

## **General Overview**

Coordination in cooperation with all units of government is a beneficial goal. Cooperation among local units of government can often provide more or different services at a lower cost to taxpayers. There are instances where the actions of one governmental unit can have a significant effect on another, such as annexation, road improvement or zoning changes, to name a few. It is important for various units of government to communicate and work together for the mutual benefit of all.

### **Purpose of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element**

The purpose of this element is to promote communication and cooperation with other local government units including the City of Evansville, Village of Brooklyn, Townships of Rutland, Brooklyn, Porter, Center, Magnolia, Counties of Rock, Dane and Green. Promote communication and cooperation with the school districts serving Evansville, Oregon and Stoughton.

#### **Basic Objectives of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Chapter**

Working with neighboring communities and agencies is important for the Town to understand how surrounding communities' growth and policies will impact the Town. The Smart Growth Committee formed a Conflict Resolution Committee to work with the City of Evansville in resolving issues that impact both the City and Town. The Committee has since changed its name to the Evansville-Union Implementation Committee.

The Comprehensive Planning law encourages the Town to interact with:

Town of Albany  
City of Evansville,  
Village of Brooklyn  
Town of Brooklyn  
Town of Center  
Town of Porter  
Town of Rutland  
Town of Magnolia  
Village of Oregon  
City of Fitchburg

In addition, the Union Smart Growth Committee determined it is in the Town's best interest to maintain ongoing communication with the following government units

Evansville Community School District  
Oregon School District  
Stoughton School District  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Rock County agencies  
Fire Districts – Brooklyn Fire and EMS and Evansville Fire Department  
Emergency Medical Services – Brooklyn Fire and EMS and City of Evansville EMS

### **Existing Areas of Cooperation**

The Town currently has agreements with both the Evansville and Brooklyn Fire districts. The Town also has an agreement with Evansville police services. Further, a committee has been formed, (originally called the "Conflict Resolution Committee," but renamed to the "Evansville – Union Implementation Committee") to improve cooperation and communication between the Town and the City of Evansville. This Committee has addressed growth management strategies and common concerns with transportation. The Town also is a member of the Wisconsin Towns' Association which helps promote cooperation among townships.

### **Cooperative Boundary Agreements (Section 66.023)**

The Town and the City of Evansville are currently working on a cooperative boundary agreement through the Conflict Resolution Committee.

### **Areas to Explore for Additional Cooperation**

The Town is interested in exploring the following areas for further cooperation with surrounding municipalities.

Road maintenance  
    Police service (Possibly contract with Rock County)  
Interaction with the school district  
Parks and cemetery maintenance  
Environmental quality  
Emergency response  
    Cooperation with the City of Evansville on recreational trails  
Boundary agreements  
Purchase of development rights and the transfer of development rights

In addition, the Town is interested in working with the City of Evansville to manage traffic that travels through the Town from the housing developments in and around the City. The Evansville Smart Growth Plan recommends coordinating with the Town, County and WisDOT to plan

orderly connections of public streets to the highway corridor, including possible by-pass routes

**Goals, Objectives, and Actions:**

**Goal:** To continue to nurture and expand collaborative relationships with surrounding townships and other applicable government entities.

**Objective:** To continue to nurture a strong, collaborative relationship based on open communication with the City of Evansville.

**Actions:**

Negotiate a cooperative boundary agreement with the City of Evansville.

Continue to collaborate with the City of Evansville on issues impacting the extraterritorial area through the formation of a Joint Planning Committee composed of three representatives of the City and three representatives of the Town.

Invite representatives of the City of Evansville to meet with the Town's Planning and Zoning Committee and the Town Board at least once a year.

Continue to encourage open communication with the City of Evansville.

Collaborate with the City of Evansville on economic development efforts.

**Objective:** To continue to nurture a strong, collaborative relationship with the Village of Brooklyn.

**Actions:**

Meet with the Village officials to explore collaborative ways to manage and coordinate the area's growth.

Invite representatives of the Village of Brooklyn to meet with the Town's Plan Commission and the Town Board at least once a year.

Track the Village's progress with the relocation of their municipal sewage system and explore possibilities for the Town to utilize the system for future development purposes.

**Objective:** To continue to nurture strong, collaborative relationships with the surrounding townships, County, school districts and fire districts.

**Actions:**

Invite representatives of the surrounding townships, County, school districts and fire districts to meet with the Town's Plan Commission and the Town Board at least once a year.

Communicate information about growth trends and land use decisions to surrounding townships, the County, school districts and fire districts.

The Town Board should appoint a permanent committee with the responsibility for communication with other governmental units and with the authority to negotiate agreements for consideration by the Town Board.

## **Intergovernmental Cooperation**

According to the City of Evansville's Smart Growth Plan, the City values the peaceful rural agriculture setting that lies beyond the City's limits in the Town. Evansville's goals relating to agricultural and natural resources include:

- Protect natural areas including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and environmental corridors.
- Protect economically productive agricultural areas.
- Protect agriculture lands for agricultural purposes.

## **Coordination with Other Comprehensive Plan Elements**

Intergovernmental Cooperation impacts all of the other elements addressed in this Comprehensive Land Use Plan. For example, Transportation planning necessarily involves both neighboring municipalities as well as county and state agencies. Local schools make an important contribution to the life of the Town and consume an important part of local taxes. Land Use decisions of neighboring municipalities affect land use planning in the Town. Because of such impacts, it is important that these elements are consistent in their approach and support one another

## **Related Maps**

Map #20: Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

*Town of Union Comprehensive Plan  
5, 2006*

*Adopted: October*

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*Town of Union Comprehensive Plan*

*Intergovernmental Cooperation*

*Town of Union Comprehensive Plan*

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*Adopted: October 5,*

## **SURVEY RESULT**

13% of households strongly support tax sharing.

45% of households support tax

To identify governmental units with whom the Town needs to interact.

To develop goals and objectives that will continue existing intergovernmental cooperation and create new relationships and new areas for cooperation.