



## Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership

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### AVON LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR STRATEGIC GROWTH: MORE THAN \$50 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS COMPLETE, \$50 MILLION MORE UNDERWAY

By the year 2018, residents of the Town of Avon will reap the benefits of more than \$100 million in strategic investments to prepare the community for continued growth. Those investments include trails, sidewalks, highways, streets, bridges, and intersections.

“The simple reality is that Avon is continuing to grow because it’s a great place to live and do business,” said Avon Town Council President Marcus Turner. “The same factors that brought current residents and businesses to our community are what make it attractive to others. Stopping growth isn’t a realistic solution, but managing it strategically allows us to control the rate of growth and ensure that our infrastructure is ready for it.”

“The Avon Town Council collaborated with the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership to develop a strategic plan for economic development,” explained HCEDP Executive Director Cinda Kelley. “Now they are working with the Avon Redevelopment Commission, local leaders, and real estate brokers and developers to put those recommendations into action.”

“We’ve been collaborating with Avon Schools, Avon Library, Washington Township and the Avon Chamber of Commerce on many efforts,” Turner said. “We’ve worked to make Avon a nice place to live through proper planning for growth, roads and parks, good police and fire services, park improvements, and community events. Cooperating with the other government entities has helped us find ways to achieve improvements without placing an undue burden on taxpayers.”

Some of the infrastructure improvements, such as the Ronald Reagan Parkway bridge over the CSX railroad yard, are very visible. Others, noted Turner, are less obvious but no less important. “For years, we’ve heard residents ask for more pedestrian connections, so we’ve installed five new trails and 12 new sidewalks that connect neighborhoods. We’re ready to begin work on five additional stretches of trail and three more sidewalks. Once that work is completed, we’ll have created pedestrian opportunities that impacted 44 subdivisions with enhanced access between neighborhoods and to parks, schools, and shopping areas.”

He added that several of the community’s busiest intersections are slated for improvements over the next three years to enhance safety and improve traffic flow including the intersections of US 36 and Ronald Reagan Parkway and US 36 and Avon Avenue. Several miles of well-used roads will be reconstructed, widened, or resurfaced, including 200 North, 100 North and 100 South. And local motorists will be excited to hear that work on the bridge at Avon Avenue over railroad tracks is scheduled to start in 2016 and will include sidewalks on both sides of the bridge.

A major goal of the infrastructure plan is creating conditions that will draw high-quality, high-paying jobs to the community. In particular, Avon hopes to build upon its extensive network of healthcare and health service providers to attract additional services and life sciences companies. “Improvements to the Ronald Reagan Parkway open up the available land along Ronald Reagan Parkway which is in close proximity to IU West Hospital and Hendricks Regional Health’s Avon facilities,” said Turner. “Healthcare providers prefer to locate where similar services are already available. The road improvements will also open up new areas for businesses along County Road 100 South and along Kingston Street.

“It’s also important to mention that when we talk about planning for economic development, that means more than just attracting new companies,” Turner noted. “We want to help the businesses that are already here grow and thrive. They’ll benefit from the improvements to our roads and from the fact that we continue to draw families and individuals who want to call Avon home, and who will need the products and services they provide.”

Funding for the improvements has come from a variety of sources. For example, the Ronald Reagan Parkway bridge and extension to CR 200S involved a joint effort by Hendricks County and the Town. “We’ve combined local funding from TIF districts, economic development taxes, and our food and beverage taxes with state and federal funding,” Turner explained. “We have been able to maximize the impact of local money by using it to leverage federal funding that would have gone elsewhere in the state. That also allows us to accomplish more projects in less time.”

Another facet of Avon’s infrastructure is access to local resources for higher education. The community has been successful in establishing classroom facilities for Trine University and Ivy Tech Community College. These institutions not only provide educational opportunities to local residents, but they work with companies to develop custom workforce preparedness programs. Easy access to skills-focused training will help Avon attract more residents.

“When Hendricks County residents were surveyed about the county’s needs for the Hendricks County In Focus process, quality of life, adequate infrastructure for growth, and enhanced transportation were prime issues,” said HCEDP’s Kelley. “This strategy addresses all three of those issues, confirming that local officials are paying attention to these important matters.”

Turner points to a long list of community achievements: “For example, we were recently named one of Indiana’s top 15 small towns. We’ve seen employment grow by more than 20 percent. Our schools continue to rank at the top of state rankings for student achievement, and they’re champions in girls’ soccer, girls’ volleyball, marching band, drumline, and so many other athletic and artistic activities. Plus, we have well-educated residents who volunteer their time to make Avon a friendly community.”

“Avon is a great place to live and work,” he reiterated. “And the groundwork that’s underway will only make life here better and better. It’s a smart investment in an exciting future.”

Avon has experienced unprecedented growth since incorporating in 1996, growing from a population of 4,882 to a population over 14,000 in 2014. Avon is committed to improving their quality of life and is home to the IU Health West

Hospital and the new Hendricks County YMCA. Consistently recognized for their Four-Star schools and high standardized testing scores, Avon's state-of-the-art schools offer students opportunities to work with the latest technology in education. To learn more about Avon, please visit their website at [www.avongov.org](http://www.avongov.org).

The Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership (HCEDP) is a public-private agency and is the primary agency responsible for attracting new jobs and new investment in Hendricks County, Indiana. New business investment in Hendricks County since 2001 totaled \$1,087,671,747.00 with the creation of more than 12,733 new jobs. Information on available development sites, buildings, workforce training, incentive programs, community profiles, small business development and other resources is available at [www.hcedp.org](http://www.hcedp.org) or by calling 317-745-2400.

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