

Indiana Regional Cities Update – On the Outside Looking In

Today we review the proposal from the Southwest Indiana region with Evansville, Ind. as its hub.

The goals:

- **Grow the population by 70,000 people** - helping Indiana achieve its goal of growing the Indiana population by 2 million in ten years.
- **Retain 80% of the physician residents graduating from Indiana University School of Medicine – Evansville** as each physician will fill the gap in healthcare delivery while raising the per capita income to match the U.S. average.
- **Expand the region’s employment in the key sectors by 20%** with an emphasis on innovation, research and development.
- **Reinforce Evansville’s role as a regional city**, leveraging its strategic location to gain market share currently being captured by Nashville, St. Louis and Louisville; and,
- **Increase the population in downtown Evansville by 2,500 residents** through a focus on urban renewal and mixed-use development.
- **Transform Evansville’s downtown area into a vibrant 24/7 urban event center** with a variety of choices for dining, nightlife, entertainment, housing, and unique experiences.
- **Reinvigorate the network of historic places and enclaves of unique character**, throughout the region, by enhancing and connecting them via integrated urban design and appropriate intermodal movement systems.
- **Become the Midwestern city of choice** for people desiring mid-size city living.

Projects Included in the proposal for funding Include:

- **Update Evansville Regional Airport** to meet the ever-changing needs of business and leisure travelers is critical in attracting greater flight options, which helps drive new investment and attract more diverse talent.
- **Rebuilding the downtown area** through a transformational partnership, mixing university student housing with a retail experience on Main Street enabling the university to double or triple the students on campus.
- **Investing in public infrastructure** to facilitate Southwest Indiana’s ability to host rotating USGA or PGA events at a world-class venue opens the region’s door to key decision makers from around the globe
- **Promote food-to-table and arts projects and/or repurpose a key transportation artery into a pedestrian trail and park** crossing the Wabash River, the Warrick Wellness Trail, a central location for hospitals, specialty clinics, laboratories, research facilities, continuing care and retail with more than \$150 million in planned investments, solidifying the region’s role as a center for healthcare and wellness.
- **Build on the energy of the Haynie’s Corner Art District and/or the redevelopment push for Jacobsville’s North Main Street for better pedestrian access**

- **Convert Indiana's first gaming operation, Casino Aztar Evansville, into Indiana's first downtown gaming family resort**
- **New Indiana University multidisciplinary academic medical education and research center** in downtown Evansville, with a 15,000 square foot, adjacent research center
- **Introduction of a working lab for new urban living**, that through a partnership with Haier, the world's largest appliance manufacturer, energy leader Vectren and a private developer, will create a matchless urban living environment. From connected appliances specifically designed for small urban spaces (giving real time information to Haier design engineers at its first North American tech center in Evansville) to behavioral energy controls and green energy generation that provides residents with their own power source, the working lab will be one the most innovative housing developments in the nation and will become a standard for the design of new urban environments.
- **Creation of the Southwest Indiana's version of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail**, which has proven to be a recognized magnet for people and investment. Linking a vibrant downtown core with attractive neighborhoods, diverse employers, nationally recognized educational institutions, challenging recreational options with outstanding retail and entertainment destinations all wrapped in an original culture that is uniquely Southwest Indiana fits the true heart and soul of Regional Cities.