

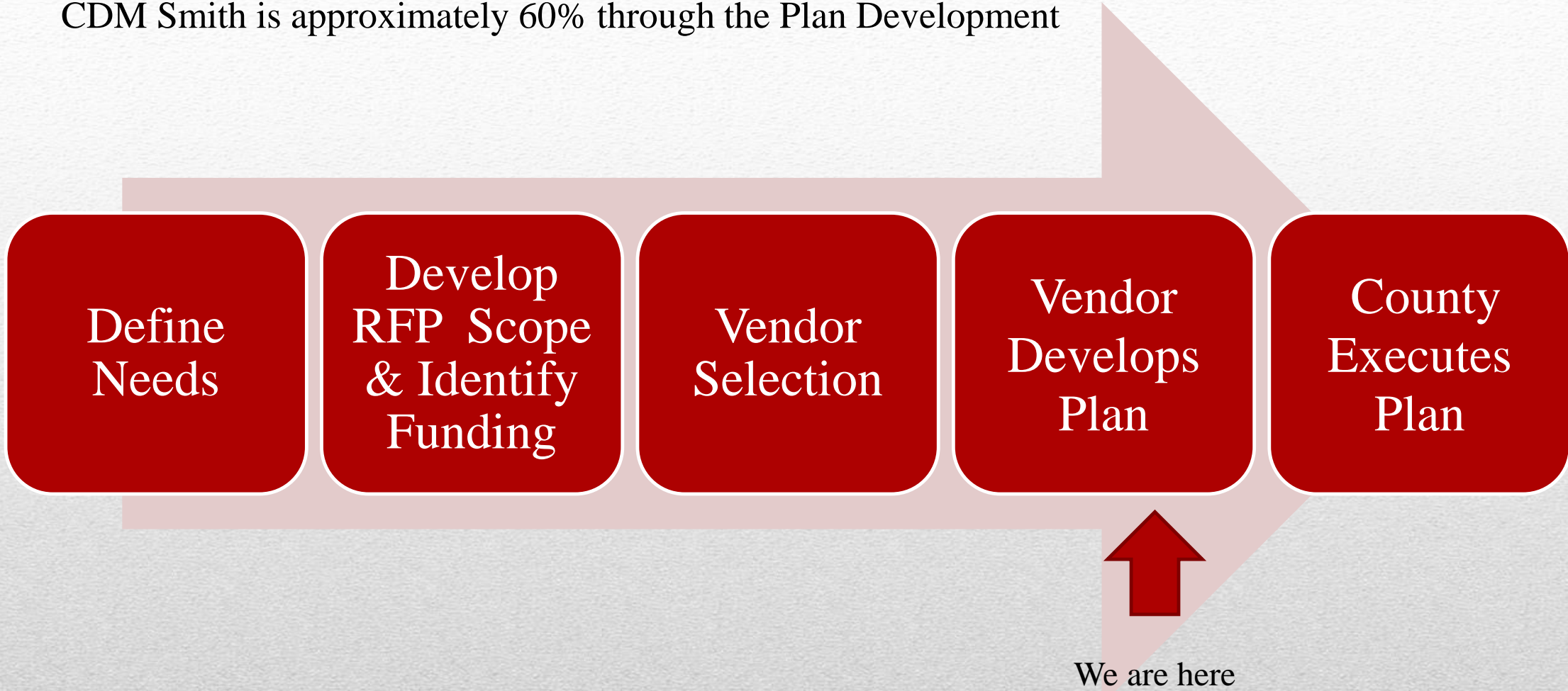


Will County Community Friendly Freight Mobility Plan: Executive Committee Update

April 6, 2017

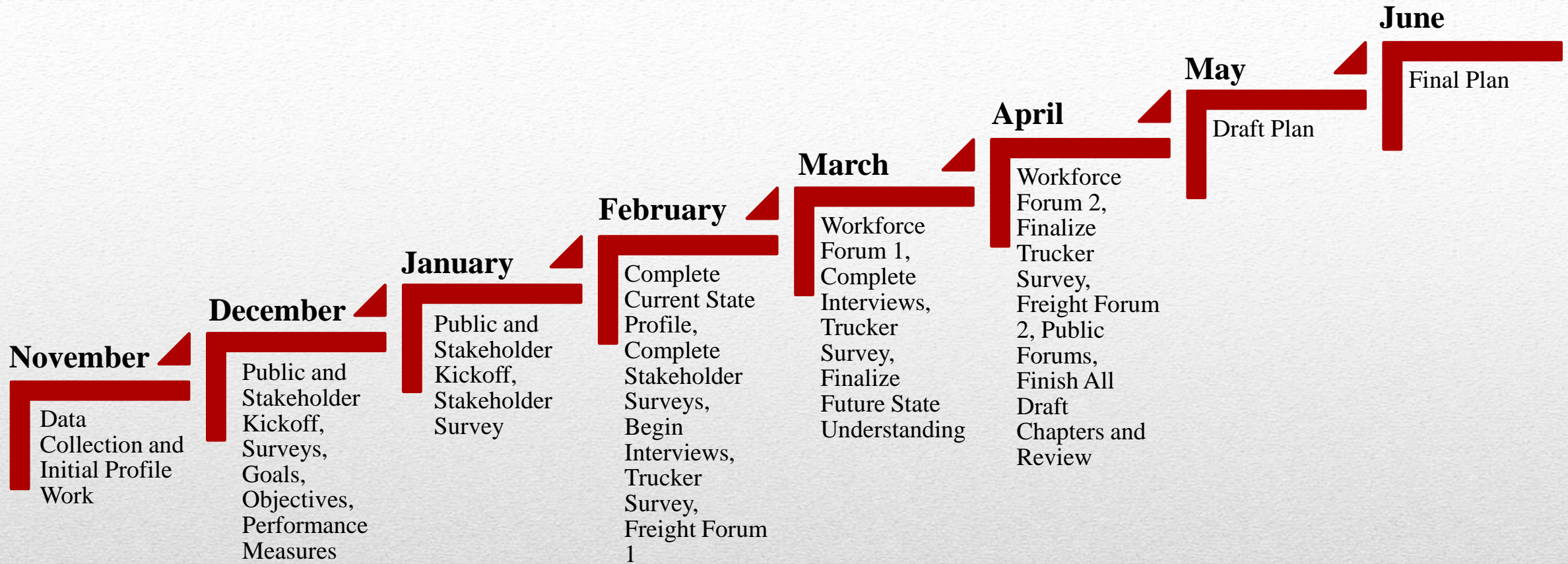
A Public Private Partnership: Will County and the Will County Center for Economic Development

CDM Smith is approximately 60% through the Plan Development



We are here

Plan Development Roadmap



Community Friendly Freight Mobility Plan Project Schedule

Several Project funding opportunities have been identified, pursued, and obtained:

- IDOT SPR Grant approx.. \$750,000
- JADA Grant approx.. \$170,000
- CED contribution approx. \$50,000
- WIB contribution \$100,000
- Soybean Association TBD

To date: Total new external funding brought to the Project is approximately \$1,070,000.

Project Resources

- Create a common voice across stakeholders –
Tell the story of freight in Will County
- Create a common needs measurement system
- Create a project ranking mechanism across freight and transit infrastructure
- Amplify Return-On-Investment by leveraging project interrelations
- Incorporate lessons learned from the past
- Reduce truck freight movement on local streets

CFFMP Plan Outcomes

- 3 FAC Meetings
- 1 Freight Forum—36 attendees, 36% of attendees from TDL Industry
- 1 Workforce Forum—22 attendees, 68% of attendees from TDL Industry
- 54 Freight Survey Responses—49 complete, 35 complete freight-related business
- 22 Workforce Survey Responses, 14 complete freight-related business
- 30 Interviews
 - 28 Freight/Workforce Interviews
 - 1 Freight Only
 - 1 Workforce

Outreach Update

- Multimodal nature of Will County is one the County's strongest competitive advantages, particularly rail and highway access
- While barge transportation is not widely used by all TDL businesses, it plays a critical role in key industries in Will County
 - including agricultural and chemical industries
- Proximity to large population centers is a key factor for supporting workforce pipeline and freight movement
 - Most employees live within a 30 minute commute
 - Employers believe ideal commute time is 10 – 15 minutes

Key Themes from Outreach to Date: Competitive Advantages

- **The top concerns are:**
 - Safety
 - Traffic congestion
 - Specific bottlenecks
 - Local government policy/regulations
- **Top infrastructure concerns:** capacity constraints on the interstate system restricts business growth and operations
- **Truck parking:** a wide-spread lack of truck parking in the County, particularly along I-80 and I-55
- **Employee Retention:** Ability to attract and retain employees along with access to transit are the most critical workforce issues for TDL businesses
- **Access:** Limited access to intermodal yards and congestion within the yards imposes a cost on businesses

Key Outreach Themes to Date:

Concerns

- On-time delivery is critical for nearly all companies interviewed and surveyed
 - Companies have adjusted their operations to accommodate lack of reliability in truck travel times and congestion to deliver goods to customers
- Technology plays a role in many businesses, but most will continue to be labor—reliant

Key Outreach Themes: Considerations

- Will County Governmental League Community Officials meetings
- FAC meeting April 11
- Global Logistics Summit Presentation & information table
- Freight Forum 2 and Workforce Forum 2 will be held following the Global Logistics Summit on April 25
- 3 Public Forums to be held in late April, early May (north, east and south Will County)
- Finalize Truck Driver Breakroom interactive displays
- Public survey focused on freight to build on LRTP input

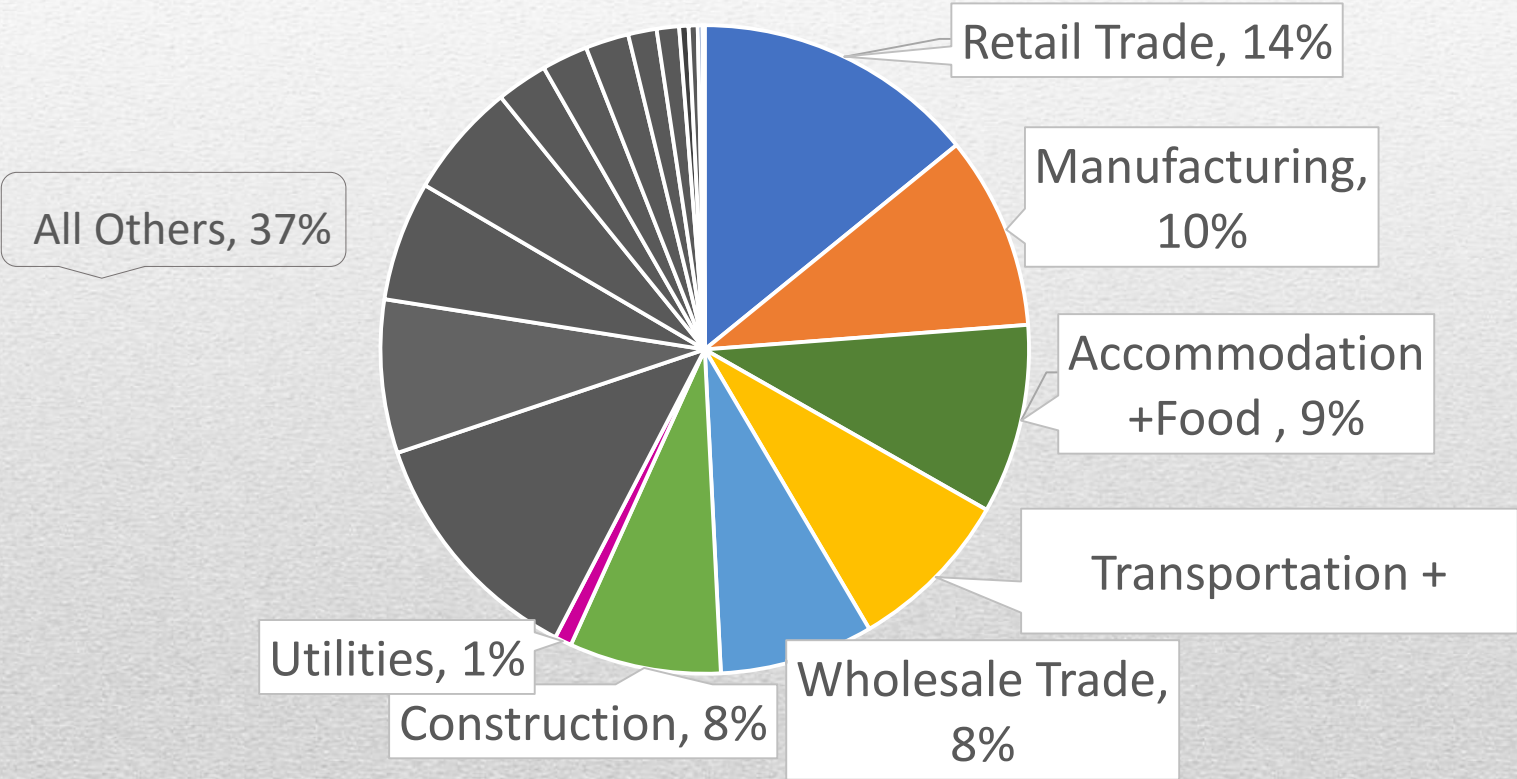
Upcoming Outreach

- Need to update and keep local communities informed about designated truck routes in the County
- Network challenges impacting freight movements and quality of life:
 - lack of east-west route options
 - need for last-mile connectors
 - limited access to key intermodal terminals
- Will County's competitive advantage in supporting the modern supply chain:
 - More than one-third of the distribution space within the seven-county region of Northeastern Illinois is in Will County
 - Rapid employment growth compared to peer regions – 138% in 10 years

Current State: Key Findings

Current State: Key Findings

Private Sector Jobs by Industry in Will County, 2016



Freight-dependent industries represent **over 57%** of all private sector jobs in Will County—totaling **over 122,000 jobs**

- Finalize project evaluation criteria thresholds for following criteria
 - System condition (including bridges)
 - Congestion/mobility
 - Reliability
 - Safety
 - Rail crossing delay
 - Proximity to freight generators
 - Direct improved economic benefit
 - Community Sensitivity
 - Environmental Sensitivity

Future State Update

- Finalize and map freight project universe
- Research and analyze preliminary program recommendations
 - Consistent and Visible Truck Route Signage Countywide
 - Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance Updates to Permit TDL Industry
 - Designation of a Truck Route Network
 - Improve Coordination of Oversize and Overweight Permitting between Jurisdictions
 - Coordinate Pace Bus Service with Shift Schedules of TDL industry employers
 - Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance Updates to Encourage a Balanced Housing Stock
- Identification of additional future freight trends (e.g. truck platooning, drone delivery, autonomous vehicles, etc.)

Future State Update

- Difficulty in retaining entry-level TDL employees
- Limited supply of TDL workforce in Will County
- Lack of soft skills necessary to work in the TDL industry
- Demographic shift resulting in less interest in TDL industry
- Minimal transit options for TDL employees
- Drug use limits eligible applicant pools

Workforce Development: Issues and Opportunities

- Lack of balanced housing stock results in decreased workforce availability in Will County
- Opportunities exist to leverage current County Housing Planning efforts across: Employers, Pace and workforce.
- Address challenging regulator issues in truck industry (driver age restrictions, insurability of drivers, hours of service, permitting, etc.)
- Lack of partnerships between businesses in TDL industry to work together to solve common problems
- Rapidly changing industry results in training and education disconnected from private sector needs

Workforce Development: Issues and Opportunities

- **Create partnerships for building workforce pipeline**
 - Develop partnerships within the TDL industry to solve common problems
 - Improve partnerships between training resources, education providers and TDL industry
 - Collaborate across industry sectors such as warehouse, intermodal, trucking, railroads
- **Increase access between population centers and TDL employment centers**

Workforce Development: Action Plan

- **Develop more cohesive regulations and routes for trucks**
- **Increase balanced housing supply**
- **Increase retention by providing a career development plan for employees**
- **Leverage technology to attract younger workforce and for building skills of existing workforce**

Workforce Development: Action Plan

- Continue data collection
- Continue stakeholder input
- Execute plan action items
- Annually update project lists and execute prioritization model complete with data updates
- Coordinate community engagement
- Develop funding and financing strategies for priority projects
- Pursue project grant opportunities at the region, state and federal sector and with private sector partners
- Develop programmatic and policies recommended by the plan for legislative consideration at the appropriate level of government
- Facilitate public private partnership
- Develop partnerships with higher education to assist with on-going data analysis
- Continue aggressive positioning of Will County with CMAP, IDOT, USDOT

What happens after the plan is done?



Questions and Suggestions
