

Our administration is halfway through its first term serving the city. We have spent the first two years working to implement our vision of the Warsaw community, a direction set as the result of our strategic plan. Navigating that direction with planning and purpose has occupied a significant amount of energy and resources. The formula is really no different than it has been in the past. We all want a community that is a great place to “work, live, and play.” Planning and vision have started to yield collaboration and projects.

A lack of marketable industrial building sites in the city was the impetus that led to the creation of the Warsaw Technology Park earlier this year. The last two years of annexation, expansion, and planning has created collaborative opportunity that has now become reality. Last month, our council partnered with Winona PVD and approved a proposal to incentivize further expansion within the Tech Park. Winona PVD uses a coating process that gives a high quality “chrome-plated appearing” finish on automobile wheels. It is much more reliable and eco-friendly than the traditional process. The success of this process has created supplier contracts for the Ford F-150, among others, and has necessitated the expansion of over 160,000 square feet of manufacturing space right here in our Warsaw Technology Park.

A separate development agreement to expand the Warsaw Technology Park is intended to further attract new and diverse industrial opportunity to our City while also providing our existing industries and suppliers a place to grow. Construction of a new road and infrastructure improvements (optical fiber, water, and sewer) will occur this spring and result in several shovel-ready sites that will be available by summer. A speculative, expandable industrial shell building will also be ready for occupancy about a year from now. The agreement also provides for future expansion of the Tech Park to the west, as development dictates.

Transportation projects have also been a high priority. The engineering phase and right-of-way consideration for the Husky Trail reconstruction project will continue into 2014. Construction on this busy stretch of road is slated for 2015 and will include both vehicle and pedestrian improvements. This 2.3 million dollar project will be funded eighty percent from federal funds that we were awarded last year.

Improvements on Winona Avenue from Smith Street to Argonne Road are slated to occur this spring. In a partnership with the Town of Winona Lake, the city will construct bicycle lanes and a pedestrian side-path. This project will provide connectivity between the recently dedicated Krebs Trailhead Park and the Heritage Trail into the Village of Winona Lake.

East Market Street has been slated for resurfacing next summer. It is also in need of more extensive repair and reconstruction. A recent Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) call for projects has created a favorable opportunity to seek funding for a significant portion of this project. The outcome of that selection process will dictate the scope and schedule of the Market Street project in 2014.

Also announced earlier this summer, INDOT, at the request of the City, has committed just under one million dollars to fully fund railroad crossing improvements at Market Street, Winona Avenue, and Pope Street.

Stay tuned.