

# Part III:

## Action Plan

---

An action plan attempts to establish steps to be taken toward goals expressed above. This work plan is specific to the CEDS Committee that operates under limited authority, generally advisory in nature.

### Action Plan Steps

#### **ACTIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

The CEDS Committee will appoint an Economic Development Technical Advisory Committee and an Economic Development Working Group to assist the CEDS Committee in its work. The recommended composition of which is as follows:

#### **Economic Development Technical Advisory Committee**

- EDA of St. Clair County
- County Tourism Bureau
- Cities and urban townships with existing or planned industrial parks or other significant economic development resources, programs, or projects
- Chambers of Commerce
- Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs)
- County government

- Public utilities with an active involvement in economic development
- Agri-Business
- Major Private Economic Development Interests

### **Economic Development Working Group**

- County Administrator
- County Planning Commission, staff representative(s)
- EDA of St. Clair County, staff representative(s)
- Metropolitan Planning Commission representative(s)

The Economic Development Working Group will determine the mechanism for maintaining and updating the CEDS Plan.

The Economic Development Technical Advisory Committee with the assistance of the Working Group will update the CEDS Plan on an annual basis with oversight of the CEDS Committee and coordinate adoption of the plan by the CEDS Committee and the County Board of Commissioners.

The Working Group will serve as staff to the CEDS Committee.

The CEDS Committee will review the performance of various economic development activities and programs within the county, and report (at least annually) in writing to the County Administrator, who shall in turn communicate such findings and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

The CEDS Committee will support and assist the development, expansion, and marketing of the industrial parks and industrial facilities mentioned in the previous section.

The CEDS Committee will work with those lead agencies which will be conducting the studies found under technical assistance projects such as border economic impact; regional tourism/convention, and agricultural processing. Staff assigned to the CEDS Committee may assist as requested in the areas of data analysis and conclusions.

The CEDS Committee will take an active role in economic development planning at the county level. Their emphasis will be one of economic development planning from a county perspective.

The CEDS Committee will take an active role in promoting adherence to its goals through periodic review of the community and economic development activities, plans and plan implementation of the county, and the various local governmental units within the county.

The CEDS Committee will establish, refine, and evaluate goals and policies and may establish priority ranking for economic development projects.

The County Administrator, or his designee, will serve as the county's principal liaison with other economic development organizations, such as local municipalities, economic development corporations, downtown development authorities, federal and state governments, EDA of St. Clair County, County Tourism Bureau, Chambers of Commerce, private economic development interests, and other miscellaneous bodies.

The Working Group will assist the county government, local governments and others in defining and organizing economic development projects that will benefit the county, and assist them in assembling project development teams (e.g., project planning, project engineering, grant writing etc.) so as to be able to actually carry out such projects with first priority given to projects listed in this CEDS plan.

Staff of both the EDA of St. Clair County and the Metropolitan Planning Commission will monitor economic development conditions and activities in the county with oversight from the CEDS Committee.

The EDA will evaluate and refine its strategic marketing plan and will market the county to targeted prospects.

#### **ACTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Economic Development Technical Advisory Committee with the assistance of the Working Group will update the CEDS Plan on an annual basis with oversight of the CEDS Committee and coordinate adoption of the plan by the CEDS Committee and the County Board of Commissioners.

#### **ACTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Economic Development Working Group will serve as staff to the CEDS Committee.

The Economic Development Working Group will assist the county government, local governments, and others in defining and organizing economic development projects that will benefit the county and assist them in assembling project development teams (e.g., project planning, project engineering, grant writing, etc.) so as to be able to actually carry out such projects with first priority given to projects listed in this CEDS plan.

The Economic Development Working Group will determine the mechanism for maintaining and updating the CEDS plan.

#### **ACTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

The EDA will evaluate and refine its strategic marketing plan and will market the county to targeted prospects.

Staff of both the EDA and the Metropolitan Planning Commission will monitor economic development conditions and activities in the county with oversight from the CEDS Committee.

The County Administrator, or his designee, will serve as the county's principal staff liaison with other economic development organizations, such as local municipalities, economic development corporations, downtown development authorities, federal and state governments, EDA of St. Clair County, Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Chambers of Commerce, private economic development interests, and other miscellaneous bodies.

## **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

### **Air Industrial Park Improvements**

The County Administrator, subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners, will prepare and submit a grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to extend public sewer service to the county's Air Industrial Park, resurface deteriorated internal access roads within the park, and construct a stormwater management system for the park.

### **Mixed-Use Business Incubator**

The County Administrator, in conjunction with the EDA of St. Clair County, will prepare and submit a grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to develop a 21,500 square foot, mixed-use business incubator to improve the ability of start up and small businesses to survive and grow.

### **Marine City Highway Water Main and Sanitary Sewer Extension**

The County Administrator, in conjunction with Ira Township, will prepare and submit a grant application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to provide a water and sanitary sewer extension on Marine City Highway from Bethuy to Meldrum roads to improve the regional attractiveness of this industrial planned area.

### **Speculative Plant Development Program**

The city of Port Huron and St. Clair County, in close cooperation with the EDA of St. Clair County, will construct and market speculative industrial buildings so as to be able to accommodate the needs of other industrial employers who require the immediate availability of a facility.

### **Other Industrial Park and Infrastructure Improvements**

Additional physical projects from the lists set forth in Part II of this report will be moved into the action plan section based on project priorities to be established by the CEDS Committee and as local matching funds become available in the form of firm commitments.

### **Professional and Technical Employment Attraction Study**

By 2010 the CEDS Committee will retain a qualified economic development specialty consultant to undertake a comprehensive study of the “brain-drain” and out-county commuting phenomenon and make recommendations regarding specific steps which can be undertaken to attract additional professional and technical level employment to the county and to further diversify the county’s economic base.

### **Regional Tourism Initiative**

The CEDS Committee by 2010 will undertake a comprehensive study of the tourism sector of the economy, will establish and adopt written goals and objectives, and will prepare an action plan listing specific steps that can be undertaken to increase employment in the tourism sector.

### **Agricultural Lands Preservation Program**

The Metropolitan Planning Commission in cooperation with the Agricultural Preservation Board will continue to promote the St. Clair County Purchase of Development Rights Program and garner local community support and participation in the program.

DRAFT