

2042 VISION

DRAFT

Hancock County is Central Indiana's community of choice and recognized leader in proactively managing growth to balance and promote its agricultural resources with targeted economic opportunities.

Strengthened by their welcoming residents, Hancock County's vibrant communities, towns, and city offer a range of living and employment opportunities and are united by their outstanding public schools, quality development, high-value amenities, rural landscape, and excellent public infrastructure and services.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A.

Enhance Intergovernmental Collaboration and Coordination to the Benefit of all County Residents

Strong systems are needed to ensure efficient and effective service delivery and consistent and mutually beneficial decision-making regarding infrastructure investments and policies such as:

- ▶ Working collaboratively with Greenfield and the Towns to identify future growth areas
- ▶ Ensuring compatibility of land uses at jurisdictional boundaries
- ▶ Ensuring adequate public safety facilities and staffing are available to serve new development
- ▶ Understanding the fiscal impacts of development incentives on other units of government
- ▶ Identifying sites for new and expanded public facilities, schools, and rights-of-way
- ▶ Determining the type and location of new recreation facilities

B.

Strengthen the Sense of Community and Identity while Diversifying Lifestyle Choices

Emphasis should be placed on reinforcing a strong sense of community and sense of place while accommodating a greater diversity of living options by:

- ▶ Providing a greater range of public and private amenities including recreation, entertainment, etc.
- ▶ Coordinating with the school districts to ensure their long-term quality and fiscal health as growth continues
- ▶ Working with Greenfield and the Towns to offer a diversity of rural, suburban, and urban lifestyle options
- ▶ Ensuring quality development with high design standards to create a recognizable sense of place
- ▶ Protecting and building on Hancock's rural heritage by promoting compact expansion of developed areas and creating additional ag-related tourism and value-added processing opportunities
- ▶ Identifying and promoting new and expanded businesses to stabilize and enhance the County's smaller communities appropriate to their rural nature
- ▶ Developing a County brand identity as a community of choice in the Indy region to attract families, amenities, services, and employers
- ▶ Developing a framework to be more intentional with types, intensity and location of new development

C.

Diversify Employment to Improve the Live-Work Balance

Attract a wider variety of job opportunities that align with the skills of the resident workforce by:

- ▶ Establishing career pipeline programs to introduce junior/senior HS students to local employers/career opportunities they offer
- ▶ Creating programs to make new employment opportunities known to County residents and encourage and incentivize employers to hire local
- ▶ Attracting and expanding employment opportunities that align with resident skills in areas such as healthcare, education, scientific and technical services, and agbioscience, among others
- ▶ Providing local opportunities for job training, continuing education, and career advancement

D.

Support a Balance of High Quality Housing Densities and Types

Work with a variety of partners, including incorporated communities, to meet population- and job-driven housing demand, by:

- ▶ Creating attainable housing types at a wide variety of price points to support the workforce of growing industries
- ▶ Supporting denser rental and for sale housing products that appeal to both younger and older households
- ▶ Promoting denser housing developments in areas well-served by supporting infrastructure and near amenities
- ▶ Developing strategies to revitalize housing conditions in communities that are experiencing significant housing vacancy

E.

Invest in a Robust and Efficient Transportation System Concurrent with Development

The County's roads enable the safe movement of people and goods across the region; so it is imperative that the County maintain a highly functional, multi-faceted transportation system by:

- ▶ Working with state, regional, and local partners to have a safe, efficient network of roads within the County to improve both freight and passenger mobility
- ▶ Working with the state to make improvements to I-70 and interchanges and state roads
- ▶ Working with IndyGo, CIRT, and HART to create a strong multimodal transportation system that supports Hancock's economic development objectives, that may include: Workforce Connector services, transit expansion, and/or innovative private partnerships to address employer demands
- ▶ Planning for the electrification of all transportation modes by working with public and private entities to strategically locate charging stations
- ▶ Implementing the Hancock County Trails Plan and develop policies for the addition of bike lanes and sidewalks with new development to improve walkability
- ▶ Implementing a Complete Streets approach on new and expanded State, local, and County Roads
- ▶ Coordinating with the Indianapolis Regional Airport to avoid conflicting land uses in growth areas surrounding the Airport

F.

Leverage Broadband Infrastructure to Advance Smart Communities and Attract Internet-Dependent Businesses

Local governments and schools throughout the County should utilize its excellent high-speed broadband backbone infrastructure for:

- ▶ Beginning the deployment of new, integrated technologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services to residents in areas such as transportation, public safety, water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater utilities
- ▶ Attracting and expanding businesses such as: data and call centers, financial services, web hosting, logistics, research and development
- ▶ Attracting remote workers who desire a more rural lifestyle by exploring strategies such as: incentivizing recruitment through programs and incentives, and marketing the County's competitive and locational advantages

G.

Prioritize Growth Areas and Investments in Supporting Infrastructure and Services

Proactively plan to responsibly balance and manage growth impacts and avoid haphazard development in targeted areas of the County by:

- ▶ Implementing the Mt. Comfort Corridor Plan land use and infrastructure recommendations
- ▶ Leveraging Hancock County's unique position in the region by using the Comprehensive Plan to intentionally and proactively identify the location and timing of other growth areas and those areas to remain mostly rural/agricultural
- ▶ Identifying opportunities to stabilize employment and housing in areas that are stagnant in growth
- ▶ Using the Thoroughfare Plan and Capital Improvement Plan to direct infrastructure investments to growth areas and away from areas where development is not expected or desired, including in rural areas where agriculture is actively practiced
- ▶ Using the Economic Development Strategy and its implementing policies to direct new businesses into identified growth areas and utilize robust funding strategies for the supporting infrastructure and services
- ▶ Evaluating the potential use of development impact fees, development agreements, and similar mechanisms to ensure new development pays its fair share of infrastructure and service costs