



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Regional Cities Initiative to Advance Trails, Connectivity in Huntington

**INDIANAPOLIS** (Sept. 15, 2016) – The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has approved Regional Cities Initiative funding to support the development of multi-use trails in Huntington County, advancing quality of place and increasing connectivity in northeast Indiana.

The Little River Trail project will add more than three-quarters of a mile of trails for pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, the project will include streetscape improvements along Jefferson Street and Riverside Drive, adding wayfinding signage and constructing a pavilion and resting area near the Erie Rail Trail Bridge. The project will connect downtown Huntington with the expansive regional trail network along the Little River.

**Total Project Investment: \$1.05 million**  
*State funding: \$263,390*

### Quotes:

"Across the state, Indiana businesses are growing with the support of a low-cost, low-tax business climate, allowing job creators to add nearly 150,000 new Hoosier jobs since 2013," said Governor Mike Pence. "The goal of the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative is to support and supplement the great work being carried out by Hoosier businesses by creating vibrant and engaging communities for employees to live, work and play. The Little River Trail project will create more safe and scenic outdoor spaces for Hoosiers, providing more health and wellness opportunities and advancing the quality of place in northeast Indiana."

"The Little River Trail Phase 4 project is a game changer for Huntington. It is the first step in a long range plan of adding nine miles of trails in nine years," said Huntington Mayor Brooks L. Fetters. "We understand the opportunity and vitality that trails bring to a community. In speaking with local industry leaders, the general consensus is that in order for Huntington to attract next generation talent we must invest in the quality of life improvements that people desire. We do this by constructing quality of life pieces that create a community where people want to live."

### Regional Cities Initiative in Northeast Indiana:

This project was recommended for funding by the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) and is part of the region's Road to One Million plan, which outlines a short-term goal of 38 regional development projects in 11 counties totaling \$400 million in quality of place investments, as well as a vision for more than 70 projects and \$1.5 billion in public and private investment over the next 10 years. Through this long-term regional development planning, the 11-county region aims to attain one million residents by 2020.

Northeast Indiana was one of three Indiana regions selected to receive state funding through the Regional Cities Initiative, which will allocate a total of \$126 million toward 100 quality of place projects totaling more than \$2 billion in combined state, local and private in order to retain and attract top talent to the Hoosier state.

- 30 -

### Media Contacts:

Anthony Goodnight (Huntington) – 260.356.1400 x 2020 or [anthony.goodnight@huntington.in.us](mailto:anthony.goodnight@huntington.in.us)  
Abby Gras (IEDC) – 317.232.8845 or [agras@iedc.in.gov](mailto:agras@iedc.in.gov)

### About Indiana Regional Cities Initiative

*Spearheaded by Governor Mike Pence, the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative sets a framework for neighboring communities across the state to work together to develop regional visions that are supported by compelling strategic plans focused on quality of place. The initiative will help each region develop a positive and unique national brand to advance the goal of becoming a destination for talent. Passed in 2015 with bipartisan support by the Indiana General Assembly, the initiative is overseen by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. To learn more visit [www.IndianaRegionalCities.com](http://www.IndianaRegionalCities.com) or follow on Twitter at @Indiana\_EDC #INRegionalCities*