



## **Infrastructure Investment:**

**Investing in infrastructure is vital for the growth, development, and overall well-being of Vigo County. Here are steps I would want to take to invest in infrastructure:**

**Assessment and Planning:** The first step is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing infrastructure, identifying areas that require improvement or expansion. Based on this assessment, work with Area Planning and other offices to develop a long-term infrastructure plan that outlines specific projects and priorities.

**Funding Sources:** We need to explore various funding sources available to finance infrastructure projects. This may include federal and state grants, bonds, public-private partnerships, and dedicated local funding mechanisms such as taxes or fees.

**Prioritize Projects:** I would try to prioritize infrastructure projects based on urgency, impact, and feasibility. I would consider factors such as population growth, economic development, public safety, and environmental sustainability.

**Collaboration:** I would work with neighboring counties, cities and regional authorities to leverage resources and coordinate infrastructure planning and development efforts. Regional collaboration can enhance efficiency and maximize the impact of investments.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** We should consider entering into partnerships with private sector entities to finance, develop, and manage infrastructure projects. PPPs can provide access to additional funding, expertise, and innovation while sharing risks and responsibilities.

**Maintenance and Upkeep:** We should allocate sufficient resources for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of existing infrastructure assets. Regular maintenance is essential to prolonging the lifespan of infrastructure and preventing costly repairs or replacements in the future.

**Innovation and Technology:** Embrace innovation and technology to optimize infrastructure investments. Explore smart infrastructure solutions, such as digital monitoring systems,

renewable energy integration, and sustainable design practices, to enhance efficiency, resilience, and environmental performance.

**Community Engagement:** Engage with the community throughout the infrastructure planning and development process. Seek input from residents, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure that infrastructure investments align with community needs, priorities, and values.

**Environmental Considerations:** Integrate environmental considerations into infrastructure planning and design to minimize negative impacts on natural resources and ecosystems. Prioritize sustainable practices, such as green infrastructure, energy efficiency, and climate resilience, to build infrastructure that benefits both people and the planet.

By following these steps and adopting a strategic and collaborative approach, Vigo County can make informed and impactful investments in its infrastructure, laying the foundation for long-term prosperity and quality of life for our residents. I would prioritize infrastructure projects that support economic development, such as improving roads, expanding broadband access, and modernizing utilities. A well-maintained infrastructure is crucial for attracting businesses and supporting their growth. From roads to public transportation, I'll prioritize infrastructure projects that enhance safety and connectivity throughout Vigo County.

I want to take a look at the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. With a simple “YES” vote, Indiana’s roads and bridges will receive about \$7 billion for repairs – reclaiming our “Crossroads of America” reputation. About \$751 million will be used to replace Indiana’s water infrastructure system – delivering safe and clean water to all Hoosiers, more than \$680 million will be used to update public transportation systems in cities around the state, and an additional \$100 million to further expand broadband internet, about \$100 million to expand the state’s electric vehicle (EV) charging network, and \$20 million to help the state fight the impact climate change has on our communities. If elected I would make sure that Vigo County gets its fair share of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Local communities struggle to maintain what they have – let alone thinking about how to improve or expand. I strongly back making significant and strategic investments in Vigo County’s infrastructure through the targeted use of federal and state dollars. Better transit options mean better access to good-paying jobs.