



Wendell Lowry, Lowry Construction, Robert Aloj, Territorial Engineers, Diane Thalmann, SCEDF President, Barry Triska, Tracey Triska, Brian Triska, and Mayor Rick Chambers (L to R)

## Traffic Control Specialists Holds Ground-Breaking for New Site in Knox

Traffic Control Specialists broke ground on their new 38,000 square foot facility on the western edge of the Knox Industrial Park in a ceremony held on November 10, 2015. A family business which includes Tracey Triska, her husband Barry and their two sons, this homegrown business has additional needs for its growing business. After working with SCEDF for quite some time, TCS has now purchased 16 acres and construction has begun on the new facility, with plans to occupy the same

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next spring.

TCS is in the business of working as a subcontractor to many prime highway contractors, setting cones, barricades, and signage all along highways in Indiana. The company continues to add additional duties, such as flagging and doing their own sign work, and has grown in employment to about 65 employees now, with plans to grow even faster with their new facility.

SCEDF assisted the Triska family by helping with tax abatement and rezoning requests that were needed to secure the site and this project, in addition to selling the land.

## **Indiana Economic Development Association President Addresses SCEDF Board**

John Taylor, Executive Director of The Posey County Economic Development Partnership and Indiana Economic Development Association President, told members of the Starke County Economic Development Foundation Board recently that a comprehensive study on Tax Incremental Financing is being prepared by the University of Southern Indiana Center for Applied Research. USI was selected to conduct the non-partisan study, after a nation-wide search was conducted.



John Taylor, IEDA President

According to Taylor, the goal of the study will be to present a balanced assessment of TIF on key local revenue streams. He said current data does not fully analyze the impact TIF has on cities and regions. Tax increment financing is a method of financing the public costs

associated with a private development project.

Other topics discussed by Taylor included:

The necessity to recruit and train future economic development executives. He noted that of the 92 executives that sit in the director's chairs now, thirty five will be retiring in the next four to five years. "We need to have people with knowledge of a county's projects and goals to step in immediately after a director's retirement," he said.

Changing topics, he said that local companies give a community the opportunity for added growth. "The public perceives bringing a company or factory to town as being of the greatest importance, when actually it is helping an existing one to expand," he noted. He urged all of the board members present to be helpful in promoting an atmosphere where the local companies feel appreciated. "Stay connected," he said, "the worst thing possible is hearing a plant is closing or moving without you knowing anything about it."

In closing, Taylor said that economic development is tricky, and many times things out of the control of the Development Foundation can tip the scales. He used as an example that Indiana lost a large plant which was being recruited for Ft. Wayne, because the president's wife thought there was more opportunity for shopping in Kansas City. "In those times, you just have to shrug your shoulders and say "we tried", and move on to the next project," he commented.

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## **SCEDF Adds Radio Programming to its Marketing Efforts**

Effective the first week of July of this year, SCEDF has begun a 5-minute radio program airing on local station WKVI every Wednesday at 12:10 pm following the noon newscast, known as "Development Today". Hosted by long-time radio broadcaster Ted Hayes, the program is part of the marketing plan for SCEDF, and includes a variety of topics meant to educate the public and others about the activities of SCEDF and SCILL, and the latest in economic development happenings in the county.

In addition to its original air date, each broadcast is also available on the SCEDF website, together with a list of dates and topics, so that anybody missing the initial broadcast can hear any and all broadcast at their leisure. The list of programs can be found by clicking [here](#).

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