



News Release



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County, City Pick Consultant For Comprehensive Plan *First-ever community wide planning process to get underway in January*

(Dec. 18, 2003) - A landmark project to create the first community wide land use and development plan will get underway in January, city and county leaders announced today.

Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne have selected ACP Visioning and Planning of Columbus, Ohio, to assist the community in development of a long-term plan. ACP was one of nine consultants who submitted proposals for the project.

ACP has led similar projects in Cincinnati, Baltimore, Houston, and elsewhere. The company also participated in a project to develop ideas and a vision for redevelopment of the World Trade Center site and lower Manhattan.

"The selection of ACP is an exciting milestone that moves this process forward by many steps," said Allen County Commissioner Marla Irving. "We are no longer just talking about planning together - we are underway. Now the real work begins of seeking a broad base of community input and building consensus about our future."

"This new comprehensive plan will have a much broader scope than the one adopted by the City 20 years ago," said Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard. "It will incorporate all aspects of a strong community including economic development, transportation, housing, neighborhoods and many other elements to guide our future development and improve the quality of life for all of Fort Wayne and Allen County."

The comprehensive plan is intended to create a unified approach to infrastructure expansion and economic development. Its goals also include preservation of the community's character and assets, improvements in quality of life and the promotion of actions that are in the best long-term interests of the community as a whole.

Typically, a comprehensive plan attempts to create a 20-year forecast of community needs. Such a plan is ideally updated in parts every five to 10 years. Development of the Fort Wayne-Allen County plan will begin in January, with a community tour by ACP and the creation of a 16-member steering committee.

In the months to come, a number of community meetings and roundtables will be held in order to gather data for the plan. A website will also be available so that the community can offer input and track progress of the plan's development online.

Efforts to develop the plan are being driven by the City-County Communication and Cooperation Committee (4Cs), a group formed in 2002 to promote coordination of planning among local units of government.

"The comprehensive plan will lay the groundwork for finding innovative new ways to streamline government and promote economic development throughout Allen County," said Charles Bodenhafer, President of the Allen County Plan Commission.

"The decision to unify zoning and development rules and regulations into a single joint comprehensive plan is a new high point in the cooperation between city and county government," said Fort Wayne City Council member Tom Smith.

Earlier this year, the joint effort issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) seeking firms to help draft the new plan. Nine firms submitted proposals by the deadline.

The comprehensive plan will include Fort Wayne, Grabill, Huntertown, Monroeville, Woodburn and the unincorporated areas of Allen County. New Haven and Leo-Cedarville are operating under recently completed comprehensive plans that will be blended into the new plan.

City and County governments will both contribute to the cost of developing the plan, estimated at \$378,941. Allen County is paying \$100,000 of the cost and the City of Fort Wayne is paying the remainder. Both the Allen County Department of Planning Services and the Fort Wayne Planning Department will assist with the preparation of the plan

Fort Wayne City Council will consider approval of a contract with ACP at its Dec. 23 meeting. The Allen County Commissioners will vote on the agreement after that.

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On the Web:

ACP Planning & Visioning: <http://www.acp-planning.com>