



## Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC): 2013-2014 Annual Report

### EDAC Members:

**Howard Males** (Chair), CEO  
Research Pros, Inc.

**Pam McDonough** (Vice Chair)  
CEO, Alliance for Illinois  
Manufacturing

**Herman Brewer**  
Bureau Chief, Cook County,  
Bureau of Economic Development

**Lynn Cutler**, Senior Advisor  
Holland and Knight

**David Day**, COO  
National Black MBA Association

**Joseph Flanagan**, Chairman and  
CEO, Acquirent, LLC

**Jesus Garcia**, Commissioner,  
7<sup>th</sup> District, Cook County Board

**Graham C. Grady**, Partner  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

**Wesley J. Lujan**, Assistant VP -  
Government Affairs, Union Pacific  
Railroad

**Andrew Mooney**,  
Commissioner, City of Chicago,  
Planning and Development

**Diane M. Morefield**  
EVP/Chief Financial Officer,  
Strategic Hotels & Resorts, Inc.

**Karin Norington-Reaves**,  
CEO, Chicago-Cook Workforce  
Partnership

**Ed Paesel**, Executive Director  
South Suburban Mayors & Managers  
Association

**Edward Sitar**, Manager  
Econ. & Business Development  
ComEd - An Exelon Company

**William W. Towns**,  
Assistant Vice President  
Neighborhood Initiatives  
The University of Chicago

## Introducing EDAC

The Cook County Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) is a 16 person advisory committee appointed by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle to advise the County regarding policies, strategies, and plans to improve the business environment, encourage productivity, and support people, places, and actions that can help the economy grow. EDAC reviews and approves many of the County's economic development financing tools and incentives.

When appointing Howard Males as Chair, President Preckwinkle noted that, "the County counts on groups like EDAC to assist us develop viable strategies and action plans, not just

documents on paper. " Information regarding the EDAC's meeting schedule and agendas is available [online](#) .

### EDAC's Guest Speakers :

**Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube**  
Brookings Institution, *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*, 9/25/13

**Toni Preckwinkle**  
President , Cook County Board , 11/20/13

**Robert Weissbourd**, President, RW Ventures,  
Economic Transformation: Implications for  
Economic Development , 1/29/14

**Scott Miller**, Director, Illinois Manufacturing Lab  
Introducing the Digital Manufacturing Design  
Initiative, 3/26/14

## Incentives Foster Business Growth

EDAC reviewed and recommended approval to the Cook County Assessor's Office for the Class 7 tax incentives listed below. The purpose of these incentives is to facilitate the new construction, rehabilitation or the re-occupancy of abandoned commercial property. All applications need approval from the local municipality prior to submitting an application to Cook County. All companies are expected to report annually on the progress of their projects (*continued on page 2*).

Applicant	Address	Est. Jobs Retained	Est. Jobs Created	Date
UGP Schiller Park	4155 North Mannheim Road, Schiller Park, IL	27	94	5/30/13
Delta Holdings / Fox Motors	2501 North Elston Avenue, Chicago, IL	25	92	7/24/13
RLE Property Corp. /Elgin Toyota and Scion	1580 -1640 East Lake Street, Streamwood, IL	90	35	9/25/13
Tony's Finer Foods	6704 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL	n/a	200	5/28/14
Weichai America	3100 West Golf Road, Rolling Meadows, IL	52	54	6/25/14
Autobarn of Evanston	222 Hartrey Avenue, Evanston, IL	177	30	6/25/14
Good Oil	6401 West 65th Street, Chicago, IL	n/a	95	7/31/14

## Forging Ahead with Metals

The Chicago Metro Region was one of just 12 regions nationwide to receive a manufacturing designation through the U.S. Commerce Department-led program, “Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership” ([IMCP](#)). The program is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing nationwide, and help communities attract and expand private investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports.

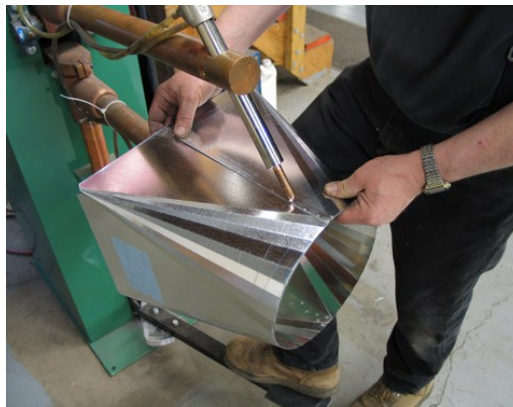
Cook County Bureau of Economic Development in partnership with more than 40 organizations and municipalities, including the seven counties of Northeastern Illinois and the cities of Joliet and Chicago, acting collectively as the “Chicago Metro Metal Consortium” took the lead role in organizing this unprecedented effort. The Consortium focuses on the more than 3,700 metal manufacturing firms, including those working in steel product manufacturing, fabricated metals, and machinery manufacturing.

As a designated Manufacturing Community the region will receive preference for \$1.3 billion in federal funding opportunities to

support economic development strategies focused on workforce development; supplier networks; research and innovation; infrastructure and site development; trade and international investment; and operational improvement and capital access. The region will also receive coordinated support from 11 federal agencies.

### Did you know that the Chicago metro metal cluster includes?

- 3700 metal firms
- Over 108,000 employees
- \$30B in annual revenues



***“The Chicago Metro Metal Consortium will build on the region’s metal and transportation assets to create well-paying jobs while accelerating the resurgence of manufacturing.”***

*Toni Preckwinkle  
President,  
Cook County Board*

## Incentives Foster Business Growth

*(continued from page 1)*

For example, Weichai Power, a \$16.5 B international company based in China expressed an interest in locating their North American operations in the Chicago region or Ontario, Canada. Weichai recently announced that they will locate their operations in Rolling Meadows, IL. While there are no immediate plans for a manufacturing location, R&D is a major focus of the company and it will provide high level technical jobs. The Cook County

tax incentive played a key role in their decision to locate in Chicago.

Similarly, as the result of the Class 7b incentive, Fox Motors – Ford Lincoln dealership is constructing a state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind national showroom that will house more than 165 vehicles. It is estimated that this project will utilize over 50 contractors and will create 200 to 240 local construction jobs. Information on Cook County’s economic development tools is available [online](#).

***“We are pleased that international firms like Weichai choose Cook County as a location for their North American operations.”***

*Herman Brewer  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Economic  
Development*

## Economic Agenda for Cook County

[Partnering for Prosperity](#) is Cook County’s economic growth agenda which sets the stage for new partnerships, policies, actions, and investments.

Set forth by President Preckwinkle and her Council of Economic Advisors in April, 2013, the agenda fosters a robust business environment, encourages greater productivity and innovation, and supports the economic vitality of the region.

Partnering for Prosperity recommends nine strategies to foster growth in the County; each strategy aligns with strategies set forth in other plans throughout the region.

The strategies outlined in **Partnering for Prosperity** are as follows:

- Cook County Government 3.0
- Intergovernmental Efficiencies
- Strong Strategic Capacity
- Manufacturing Productivity
- Supplier Competitiveness
- Logistics Productivity
- Strong Physical Infrastructure
- Communities that Connect
- Demand-Driven Workforce

Carrying out this ambitious agenda requires a fully engaged county government and partners in implementation which can identify and prioritize initiatives that support each of these strategies.

***We are delighted to partner with Cook County to further this historically important economic development action agenda.***

*Howard Males,  
Chair, Economic Development Advisory Committee*

## Moving Forward: Planning for Progress

Cook County embarked on [Planning for Progress \(PFP\)](#), to build off the strategies outlined in Partnering for Prosperity (see article above). PFP is a dual-track comprehensive planning process that will guide funding requests, investments, and partnerships over the next five years related to economic development, affordable housing, and community development. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is providing support for this initiative through their Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program.

This collaborative process will result in the development of a new Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) covering the 2015-2019 program years, informing local and regional policy, as well as ongoing planning and development.

This represents the first time that Cook County is simultaneously developing both plans as part of a coordinated effort .

Cook County launched PFP in October 2014. Subsequently over 2000 individuals representing a variety of stakeholder groups and the general public have participated in the planning process via an online survey and six workshops throughout the County. Ongoing outreach will lead to the release of the draft plan in late 2014 prior to adoption in 2015. More information may be found [online](#).

***Cook County is at the heart of the metropolitan region, where it makes up more than half its population, jobs and businesses.***



**“ We can accomplish more by working together.”**

*Dan Cronin,  
Chairman  
DuPage County Board*

#### **Cook County Bureau of Economic Development**

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[www.cookcountyil.gov/economicdevelopment](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/economicdevelopment)



## One Region, One Future



Under the leadership of President Preckwinkle and for the first time in decades, leaders from the region's public and private economic de-

velopment sectors gathered in December of 2013 to discuss how they can work together to promote a stronger regional economy.

County board chief executives from Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will counties and the City of Chicago's Deputy Mayor discussed opportunities for collaboration to further the economic growth of the region. Representatives from Chair, Cook County EDAC and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce attended as well.

Since beginning these conversations, the region secured the [IMCP designation](#) (see story on page 2) , and identified streamlined truck permitting and increasing exports from small and medium sized businesses as a priority. In July the group reconvened in DuPage County and focused



on discussing the progress associated with the regional projects:

#### **Streamlined Truck Permitting:**

- **An Economic Perspective**, Doug Whitley, Executive Director, Supply

Chain Innovation Network of Chicago ([SINC](#))

- **Overview of New Kane County Permit System**, Tom Rickert, Deputy Director, Kane County Division of Transportation
- **Progress to Date and Recommendations**, John Yonan, Superintendent, Transportation & Highways, Cook County

#### **Why Export?**

Manufacturers that export experienced higher revenues (+37% versus -7% from 2005 to 2009) and are more resilient to economic downturns.

*Source: Brookings Institution  
Chicago Regional Exports, 4/01/2014*

#### **Regional Export Initiative**

- **Why Exports?**, Bob Weissbourd, President, RW Ventures
- **The Challenges and Opportunities of Exporting**, Ed Marinelli, President, Electri-flex (Roselle, IL)
- **Update on Regional Export Initiative**  
Bob Weissbourd, President, RW Ventures

The group will meet again in January 2015 and in the meantime will continue to work on the current stock of projects: streamlined truck permitting, growing exports via a pilot program, and supporting metal manufacturing. Chairman Cronin encouraged the group to keep conversation open and to recognize that regional initiatives can only be completed through collaboration.