



Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)  
**Strategy Committee Meeting**

---

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.**

Second Floor Conference Room  
1300 E. Second Street Defiance, Ohio

---

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Last Meeting
  - a. The Strategy Committee last met on March 22, 2018 to finalize the goals and objectives, and to discuss performance measures to track the plan's implementation. The Committee also discussed potential projects to be included within the CEDS and the formation of a Technology Committee to discuss the availability of broadband and high speed internet in the region, as well as cell connectivity, and the possibility of composing a Technology Plan. The Committee also suggested individuals that would be interested in joining the Technology Committee.
3. Technology Committee Report
  - a. After the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Matt Gilroy and Matt Davis spearheaded the formation of a regional Technology Committee. Representatives were selected from Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams Counties. The group met on April 24, 2018 at Maumee Valley Planning Organization, and attendees represented the following organizations: Bryan Municipal Utilities, MetaLINK, BrightNet/Farmers Mutual Telephone, Paulding Putnam Electric, Williams County Economic Development, Fulton County Economic Development, and the Northwest Ohio Computer Association/the Northern Buckeye Education Council.
  - b. The key takeaways from the discussion at the meeting were:
    - i. There is already a vast fiber network that is servicing the school districts and Independent Telcos, though there are differences in funding: Independent Telcos vs price capped services (i.e. Frontier, CenturyLink, Windstream, etc.)
    - ii. Often an issue of underserved rather than unserved
    - iii. Have to look at the issues of connectivity in two ways, through infrastructure and then through end users. May have the infrastructure, but are the end points in place and are people educated to use the technology?

- iv. Security issues will be a concern in any network, especially problematic for Wi-Fi in downtown areas or in short term services to lower income areas
- v. Marketing and education are important in advertising what is already available
- vi. Treat internet as a 4th utility, and justify costs in this way, especially for businesses
- c. The Committee formulated its next steps, which included the creation of an updated internet provider map for the region, hosting a speaker panel of providers in the region to educate people on connectivity, and to present the findings of the first meeting to the CEDS Committee. The purpose of the Technology Committee moving forward will be to create a regional strategy that will address the last mile for end points (users/application), and incorporate education and marketing. The next meeting is TBA.
- d. The CEDS Committee discussed the importance of further pursuing the Technology Committee and incorporating the subject into the CEDS. Much of the available grant funding is for *very* rural areas with even less density than the Maumee Valley Region. It was also noted that increasing capacity, especially for use in agriculture is incredibly important to the region. Marketing is also important as businesses locate to the region with needs for broadband service. The CEDS Committee discussed some items that the Technology Committee should address first, such as identifying gaps in service, mapping the service areas, and educating the public.

4. Projects

- a. The CEDS draft is complete, except for the employment multiplier data and project information. Projects were solicited from each County Economic Development office to be included in the CEDS. These projects should advance economic development in the region, create or retain jobs, and make a significant investment. The project list will be incorporated into the CEDS and the top feasible projects will be featured.

5. Draft Plan & Timeline

- a. The timeline for the remainder of the CEDS grant was discussed. The draft plan will be available to the CEDS Committee for review prior to the public comment period. After the CEDS Committee reviews the draft, the document will be made available to the public for 30 days. After this time, the CEDS Committee will meet again and review the final CEDS document.

6. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.
- b. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

