

Indiana Vision 2025: A Plan for Hoosier Prosperity

There's a reason it's called *Indiana Vision 2025*. Since being introduced on these pages in January 2012, progress has been made on the long-range economic development action plan for the state. But there is a long, long way to go in some very critical areas.

The mission: "Indiana will be a global leader in innovation and economic opportunity where enterprises and citizens prosper."

The plan: 33 goals divided between four key driver areas:

- Outstanding Talent
- Attractive Business Climate
- Superior Infrastructure
- Dynamic and Creative Culture.

The progress: Passage of a right-to-work law in 2012 and elimination of the state's inheritance tax earlier this year. In addition, strong state regulatory rankings and steps that have been put in place to improve education and workforce development, health care risk factors, entrepreneurial development and more.

Next steps

Regional forums and a statewide summit in 2012 introduced *Indiana Vision 2025* to business, education and community leaders around Indiana. Governor Mike Pence, in discussing his *Roadmap for Indiana* at the summit, said: "Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, and we drew on ideas that came out of 2025."

The regional outreach continues in December with six sessions. Key developments thus far, continued local priorities and a sharing of best practices across the regions will be among the topics at gatherings in Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Merrillville, Sellersburg and the South Bend area.

On these pages, we break our coverage down by driver area. We highlight many of the challenges, opportunities and success stories. Look for the following in 2014:

- **January-February issue:** The education and workforce development elements that comprise Outstanding Talent, with stories on generating more STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degrees and addressing the skills gap for current workers.
- **March-April:** Tackling pension reform, tax strategies and reducing smoking/obesity levels as part of crafting an Attractive Business Climate.
- **May-June:** Developing a strategic water plan and infrastructure funding systems that are so important in the Superior Infrastructure area.
- **July-August:** Dynamic and Creative Culture is the driver, featuring assistance to business start-ups, enhanced technology transfer and much more.

We close with the words that kick off the Future State section of the initiative and drive the ongoing efforts of the Chamber and its many statewide partners:

The premise of this plan is that by engaging now in thoughtful consideration of the future we may shape it. We are not willing to leave the future prosperity of Hoosiers to chance, but rather seek to enhance it by our actions today. Through this plan, we have attempted to establish a roadmap to prosperity where Hoosiers can achieve a higher quality of life than otherwise possible.

INFORMATION LINK

Resource: *Indiana Vision 2025* at www.indianachamber.com/2025



The *Indiana Vision 2025* message was delivered in a 2012 statewide summit (left) and regional forums in Northwest Indiana (top right) and Evansville, which included regional partner Ed Hafer.