

WABASH COUNTY ON THE BANKS of a STELLAR future



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



DID YOU KNOW?

Wabash County is one of four Stellar Pathways Finalists.

What is the Stellar Pathways Program?

In January 2024, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) launched the updated 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 led by the OCRA.

The program works with communities within a county boundary on a shared vision for community and economic development, promotes local and regional partnerships, and assists in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges facing Indiana's rural communities.

In June 2024, four regions were chosen as the 2024 Stellar Pathways Finalists. Wabash County is now working on the development of a final strategic investment plan – this planning effort!

What is a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)?

Indiana's Stellar Pathways program is requesting a Strategic Investment Plan detailing the region's comprehensive community revitalization strategies over the five-year Stellar Pathways timeline, which is part of the competitive process.

A Strategic Investment Plan is an economic development tool to identify economic, business, and developmental programs and projects that may qualify for targeted funding to accomplish key regional goals.

What is the timeline for this process?

Grow Wabash County submitted a letter of intent (LOI) application in May 2024. On June 18, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced four regions as finalists. Since then, the Wabash County region has engaged Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group to facilitate the planning process and prepare the Strategic Investment Plan. Major milestones include -

- July – October 2024 – Development of SIP
- November 1, 2024 – SIP Due
- December 2024 – Presentation to the State
- January 2025 – Announcement of two Stellar Pathways designees

Which communities are participating in the Strategic Investment Plan?

The Wabash County region includes the County, the City of Wabash, the Town of North Manchester, the Town of La Fontaine, the Town of Lagro, and the Town of Roann.



If you're interested in learning more about the Indiana Stellar Pathways Program, visit the website by scanning the QR code.

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OUR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN



DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Wabash was designated a Stellar Community in 2014.

Who is leading this process?

Because the Imagine One 85 process brought each community to the table, a group of local representatives had already been meeting every month to move projects and programs forward. This same group will guide the development of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP).

The leadership group 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

How does this effort align with the Imagine One 85 Comprehensive Plan?

In June 2019, a coalition of leaders from all sectors joined in an unprecedented countywide collaboration called Imagine One 85. This group developed a comprehensive plan for the growth and prosperity of the entire county, and the incorporated communities of La Fontaine, Lagro, North Manchester, Roann, and Wabash.

Imagine One 85 has become more than a plan, but rather a beacon for Wabash County's future with a clear path full of collaboration and inclusion for all people. The Wabash County Team will use the Imagine One 85 plan as the foundation for the development of a Strategic Investment Plan.

How do we plan to engage the region?

Through the work of the Imagine One 85 planning process, the region gathered input from over 1,000 community stakeholders across the County that shaped the 85 action agenda. Because the region has only 3 months to prepare the SIP, the leadership group will continue to rely heavily on this input, and input gathering in other previous efforts, to craft the plan.

With that being said, the region will be invited to participate in the process through online engagement tools and a regional workshop later this year. It is anticipated that the general public will be invited to review and provide input on the proposed projects and programs in early October.

How can I stay informed and engaged?

A project-specific webpage has been developed to provide an online platform for the SIP. This website will serve as the home base for the plan so that community members can easily access project updates and explore ways to get involved.

Visit: www.tswdesigngroup.com/wabashcounty

