

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

This brief is one in a series about opportunities arising from the development of the Indiana Toll Road. Research was conducted by the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University in conjunction with Building Better Communities at Ball State.

SECTOR **SERVICES** ACTIVITY **UTILITY DISTRICTS**

# Regional Utility Districts



**ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**CENTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

The Center for Business and Economic Research is an award-winning economic policy and forecasting research center housed within Ball State University's Miller College of Business. CBER research encompasses health care, public finance, regional economics, transportation and energy sector studies.

**Center for Business and Economic Research**  
**Miller College of Business**  
 Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306  
 765-285-5926 • [www.bsu.edu/cber](http://www.bsu.edu/cber)

**BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES**

Building Better Communities provides comprehensive services to partners across Indiana by connecting them with Ball State University's expertise and resources. BBC offers practical solutions to local challenges and assists with community, economic, and business development.

**Building Better Communities**  
 Ball State University Muncie, IN 47306  
 765-285-2773 • [www.bsu.edu/bbc](http://www.bsu.edu/bbc)

Multiple utilities provide service along the Indiana Toll Road Corridor. Some are investor-owned, some municipal, and others cooperatively organized. Utility services include water, wastewater, drainage, natural gas, electric and telecommunication.

The most common municipal utility services are water and sewer service, but some municipal entities also provide electricity and natural gas. Some utility services are less accessible in suburban and rural areas than in urban locations. Some development areas are likely to include fully-franchised utility service territories such as electric service. However, natural gas, water and sewer services, for example, may not be extended to suburban and rural locations. In such areas, the Indiana Toll Road Economic Development Corridor Study group may elect to promote the development of utility services at specific sites or larger tracts that are not fully served. In this case, the Corridor Study group should be prepared to enter into dis-

cussions and negotiations with area utility providers with the intent to ensure service availability for businesses seeking to locate facilities in the targeted areas.

In the event that multiple municipal entities may be best-suited to provide service – municipal wastewater collection and treatment from one municipal entity and water service from another, for example – the Toll Road Economic Development Study group could position itself to facilitate the creation of a utilities district owned and operated under agreement to ensure each participating utility is fairly-compensated. This issue may arise due to common cross-subsidies among multiple municipal utility services operated by the same unit of government.

Such an arrangement could be organized as a partnership, as a contractual entity, or through the creation of a new utilities service district.