



A Strong Foundation to Grow the Future

The La Porte County Office of Economic Development takes a forward-looking approach to workforce and business development in northwest Indiana. And in 2017, our office successfully promoted our entire county to expanding businesses and growing industries. We joined forces with our partners across our communities to develop La Porte County into a desirable place to work, grow businesses and enhance the local economy. We have a bright outlook for the upcoming year based upon the strong foundation and reputation that La Porte County has recently established. It is my pleasure to share with you this recap of our office's activities during the past year, and thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Michael B. Seitz, IOM

La Porte County Office of Economic Development



A New Look

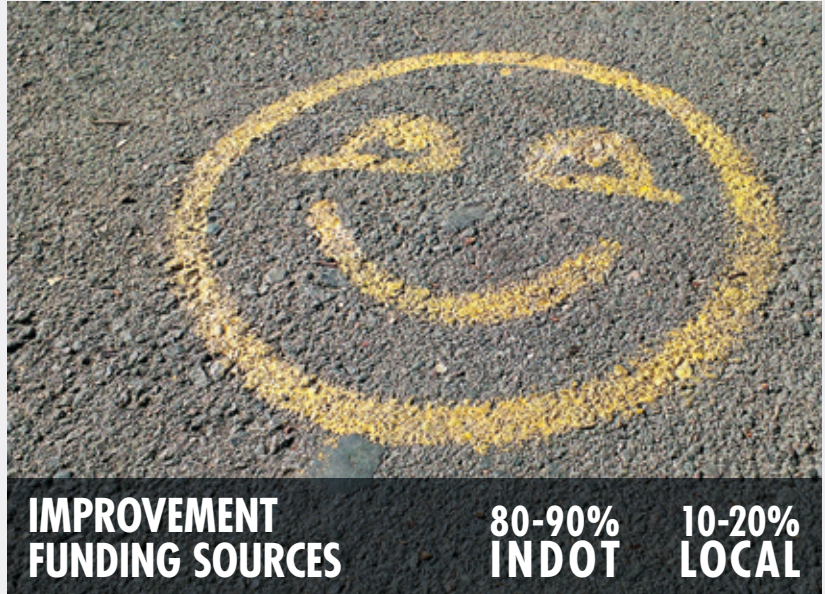
The La Porte County Office of Economic Development's communication toolbox is stronger than ever since a new logo, brochure and website were developed in 2017. The office's identity has a clean, modern flair and the website has a mobile-friendly, sleek design. One of the most popular features of the new website is a search function powered by the Indiana Office of Economic Development's Zoom Prospector.



Infrastructure Projects

La Porte County enjoyed several infrastructure improvements and projects in 2017. 80-90% was funded by INDOT and 10-20% was funded locally, all in partnership with the LaPorte County Planner and Highway Departments.

- Engineering for Johnson Road/400, Lincoln Trail, Marquette Greenway, Bridge 875W, Otis Road Bridge, Economic Development Corridor, Union Mills Sidewalk Project and Bridge 86 Super Structure replacement
- Completed projects included the Franklin Street Lift Bridge Study, Transit Triangle Project, Pavement Management Plan and Bridge Inspection
- Received \$1 million for Lofgren/150 N/250E intersection safety improvements
- Received \$2 million to rehabilitate Bridge #186, the county's largest bridge over the Kankakee River
- Received \$568,500 to pave seven miles of roadway along Johnson Road from US 20 to US 35, the highest traffic volume roadway within unincorporated La Porte County, connecting Michigan City and La Porte
- Water and sewer are planned for 421 and 94



Kingsbury Industrial Park

Kingsbury's thousands of acres of industrial-zoned land has all utilities located on site. This is the current home of 103 businesses and is an example of LaPorte County's economic development potential. The site has now caught the attention of several companies because substantial enhancements and investments are now in the planning process.



New in 2017

- Holladay Properties has been contracted for pre-development services to attract new industries to Kingsbury Industrial Park and prepare the site for future growth
- La Porte County Redevelopment Commission formed the new Construction Rail Planning Committee (CRPC) that created a switching agreement, maintenance agreement, tariff schedule and rail inspection agreement
- CSX installed and operationalized a temporary switch for track maintenance
- Hupp Road right-of-way efforts continued
- Wayfinding signage and monument sign grant implementation began, for which INDOT provided 80% of the funding
- Kingsbury Elevator real and personal tax abatement

What makes Kingsbury Industrial Park unique?

- 130 million consumers within a 600-mile radius
- Two-hour drive from Chicago railyards
- Certified "CSX Select Site," rail-served park



Year in Review

The La Porte County Office of Economic Development networks regularly with County Commissioners, County Council, Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation, Economic Development Corporation Michigan City, American Electric Power Company, NIPSCO, local businesses, industry leaders, developers, site selectors and prospects to further La Porte County's economic success. The La Porte County Office of Economic Development is responsible for scheduling, holding and facilitating at the County's Redevelopment Commission meetings.

The La Porte County Redevelopment Commission began planning the 421 TIF area expansions for future infrastructure improvements to support economic development within the corridor.

The La Porte County Office of Economic Development submitted 42 Zoom Prospector responses in 2017. These prospects included site selection, development, leases and land sales.

Submitted Project Proposals

Each proposal package was tailor-made for the opportunity and enhanced with motivating data.

Project Boulevard	Project DOT	Project Highland	Project Ocean	Project Renaissance
Project BTP	Project Dream	Project Hospitality	Project Olaf	Project River
Project Cheers	Project Flicker	Project Kontz	Project Ore	Project Stimulus
Project Columbus	Project Garden	Project Lumos	Project Picnic II	Project Team
Project Cooler	Project GTL	Project Mitt	Project Precision	Project Wind
Project Danish	Project Guard	Project Mucho	Project Prime	Project Wonder

Kingsbury Industrial Park Progress

- Created development standards
- Global rail agreement
- Requested and prepared resolutions for tax abatement

Tools and Outreach

- Created Rural Development Partnership and held meetings
- Partnered with County GIS for mapping assistance
- Attended and pitched prospects at the Rail Summit in Chicago
- Connected county businesses with Short Line Railroad in partnership with GLEDC
- Prepared 2018 budget
- Completed 2017 Tax Abatement Summary
- Created workforce training fund gap financing program
- Created new digital marketing tools, such as a blog and social media channels



2017

New real property investment
\$2,750,000

New personal property investment
\$3,557,968

New jobs created in
La Porte County
62

Job Development and Economic Growth

In 2017, La Porte County Office of Economic Development helped the following local businesses grow:

- Haynes International personal and property tax abatement
- Kingsbury Elevator real and personal tax abatement
- CareEnroll announced expansion of LaPorte headquarters



Accomplishments

- Won Project Splatter/Clean-Up which will train 200 new jobs, retain 63 jobs and realize millions in capital investments
- Project Team made the second cut, almost qualified to make an in-person presentation in Charlotte about Kingsbury Industrial Park site
- Job training fund is the second one in the state
- Attended IEDA conference
- Assisted owner with Dinosaur Credit application
- Continued networking efforts with site selectors

Our Team

Thanks to La Porte County Office of Economic Development's partners and team, we provide a one-stop-shop for current and prospective businesses looking to expand in or relocate to La Porte County. We work with many community members, businesses owners, professional experts and elected officials to open the door to the future.

La Porte County Office of Economic Development

Michael B. Seitz, IOM

Mary Jane Thomas

La Porte County Redevelopment Commission

Joe Coar, President

Jeff Johnson, Vice-President

Randall Novak, Secretary

Terry Garner, Member

Dr. Vidya Kora, Member

Terry Larson, Member

John Sullivan, Member

James Arnold, La Porte Community School Corporation, Ex-officio

La Porte County Board of Commissioners

Richard Mrozinski, President

Michael Gonder, Vice-President

Dr. Vidya Kora, Member

La Porte County Planning Department

Mitchell Bishop, Planner

La Porte County Council

Jeff Santana

Terry Garner

Cary Kirkham

Randall Novak

John Sullivan

Mark Yagelski

Mike Mollenhauer



Our Partners

