

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **WestGate @ Crane Academy** nears completion
- **SIDC Director** stresses the importance of asking
- **Housing program and CDBG grant discussions**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Washington's CSO Project** 2
- Director's Notes** 2
- Opportunities** 2
- Small Urban & Rural Planning Program** 2
- Owner occupied Housing Opportunity** 3
- CEAP Program** 3
- CFF and CDBG Planning Grants** 3
- Ride Solution** 3
- SIDC Board Members & Staff** 4

Southern Indiana Development Commission

S U M M E R

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SERVING THE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF DAVIESS, GREENE, KNOX



LAWRENCE AND MARTIN COUNTIES



ACADEMY CLOSE TO COMPLETE!

The Westgate@Crane Academy building is nearing completion. The building (shown above) should be complete by September barring any additional changes from the Authority. The new facility is expected to create 225 jobs and generate more than \$10 million in private investment and provide national training platforms for technology professionals associated with the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) at Crane. Stimulus Engineering has been awarded the contract for management of the facility and hopes to move in by October. Stimulus will also be the first tenant of the facility and will be leasing approximately 1/4 of the classrooms which will go a long way to making the facility management and maintenance self funding. A groundbreaking will be scheduled in the upcoming months and SIDC will invite the full board to celebrate the opening.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON'S CSO PROJECT COMPLETED!



“Congratulations...on completion of this unique treatment system.”

The City of Washington has completed its \$24 million dollar Combined Sewer Overflow project that was acknowledged as being a “Green Project” as well as being the largest of its kind in the United States. This wetland

area is larger than 20 football fields. The wetland system will use nature to assist the full treatment of the wastewater. Eventually the wetland will serve as home for ducks and allow for walking trails for residents. Engineers for the project were Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. with construction being done from Bowen Engineering out of Evansville, IN.

Congratulations to the City of Washington on completion of this unique treatment system. This

project was funded with OCRA Disaster Recovery Funds in the amount of \$9,000,000 and State Revolving Loan funds of \$15,242,000.



Notes From The Director: It Never Hurts to Ask...



“Whatever is required to help communities... achieve success...”

SIDC is an often misunderstood organization. When I am discussing what SIDC does to someone not familiar with our organization I often get blank stares coming back at me. Because of the list of services we provide, people find it hard to pigeon hole us into one category or tie us to one government agency. So, what do we do? Is it economic development,

community development, workforce development, planning, grant writing, Brownfield remediation, transportation planning, housing remediation, environmental planning? The answer is all these things and more. Whatever is required to help communities and the region achieve success as defined by the individual Elected Officials we work to do. So when you come across a situation or

issue in your own community and don't know where to turn, it never hurts to call the SIDC office and talk to our staff about your situation. We will not dismiss your question or give you information that we are not certain of, but we do have significant resources and contacts at our disposal to help you find a working answer. Certainly it never hurts to ask.

Preparing for Opportunity

Economic Recovery does not come easily or quickly. Successful recovery takes calculated risks with public funds to attract private investment that will enhance communities and the region. Since the flooding of 2008 SIDC has been focused on the recovery of the region through direct economic development and community development projects, hopeful of attracting companies

to the region through beautification, better services, and affordable utility rates. These efforts are starting to be rewarded with a number of job creation opportunities that are in the process of completion. Such projects include Ranger Enterprises, Bloomfield Processing, Farbest Inc., Westgate Technology Park and the Westgate Acad-

emy. SIDC has also been working to expand developable area in the region by working with the Knox County Development Corporation, Owen County Economic Development Corporation, Utility District of Western Indiana (REMC), Westgate@ Crane Authority, and the White River Port Authority. We are excited by these development opportunities.

Small Urban & Rural Planning Program



SIDC recently completed traffic counts in Lawrence County as part of INDOT's Small Urban and Rural Planning Traffic Program. The goal of the program is to allow for additional community input on transportation needs. The program allows SIDC to collect information on transportation trends that are changing in the area and allow for better informed decision making for transportation projects. The program allows

for community input on transportation needs and will allow for traffic counts to be performed.

SIDC collected counts in the counties of Daviess and Greene in 2010, Knox in 2011 and Lawrence in 2012 and will conduct counts in Martin in 2013. SIDC will submit a proposal to INDOT in early 2012 to complete traffic counts in Martin County in 2013. Counts are conducted in each county

every 5 years, giving counties a statistical representation of how traffic trends have changed over a 5 year period.

SIDC sets aside a number of counts each year to allow counties the opportunity to request traffic counts for specific projects they may be working on. If you have any questions or to request traffic counts, please contact Matt Sward at 812-295-3707.

SIDC contracts with INDOT for Non-State Owned Federal Aid Route Counts

SIDC recently partnered with the Indiana Department of Transportation on a 3-year contract to complete traffic counts in Daviess, Lawrence and Martin Counties as part of INDOT's Non-State Owned Federal Aid Route program. The data from these counts is used to assess transportation needs, system performance and to

develop highway planning and programming recommendations at the State and Federal levels. Nearly 200 traffic counts will be conducted as a part of this program over the next three years.

Non-State Owned Federal Aid Route counts have already been conducted in Greene and

Knox Counties and SIDC has had discussions with INDOT about conducting these counts on the next 3-year contract beginning in 2015.



Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation

Since July 2010, when Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority (IHCD) began its new Strategic Investment Process (SIP), SIDC has secured grant funding for owner occupied housing rehabilitation projects for the communities of: Bicknell, Elnora, Montgomery, Plainville, Oolitic, Sandborn, and Washington. SIDC also obtained the necessary matching funds from the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program for the communities of Bicknell, Montgomery, Oolitic, Plainville, and Sandborn. 77 single family, owner occupied housing units will be rehabilitated in the 7 communities.

In May 2012, Monroe City applied to IHCD for an owner occupied housing rehabilitation grant. SIDC obtained the matching funds for this project from

USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program. If funded, the project will assist 10 housing units in the corporate limits. SIDC is working with the following communities at developing applications to IHCD for rehabilitation projects: Loogootee, Odon, and Vincennes.

The housing rehabilitation projects provide the homeowners safe, energy efficient, accessible, livable home. The process includes conducting a lead based paint risk assessment to determine if there are any lead based paint hazards. An energy audit is performed on the housing units to determine areas that could be more energy efficient. For aging in place projects, an elderly assessment is conducted to determine what

activities could be done to make the home more accessible & livable.

Sandborn resident Colleen Bowman recently had her home rehabilitated through Sandborn's IHCD project. Ms. Bowman received a totally upgraded bathroom, with walk-in shower and handicapped toilet. Her HVAC system was also upgraded and her carport was enclosed. Insulation was also installed in the attic. Ms. Bowman stated, "I am truly blessed to have such a service...it improves our homes so we can stay in our homes."

Any community interested in the IHCD SIP should contact Housing Program Manager Jenny Dearwester or Project Specialist Audrey Conlon @ 812-295-3707



CEAP Contract with Purdue Completed

SIDC assisted Purdue University with the 2011-2012 Community Economic Adjustment Program (CEAP). CEAP was initially created as a tool by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the purpose of aiding those Indiana regions most negatively affected by the decline in the automotive industries. This program began in 2006 and was continued in the effort to provide communities a guide to new economic solutions. In January 2011 SIDC was contracted through Purdue Uni-

versity to assist with planning and upgrading the development of a year-long CEAP exercise to encompass the targeted counties of Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Greene, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Perry, Pike and Spencer. The first half-day conference occurred in Huntingburg on March 16, 2011, and focused on assessment and prioritizing local needs. The second half-day conference occurred in French Lick on June 22, 2011, and

brought in a panel of experts to focus on the first priority issue, workforce training and sustainability. A third conference targeted entrepreneurship and was held January 19, 2012, at Spring Mill State Park. The captured information was quite valuable and well received. This information was then made available to all communities of the targeted region, concluding the CEAP contract.

2011-2012 Community Focus Funds and CDBG Planning Grants

SIDC has assisted several communities with Community Focus Funds within the last 18 months. Round I 2011 CFF's awards included Lawrence County/Pleasant Run Fire Station Project and Owen County Courthouse ADA project. Greene County/Scotland wastewater collection system was funded in CFF Round II of 2011. SIDC assisted 6 communities with applications for the first round of 2012. Those assisted were Greene County/Taylor Township Fire Station, Linton Wastewater System Improvements, Martin County/Lost River Fire Station, Vincennes Wastewater Systems Improvements, Washington Water System Improvements, and

Worthington/Eastern Heights Utilities, Inc. for Water System Improvements.

Disaster Recovery fund projects are complete or are nearing completion. In all, 39 DR projects were completed with about \$24,000,000 in grant funds from the Disaster Recovery Funds awarded in the SIDC area.

The Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced this year that there would only be one round of CFFs and grant applications were due on June 8, 2012. Awards are to be announced on Friday, August 31, 2012. It is anticipated that there will only be one round in 2013. The date for next

year is not yet known.

SIDC assisted with various planning grants in the last 18 months to include Green County/Ellis Water, Knox County/Freelandville Wastewater System, Linton Park Plan, Owen County Industrial Park Development, and Vincennes Comprehensive Plan. Planning grants are submitted at the end of every month.

Please contact Michelle Carrico, Program Manager (ext. 29) or Rhonda Rumble, Program Specialist (ext. 26) @ 812-295-3707 for funding information about these programs.

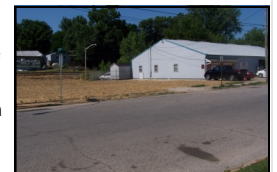
Ride Solution Facility Project

SIDC acts as the sponsoring agency for Ride Solution, the demand-based public transportation system that serves the following counties: Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Martin, Perry, Pike, Spencer, Sullivan, and Warrick. Ride Solution began in 2001 serving the counties of Daviess, Greene, Martin, and Sullivan with four employees. Today Ride Solution has 60 employees. Rides are given for school, adult day services, medical, shopping, socializing, and general errands, but the major-

ity of rides are work related.

In 2011, SIDC received a \$1,200,000 grant from INDOT through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the purpose of constructing a new administrative facility for Ride Solution office employees. The new facility will be located next to the current maintenance facility, located at 1001 East Main Street, Washington. SIDC procured the engineering services of Donovan & Donovan Associ-

ates, Inc. for design and construction management, while Velpen Trucking & Disposal Co. was contracted to demolish 2 housing structures where the new facility is to be located. At this time, demolition is complete. SIDC will advertise for bids for the construction of the new building in the near future.



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