

# SUPERIOR INFRASTRUCTURE



## DIVERSE CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES

Indiana took a major step forward in 2017 on what could be considered the most visible piece of the infrastructure puzzle when it passed a long-term transportation funding plan. But even that discussion will continue as tolling is expected to be necessary to pay for future road needs.

Accurate statistical analysis of progress in the infrastructure area is often challenging. But the issues in play and the goals are clear:

- **Energy:** Affordability, reliability, diversity of sources and conservation strategies are all part of the mix
- **Water:** A strategic resource plan is essential to avoiding a future

crisis. Incremental progress has taken place since the Indiana Chamber’s 2014 study – *Water and Economic Development in Indiana: Modernizing the State’s Approach to a Critical Resource*

- **Broadband:** Investment continue to take place within the state, but some underserved rural areas suffer economically due to a lack of service or necessary speed to effectively conduct business
- **Security:** Cybersecurity concerns have never been of greater importance. Indiana must remain vigilant in protecting its infrastructure assets

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GOAL	SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
State development and implementation of a strategic energy resource plan that helps ensure Indiana is one of the “Top 10” most affordable states for electricity.	<b>2017 legislation begins to address issues between ratepayers and utilities – a necessary step toward energy policy creation; expands self-generation opportunities; IURC rate reviews now made public</b>
Diversify Indiana’s energy mix with an emphasis on clean coal, natural gas, nuclear power and renewables.	<b>Integrated Resource Planning process for utilities put into place in 2016</b>
Identify and implement workable energy conservation strategies.	<b>2015 legislation requires utilities to submit efficiency plans</b>
Develop and implement a strategic water resource plan that ensures adequate fresh water for citizens and business.	<b>Indiana Chamber Foundation water resource study (August 2014); 2015-2017 legislation directs collection of additional resource data; 2018 – task force creation</b>
Develop and implement new fiscal systems to support the array of transportation infrastructure projects critical to economic growth.	<b>2017 legislation establishes comprehensive long-term transportation infrastructure funding plan</b>
Aggressively build out the state’s advanced telecommunications networks.	<b>2017-2018 legislation more rapidly deploys technology via small cell towers and adds rural broadband grant program</b>
Ensure strong security measures (both physical and cyber) are in place for all of Indiana’s critical infrastructure.	<b>Regular IURC-utility meetings focus on preparedness, mitigation and resiliency in the event of cyberattacks</b>

Driver/Metric	Current rank	Prior rank
<b>SUPERIOR INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		
<b>Develop strategic energy resource plan/be "Top 10" most affordable state for electricity</b>		
Commercial Electricity Prices	26	26
Industrial Electricity Prices	29	28
<b>Diversify Indiana's energy mix</b>		
Clean Energy Per Capita	47	47
Clean Energy/Total Generation	45	47
<b>Identify and implement workable energy conservation strategies</b>		
Energy Efficiency	24	17
<b>Develop and implement a strategic water resource plan</b>		
No overall state ranking or direct comparison available		
<b>New fiscal systems to support transportation infrastructure projects</b>		
State and Local Road Spending	25	30
<b>Build out advanced telecommunications networks</b>		
Residences With Wired High Speed Connection	25	36
Median Download Speed	24	31

## Superior Infrastructure

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As reported in the previous two issues of *BizVoice*<sup>®</sup>, the two charts (on Page 50) outline:

- The Superior Infrastructure goals with a subjective overview of progress
- Those same goals, with metrics that were used to help evaluate them in the 2017

*Indiana Vision 2025* Report Card. The 50-state ranking (1 is best; 50 is worst) for 2017 and the prior Report Card in 2015 are presented

Among the infrastructure-related stories in this issue: A communications company

diversifying its portfolio (Page 52); Republic Airlines' pilot training facility (Page 56); a Member Spotlight on Cascade Asset Management (Page 60); and energy/defense updates in the Quick Hits section (Page 62).

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**RESOURCE:** Complete information on *Indiana Vision 2025* is available at [www.indianachamber.com/2025](http://www.indianachamber.com/2025)