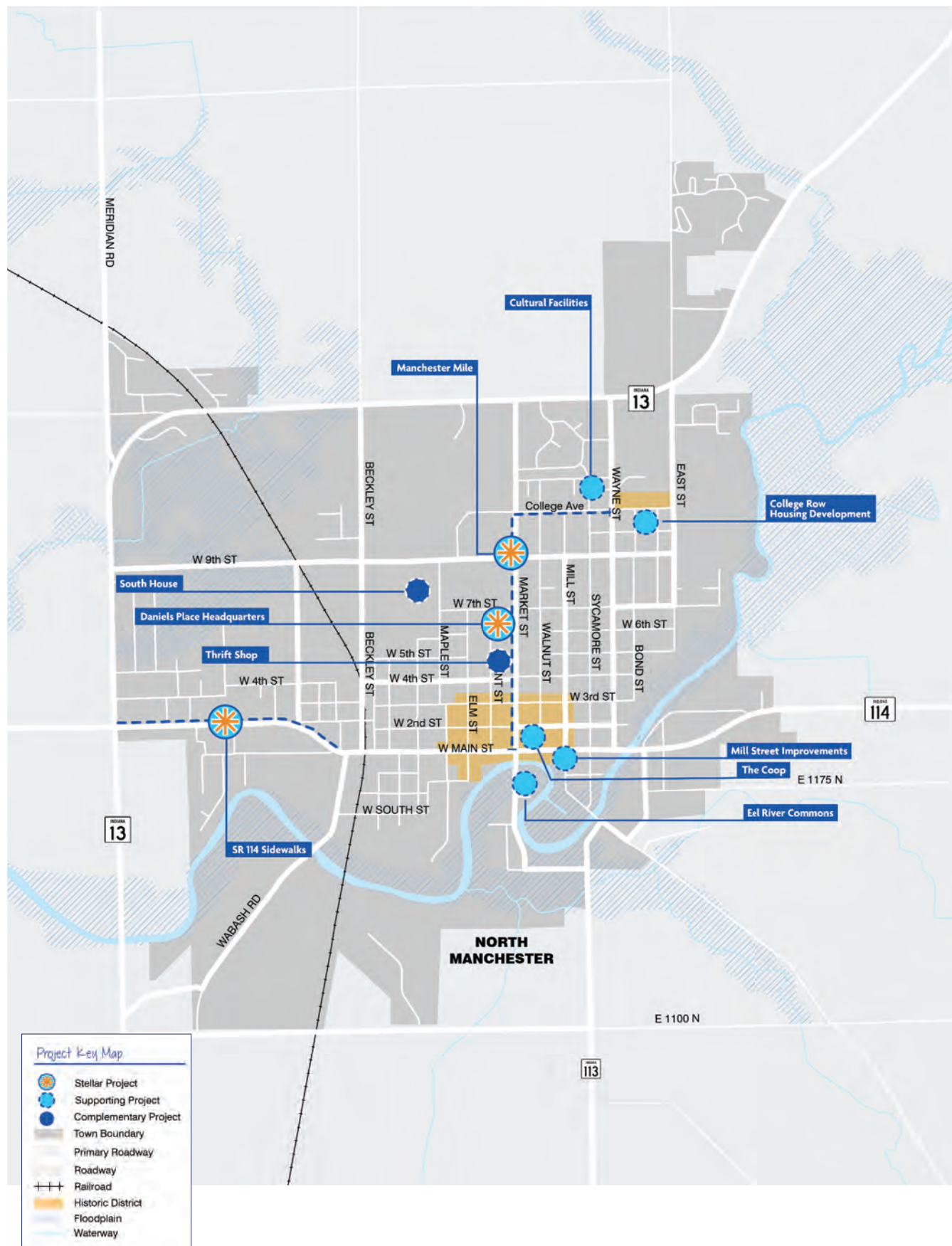
TOWN OF LA FONTAINE

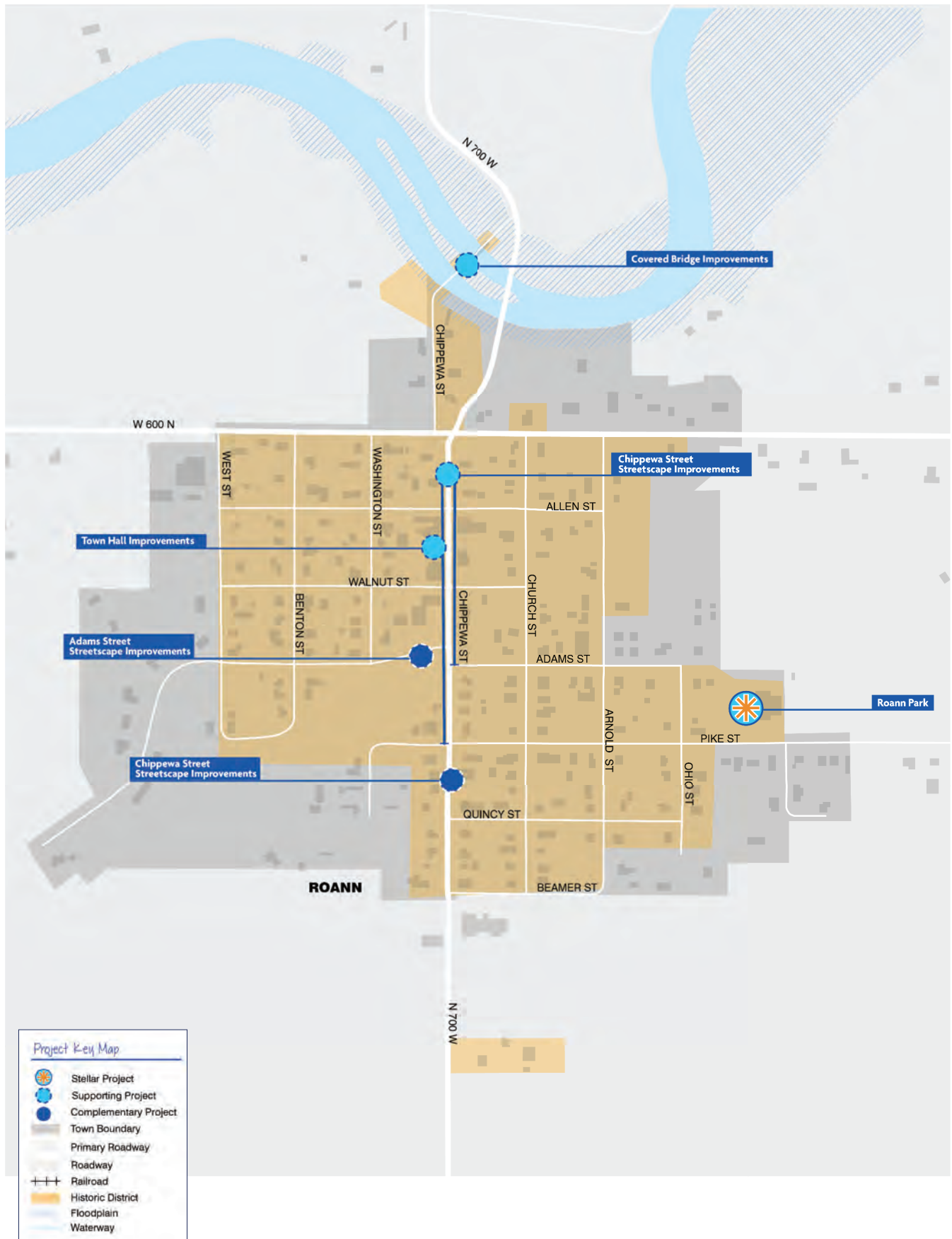
WABASH COUNTY PROJECT TARGET AREA MAP





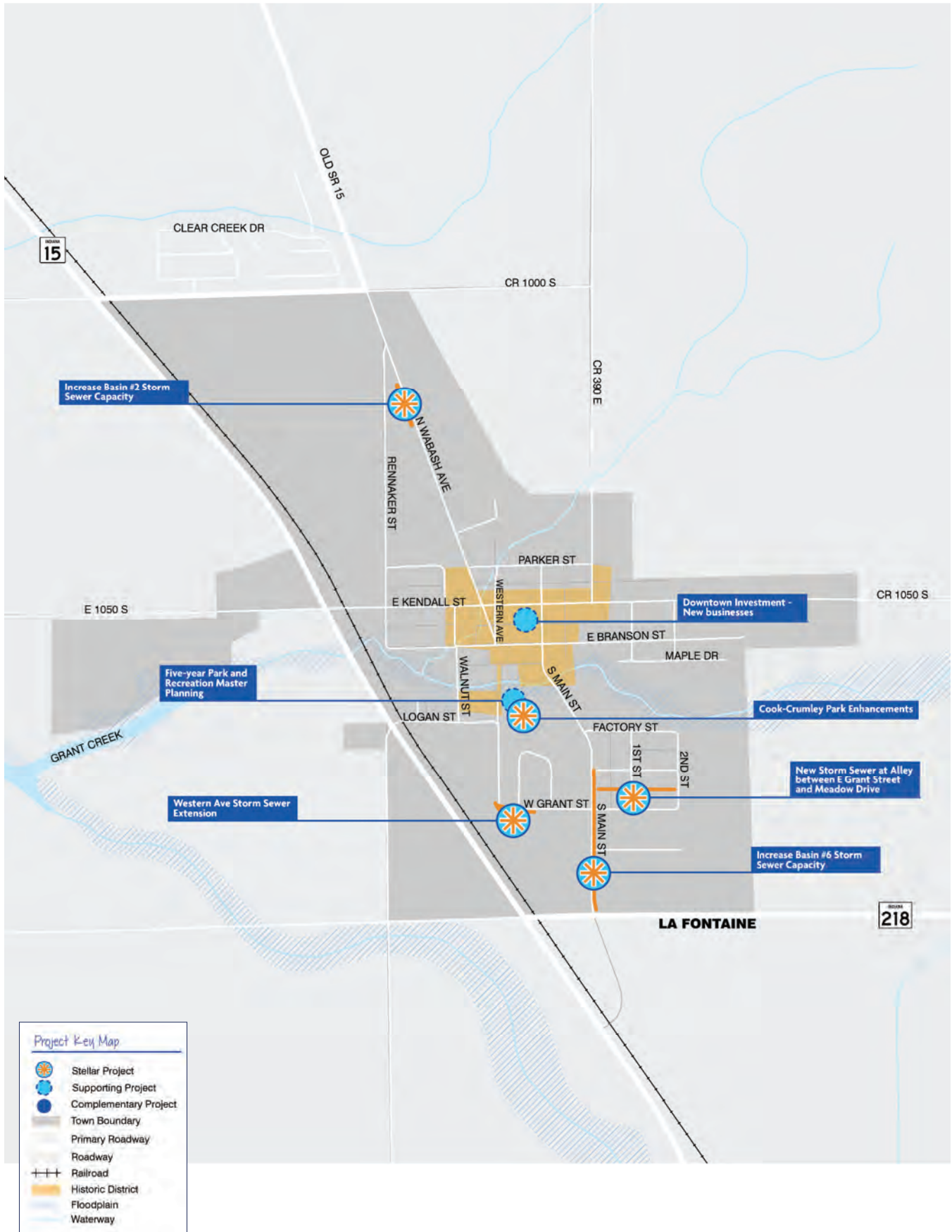
TOWN OF NORTH MANCHESTER
PROJECT TARGET AREA MAP





TOWN OF LAGRO
PROJECT TARGET AREA MAP







APPENDIX E

Feasibility Matrix

IN THIS SECTION:
PROJECT FEASIBILITY

Proposed Project Feasibility Matrix - Wabash County														
	Financing		Site Control			Environmental Review			Schematic Design			Arch/Pre Eng		
	Identified	Unknown	Complete	In Process	Not Started	Complete	In Process	Not Started	Complete	In Process	Not Started	Complete	In Process	Not Started
La Fontaine Stormwater Improvments	X		X			X			X			X		
Daniels Place Headquarters	X		X			X			X			X		
Roann Park	X		X			X			X			X		
Living Well Renovations	X		X			X			X			X		
Lagro Sidewalk Improvements	X		X			X			X			X		
Manchester Mile Safety Enhancements	X		X			X			X			X		
SR 114 Sidewalk Improvements	X		X				X			X			X	
Advantage Housing - Rental Rehab	X		X			X			X			X		
Wabash River Walk Extension	X		X				X			X			X	
La Fontaine Park Enhancements	X		X			X			X					X
Proposed Programs														
County-wide Owner-occupied Infill Program	X													
Lagro Food Co-op		X												
Impact Pantries (Back-up Program)	X													
85 Hope	X													
Not applicable to programmatic efforts.														

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APPENDIX G

Media & Publicity

IN THIS SECTION:

PRESS RELEASES

LOCAL NEWS ARTICLES

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Lt. Gov. Crouch, OCRA announce 2024 Stellar Pathways finalists

Tuesday, June 18, 2024



<https://www.in.gov/ocra/stellar/>

INDIANAPOLIS (June 18, 2024) – Lt. Gov. [Suzanne Crouch](#) and the [Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs](#) today announced four regions as finalists for the 2024 [Stellar Pathways program](#).

After receiving 19 letters of interest, representatives from the Stellar Pathways partner agencies evaluated submissions based on a number of factors. These included each region's demonstrated ability to collaborate, communicate effectively, implement projects, address challenges, secure additional funding and engage the community.

"The Stellar Pathways program empowers communities to invest in transformative improvements, and these four regions have displayed the vision required of a Stellar project," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "All four of these teams have not only understood, but embraced the challenge of collaboration which is an important foundation for improving quality of life for Hoosiers in their communities."

The following regions have been chosen as finalists:

- **One Dearborn County: Stellar Pathways for Indiana Gateways**, including, Dearborn County Economic Development Corporation, Dearborn County, Dillsboro and Greendale
- **Connect LaGrange County**, including, LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation, LaGrange County, Town of LaGrange, Shipshewana and Topeka

- **Wabash County**, including, Wabash County, City of Wabash, North Manchester, Roann, LaFontaine and Lagro
- **Warren County Region**, including, Warren County and Williamsport

Relaunched earlier this year, the Stellar Pathways program is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative led by OCRA. The program works with communities in a self-determined region on a shared vision for community and economic development. Additionally, Stellar Pathways promotes local and regional partnerships and assists in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges Indiana's rural communities face.

As finalists, each region will receive \$50,000 to put towards the development of its final strategic investment plan. Each region will also receive a customized one-day workshop with Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute on Aug. 12 to discuss project alignment and continued planning efforts.

"This was a very competitive review process, and it is evident these four regions worked hard to earn the Stellar Pathways finalist designation," said OCRA Executive Director Duke Bennett. "I look forward to seeing the impact the Stellar Pathways process will have on these communities."

The Stellar Pathways program provides resources for transformative quality of place improvements by applying previous planning efforts, leveraging existing assets, fostering regional investments and stimulating continued growth.

OCRA's Stellar Pathways partner agencies include the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Destination Development Corporation and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

For more information, visit in.gov/ocra/stellar/.

-30-

Under the leadership of [Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch](#), who serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs' (OCRA) mission is to work with local, state and national partners to provide resources and technical assistance to assist communities in shaping and achieving their vision for community and economic development. For more information, visit ocra.in.gov.

Wabash County aims to continue 'Stellar' reputation with regional win

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 06:00 AM EDT

By Alex Brown

10/24/24, 2:33 PM

Wabash County aims to continue 'Stellar' reputation with regional win – Inside INdiana Business



The Wabash County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Visit Wabash County)

WABASH, Ind. - In 2014, the city of Wabash was named a Stellar Community designee by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

A decade later, the program **has been rebranded** to Stellar Pathways, and Wabash County is one of four finalists vying for a share of \$13 million to fund a variety of community development projects.

Grow Wabash County President and CEO Tenille Zartman says the county wants to build on the success of the Stellar win 10 years ago.

Zartman told Inside INdiana Business the county as a whole started coming together in 2019 to address what she

- **Mishawaka Fieldhouse opens to lofty sports tourism aspirations**
- **League of Women Voters files ethics complaint against Indiana Secretary of State**
- **Pridgeon & Clay to close Franklin manufacturing plant**

PERSPECTIVES



'Comp speak' impacts most of us. What is it?

Most industries and professional disciplines have unique – and often confusing – jargon. The world of employee compensation is no different, with compensation terminology (“comp speak”) that can be downright puzzling to outsiders. Nonetheless, understanding employee compensation is vital to American workers; so, here’s a quick primer to help demystify “comp speak.”...

10/24/24, 2:33 PM

Wabash County aims to continue 'Stellar' reputation with regional win – Inside INdiana Business

said is one of the region's greatest threats: population decline.

"Our first-ever countywide [Imagine One 85] comprehensive plan got adopted a couple years ago. That identified a lot of really great projects that we think will be pivotal in helping us grow our populations," she said. "I think being a Stellar winner will give us the resources and the credibility to continue to move that forward so we can no longer say we're in decline but that we're actually on that upward growth momentum."

Story Continues Below

0:00 / 1:03

The Wabash County region includes Wabash County itself, the cities of Wabash and North Manchester, and the towns of Roann, LaFontaine and Lagro.

Zartman said the established collaboration among the communities is what helped Wabash County get selected as a Stellar finalist.

"We are already around the table. Our community partners come together

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10/24/24, 2:33 PM

Wabash County aims to continue 'Stellar' reputation with regional win – Inside INdiana Business

picture projects,” she said. “So when the Stellar Pathways program was presented and we asked, ‘Okay, do we want to go after this as a region?’ All hands went up, and it took five seconds to get everyone on board; we were already in that collaborative spirit. So I think that really shone through on our application.”

The Stellar finalists are each receiving \$50,000 to develop their final strategic investment plans. Zartman said while specific projects haven’t been nailed down just yet, they could involve infrastructure, downtown development, riverfront and park development, and streetscapes, among others.

“The Stellar Strategic Investment Plan will allow us to advance projects and programs, founded through the work of Imagine One 85, and prepare a compelling case for why Wabash County should be awarded the Stellar Pathways Designation and receive the resources that accompany it to implement large scale initiatives moving our community forward,” Imagine One 85 Director Alex Downard said in written remarks.

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The other finalists include Connect LaGrange County, One Dearborn County, and Warren County region. The strategic investment plans will be submitted by Nov. 1, and the two winners will be announced in January.

“We’re going to work really hard over the next few months,” Zartman said. “We’re going to start getting together weekly to really kick off the process and really start the brainstorming. So I think you’re gonna see a really strong proposal coming out of Wabash County.”



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10/24/24, 2:42 PM

Wabash and LaGrange Counties: Stellar Pathways Finalists - NEI



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 Share

Wabash and LaGrange Counties: Stellar Pathways Finalists

By: Ryan Twiss on July 31, 2024

10/24/24, 2:42 PM

Wabash and LaGrange Counties: Stellar Pathways Finalists - NEI



This spring, Wabash and LaGrange Counties were named by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) as two of the four finalists for the Stellar Pathways Program, a multi-year initiative designed to promote local and regional partnerships and implement sustainable solutions for Indiana's rural communities. Each finalist will receive a \$50,000 planning grant to assemble their final plan and ultimately two winners will be eligible for millions of dollars of investment. We're so thrilled for our partners at Grow Wabash County (<https://www.growwabashcounty.com/>) and the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) for the incredible work in their communities that we wanted to share a bit about the efforts.

LaGrange County: Embracing Sustainable Growth and Economic Prosperity

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Wabash and LaGrange Counties: Stellar Pathways Finalists - NEI

LaGrange County's success highlights its sustainable growth and economic development. The LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC (<https://www.lagrangecountyedc.com/>)) led the charge, emphasizing the importance of partnership and collaboration in achieving the Stellar Pathways designation.

As a finalist, LaGrange County (<https://neindiana.com/why-nei/economic-development/county-profiles/lagrange-county/>) will receive \$50,000 to develop its final strategic investment plan and participate in a workshop with Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute to align its projects.

LaGrange County's efforts focus on transformative projects that prioritize talent attraction, housing, childcare, and quality of place. By leveraging previous planning efforts and existing assets, the county aims to foster regional investments and stimulate continued growth. LCEDC's participation in the Stellar Pathways program demonstrates its dedication to inclusive growth and meaningful impact, harnessing the expertise and resources of its partners to build a thriving community for years to come.

Wabash County: A Legacy of Collaboration and Forward-Thinking

Being named a finalist for the Stellar Pathways program is a testament to Wabash County's dedication to countywide collaboration. For years, government partners and local decision-makers in Wabash County (<https://neindiana.com/why-nei/economic-development/county-profiles/wabash-county/>) have joined forces to tackle projects that benefit the entire county, rather than just individual communities. This collaborative spirit led to the creation of the Imagine One 85 countywide strategic plan, which solidified the county's commitment to working together to achieve greater goals.

The impact of Wabash County's collaboration was first recognized in 2014 when the City of Wabash was named a Stellar Community. This designation brought about a resurgence of community pride, revitalizing downtown buildings and expanding

10/24/24, 2:42 PM

Wabash and LaGrange Counties: Stellar Pathways Finalists - NEI

recreational and cultural opportunities for residents and visitors alike. The announcement that Wabash County could once again benefit from the Stellar program has reignited this enthusiasm, inspiring leaders and citizens to contribute their unique skills and ideas.

Key initiatives that Wabash County hopes to pursue if selected as a Stellar Pathways designee include expanding infrastructure to support future housing and business development, extending trails and access points to the county's natural resources, and attracting more individuals and families to live and work in Wabash County. Even if Wabash County is not ultimately selected, the process of hiring a consultant and conducting a formal planning process as a finalist will set the county on the path to achieving these ambitious goals.

Congratulations!

The recognition of both Wabash and LaGrange Counties as finalists in the Stellar Pathways program underscores the power of collaboration and shared vision in driving community and economic development. These counties, as well as their nine peers that collectively make up Northeast Indiana, are setting an example for what it means to be truly stellar communities, with a commitment to sustainable growth and a high quality of life for their residents.

10/24/24, 2:49 PM

Wabash, LaGrange counties among finalists for Indiana Stellar Pathways | Indiana | journalgazette.net

https://www.journalgazette.net/local/indiana/wabash-lagrange-counties-among-finalists-for-indiana-stellar-pathways/article_51e2a670-2da0-11ef-8221-5f96f726ec7c.html

Wabash, LaGrange counties among finalists for Indiana Stellar Pathways

THE JOURNAL GAZETTE
Jun 18, 2024

Two Fort Wayne-area counties, Wabash and LaGrange, are among four regional finalists for Indiana's Stellar Pathways program, the state announced Tuesday.

Wabash County and Connect LaGrange County were among 19 letters of interest for the program.

Each regional finalist will receive \$50,000 to help complete a strategic investment plan, according to Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, who made the joint announcement.

The Wabash County application includes the county, the city of Wabash, North Manchester, Roann, LaFontaine and Lagro.

The Connect LaGrange County application includes the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation, LaGrange County, town of LaGrange, Shipshewana and Topeka, according to the state's news release.

Other finalists are:

- One Dearborn County: Stellar Pathways for Indiana Gateways, including Dearborn County Economic Development Corporation, Dearborn County, Dillsboro and Greendale.
- Warren County Region, including Warren County and Williamsport.

Relaunched earlier this year, the Stellar Pathways program is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative that the Office of Community and Rural Affairs oversees.

10/24/24, 2:49 PM

Wabash, LaGrange counties among finalists for Indiana Stellar Pathways | Indiana | journalgazette.net

When the state offered Stellar Communities, the New Allen Alliance was a designated winner in December 2018 of about \$5.8 million toward \$17 million in identified projects. That alliance included Leo-Cedarville, Grabill, Harlan, Woodburn, New Haven, Monroeville and Hoagland.

The Stellar Pathways program works with communities in self-determined regions to support a shared vision for community and economic development. Local and regional partnerships are encouraged to develop and implement “sustainable solutions to challenges Indiana’s rural communities face,” the state said in its news release.

In an email response, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs on Tuesday declined to immediately disclose – without a public records request – the list of 19 regions to apply.

Grow Wabash County said it pointed out to state officials that its application was signed and supported by all of its incorporated communities.

“We are excited to continue to bring our partners together to enhance the quality of life in Wabash County through this transformative initiative,” Tenille Zartman, Grow Wabash County’s president and CEO, said in a statement Tuesday.

The organization noted in its press release that the Stellar Pathways program is a “reimagined version” of the Stellar Communities program that the city of Wabash participated in starting in 2014.

“Being a Stellar Pathways finalist will further our strong existing collaboration and commitment to progress and innovation,” Zartman said.

Wabash County has already worked to develop and enhance at countywide strategic plan, called Imagine One 85. That made the collaborative requirement to be considered for Stellar Pathways an easy one, the organization said in its release. It added that the planning and fine-tuning will continue before the Nov. 1 deadline for final strategic plan submissions to the state.

Representatives from the Stellar Pathways partner agencies evaluated submissions based on multiple factors, the news release said. These included demonstrated ability to collaborate, communicate effectively, implement projects, address challenges, secure additional funding and engage the community.

10/24/24, 2:49 PM

Wabash, LaGrange counties among finalists for Indiana Stellar Pathways | Indiana | journalgazette.net

“The Stellar Pathways program empowers communities to invest in transformative improvements, and these four regions have displayed the vision required of a Stellar project,” said Crouch, Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. “All four of these teams have not only understood, but embraced the challenge of collaboration which is an important foundation for improving quality of life for Hoosiers in their communities.”

Each region will also receive a customized workshop Aug. 12 with Ball State University’s Indiana Communities Institute to discuss project alignment and continued planning efforts, the news release said.

Emilee Fincher, marketing and operations manager with the LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation, said her region is prioritizing projects that prioritize talent attraction, housing, childcare and quality of place.

“Our collective efforts underscore the unity and determination of LaGrange County to embrace sustainable development practices, foster economic growth, and enhance our quality of life,” Fincher said through email. “We are leveraging the strengths of each partner to create a strategic roadmap that will guide our community’s progress now and into the future.”

Sherri Johnston, president and CEO of the LaGrange EDC, said in a statement that participating in Stellar Pathways shows the dedication to inclusive growth and meaningful impact.

“By harnessing the collective expertise and resources of our partners, we are poised to unlock new opportunities, address challenges head-on, and build a thriving LaGrange County that prospers for many years to come,” Johnston said.

Duke Bennett, executive director, of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, said the review process to get to four finalists was “very competitive.”

His office’s Stellar Pathways partner agencies include the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Destination Development Corporation and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

MORE INFORMATION

10/24/24, 2:49 PM

Wabash, LaGrange counties among finalists for Indiana Stellar Pathways | Indiana | journalgazette.net



State, local officials laud NewAllen's Stellar win

NewAllen Alliance named Stellar

NewAllen Alliance gives Stellar pitch

NewAllen Alliance gets county funding

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Wabash County named on of four Stellar Pathways finalists - North Manchester News-Journal

North Manchester News-Journal

Wabash County named on of four Stellar Pathways finalists

June 26, 2024

By Joseph Slacian

Wabash County is one of four regions designated as a 2024 Stellar Pathways finalist.

The designation was made June 18 by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

The county was one of 19 regions to submit applications for the designation. Representatives from the Stellar Pathways partner agencies evaluated submissions based on a number of factors, including the region's demonstrated ability to collaborate, communicate effectively, implement projects, address challenges, secure additional funding and engage the community.

The local application was submitted by Grow Wabash County through the Imagine One 85 initiative. It includes Wabash County, the City of Wabash and the towns of North Manchester, Roann, LaFontaine and Lagro.

"I think we had a really strong application because all of our government partners are already around the table every month and I think we stood out for that reason," Tenille Zartman, GWC's President and CEO said. "We will receive a \$50,000 planning grant to continue strategically plan our project."

In addition to the grant, the county will receive a customized, one-day workshop with Ball State University's Indiana Communities Institute on Aug. 12 to discuss project alignment and continued planning efforts.

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Alex Downard, director of Imagine One 85, said in a news release, "Opportunities like Stellar are exactly why you go through planning processes such as Imagine One 85. "Without the leadership of our communities, support organizations, and the private sector, opportunities such as this are not possible. The Stellar Strategic Investment Plan will allow us to advance projects and programs, founded through the work of Imagine One 85, and prepare a compelling case for why Wabash County should be awarded the Stellar Pathways Designation and receive the resources that accompany it to implement large scale initiatives moving our community forward."

The county's strategic investment plan will be submitted to the state by Nov. 1, and two winners will be declared in January

2025. Those two winners will each receive between \$8 million and \$9 million to be used for the various projects.

"We'll make sure that that's equitably distributed," Zartman said.

In 2014, the City of Wabash was named a Stellar Community by OCRA.

Zartman said she was worried that that designation might hinder the most recent application.

Relaunched earlier this year, the Stellar Pathways program is a multi-year, multimillion dollar initiative led by OCRA. The program works with communities in a self-determined region on a shared vision for community and economic development.

Additionally, Stellar Pathways promotes local and regional partnerships and assists in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges Indiana rural communities face.

Beside Wabash County, other regions designated as finalists are:

One Dearborn County: Stellar Pathways for Indiana Gateways, including Dearborn County Economic Development Corp., Dearborn County, Dillsboro and Greendale.

Connect LaGrange County, including LaGrange County Economic Development Corp., LaGrange County, Town of LaGrange, Shipshewana and Topeka.

Warren County Region, including Warren County and Williamsport.

"The Stellar Pathways program empowers communities to invest in transformative improvements and these four regions have displayed the vision required of a Stellar project," Crouch said. "All four of these teams have not only understood by embraced the challenge of collaboration which is an important foundation for improving quality of life for Hoosiers in their communities."

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Wabash County is finalist for Stellar Pathways

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June 26, 2024

By Joseph Slacian jslacian@thepaperofwabash.com

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Wabash County Named Stellar Pathways Finalist



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Wabash County Named Stellar Pathways Finalist

June 18, 2024

Wabash County, IN – On Tuesday, June 18, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) announced that Wabash County was one of four finalists for the 2024 Stellar Pathways program.

"The Stellar Pathways program empowers communities to invest in transformative improvements, and these four regions have displayed the vision required of a Stellar project," Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, said in a press release from OCRA. "All four of these teams have not only understood, but embraced the challenge of collaboration which is an important foundation for improving quality of life for Hoosiers in their communities."

Wabash County and its three co-finalists were selected from 19 regions across the State of Indiana who submitted a letter of intent for the program.

The Stellar Pathways program, a reimagined version of the Stellar Communities program that the City of Wabash participated in starting in 2014, encourages countywide collaboration and provides resources and funding for projects that promote countywide quality of life enhancements.

The letter of intent, submitted to OCRA on behalf of Wabash County, outlined that the regional initiative was signed and supported by all incorporated communities in Wabash County involving the City of Wabash, North Manchester, Roann, LaFontaine and Lagro.

"We are excited to continue to bring our partners together to enhance the quality of life in Wabash County through this transformative initiative," Tenille Zartman, president and CEO of Grow Wabash County, said. "Being a Stellar Pathways finalist will further our strong existing collaboration and commitment to progress and innovation."

The opportunities afforded to Wabash County as a finalist, as well as a potential Stellar Designee, will allow for the county to continue its forward progress to complete many of the projects and priorities outlined in the Imagine One 85 countywide strategic plan. The cooperation already in place countywide as part of Imagine One 85 made the Stellar Pathways collaborative requirement an easy one to fulfill.

"Opportunities like Stellar are exactly why you go through planning processes such as Imagine One 85," Alex Downard, director of Imagine One 85, said. "Without the leadership of our communities, support organizations, and the private sector, opportunities such as this are not possible. The Stellar Strategic Investment Plan will allow us to advance projects and programs, founded through the work of Imagine One 85, and prepare a compelling case for why Wabash County should be awarded the Stellar Pathways Designation and receive the resources that accompany it to implement large scale initiatives moving our community forward."

As a finalist, Wabash County will receive \$50,000 to prepare a Strategic Investment Plan that will outline the county's goals if named a Stellar Designee. The process will include feedback sessions with members of the OCRA team on the objectives outlined in the letter of intent, workshops, and ongoing consultation with OCRA to fine tune their proposals before submission on November 1, 2024.

The two Stellar Designees, which will be named in January 2025, will be allowed to apply for funding allocations from various state departments and agencies including: OCRA; Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority (IHDA); Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA); Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC); Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT); Indiana Department of Health (IDOH); and Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

More information about the Stellar Pathways program can be found online at www.in.gov/ocra/stellar .

Grow Wabash County Press Release

Wabash County 2024 Stellar Pathways Finalist

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Wabash County Named Stellar Pathways Finalist



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Community Responses Wanted For Stellar Pathways Survey



Community responses wanted for Stellar Pathways survey



September 6, 2024

Wabash County, IN – Wabash County residents are being asked to complete a short survey to share their insights and perspectives on the greatest needs and opportunities in Wabash County.

This survey is part of a larger community engagement strategy related to the Stellar Pathways application being submitted by local leaders in hopes of securing up to \$7 million in state and federal dollars to fund various programs focused on improving quality of life and sparking future growth. This application is spearheaded by a committee of stakeholders from all of the incorporated cities and towns in Wabash County as well as representation for the county's unincorporated communities.

The survey asks Wabash County residents to weigh in on how they feel the community could best utilize the

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Community Responses Wanted For Stellar Pathways Survey

funding and resources that would be afforded to Wabash County should they be selected as a Stellar Pathways designee in January 2025.

Community stakeholders and members of the Stellar committee will also be present at upcoming community events and gatherings to gather in-person ideas and feedback.

The deadline to submit your feedback via the online survey will be October 1, 2024.

The Stellar Pathways community survey can be found online at **www.surveymonkey.com/r/WabashCountyStellar**. For more information on the Stellar Pathways program and Wabash County's journey as a finalist, visit **www.tswdesigngroup.com/wabashcounty**.



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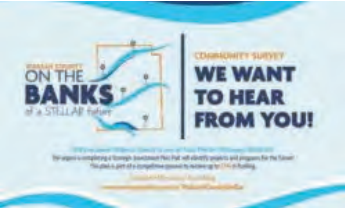
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2024 STELLAR PATHWAYS PROGRAM FINALISTS



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