

Overview

Since its formation in 2015, the CIRDA has been dedicated to improving regionalism by leveraging existing relationships to enhance quality of life and to attract and retain talent, while fostering economic competitiveness in Central Indiana. The Central Indiana RDA consists of representatives from municipalities in the region, specifically Carmel, Greenwood, Indianapolis, and Westfield, with staff support provided by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

In 2019, the Central Indiana RDA focused attention on the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) transition, which may require the RDA board to serve as the fiduciary agent for the MPO. While the MPO is hosted by the City of Indianapolis, the Metropolitan Development Commission (MDC) must approve all MPO projects and contracts. Following the transition, the RDA could take the place of the MDC in providing direct oversight of MPO operations. The transition is expected to occur on June 1, 2020, as detailed in the MPO's Strategic Plan and according to the Governor's designation.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy & Regional Development Plan

The RDA has also focused on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This is a cooperative effort of businesses, civic organizations, and the public to map out economic development goals that will strengthen the region, communicate a Central Indiana story to potential new businesses and talent, and position the region to be competitive for grants. MPO staff have been working on securing funding for the CEDS planning process, which (among other things) is a requirement for creating a Central Indiana Economic Development District (EDD). EDDs are multi-jurisdictional entities that help to lead the locally-based, regionally driven economic development planning process. In addition to the CEDS plan, an EDD designation also requires at least one area within the designated service boundaries that meets EDA's distress criteria. Each of the counties in Central Indiana has at least one area that is distressed. There are several EDD designations throughout Indiana, but Central Indiana is a significant part of the state without a district. Once the CEDS plan is completed, approved, and submitted as part of the EDD designation application, more economic development grant opportunities will be available for the region.

Board Meetings



Board Members

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Chris Pryor
City of Carmel

VICE CHAIR



Mitch Frazier
City of Westfield

SECRETARY-TREASURER



Keith Lauter
City of Greenwood



Tavonna Askew
City of Indianapolis



Dr. Roderick Perry
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