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# Hardin County focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS  
FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE/EXECUTIVE HARRY L. BERRY

*Hardin County seeks to build upon strengths—  
Charting a course for future growth opportunities*

## Hardin County Vision Project Underway!



Our county is undergoing a unique transformation due to BRAC related changes taking place at Fort Knox. This unprecedented change will bring tremendous growth and great opportunities to our region. We must insure Hardin County is well positioned to capitalize on the opportunities presented and plan our future to achieve maximum prosperity from this growth.

To assist this transformation, earlier this year I initiated a comprehensive visioning project to build upon our strengths and growth opportunities, identify weaknesses, and chart a course for Hardin County's future.

This strategic assessment will analyze our community's economic growth and development, population expansion, education, job creation, delivery of government

services, and other key areas. It will include an examination of ongoing projects and studies currently supported by local agencies plus input gleaned from approximately 100 "stakeholder" interviews with key community leaders. This information will then be compared to seven peer counties in the Midwest and Southeast to provide a better understanding of our County's standing and competitiveness.

The next step will be to present the information during a one-day leadership forum composed of various members of our community to validate or challenge the findings. After comparing our present situation against our vision statement, we will develop strategic goals and an implementation plan to serve as a guide for county development from 5 to 15 years into the future. .

This project, which is anticipated to be completed this December, will assist our community's leaders to step back and critically analyze where our County is today and to determine the direction that we want to take for tomorrow.

This assessment is being conducted by L.B. Schmidt and Associates of Louisville through grant funding obtained by One Knox from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment and is being administered locally by the Lincoln Trail Area Development District.