



Chapter 3

Vision Statement

The Vision is a retrospective narrative that chronicles the accomplishments and achievements that have occurred in the Town of New Carlisle since adopting the Comprehensive Plan in 2007. The Vision incorporates the main ideas and recurring themes discussed throughout community outreach efforts, including key person interviews, community workshops, online questionnaires and community issues mapping, meetings with Town staff, officials and steering committee, and the visioning meetings.

The Vision provides a foundation for the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations contained in the new Comprehensive Plan. It is written as a retrospective in the year 2041 (20 years into the future) which tells the story of how life in New Carlisle has changed and improved over the last 20 years since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

IN THE YEAR 2041...

The Town of New Carlisle continues to thrive and retain its unique identity as a lovely small town consisting of charming homes, a thriving commercial district, an exemplary library and a second-to-none school system.

New Carlisle has successfully managed to assimilate additional industry to the east through diligent input, coordination and interaction with St. Joseph County and with the Indiana Enterprise Center development. Measured, conscientious residential growth to the north and south of Town has led to limited annexation and increased the Town's tax base. Additional commercial, business and retail spaces have been created in various infill areas to the west and north of Town. Michigan Street's central, historic downtown business core is preserved and thriving with all the buildings occupied and hosting successful businesses. The Façade Enhancement Grant Program sponsored by Discover New Carlisle, Inc. has spear-headed the effort to revitalize the downtown buildings. The second story rehabilitated apartments of the commercial buildings are all rented and have proven to be a very desirable housing option. The new South Shore Station is a return to the past when New Carlisle had its own stop and station. It has proven to be a convenience for Town residents traveling to Chicago and increased New Carlisle's recognition by others.



RESIDENTIAL

While New Carlisle continues to be a place for families living in predominantly single-family neighborhoods, the variety of housing options the community offers has continued to expand. High quality senior housing, townhomes, and multi-family developments now allow the Town to provide housing options for all stages of life, from young professionals to seniors.

Infill development and the development of previously incomplete subdivisions have stabilized and strengthened New Carlisle's residential areas. The successful sidewalk replacement and expansion program has created a more walkable community. Furthermore, the Town's new residential neighborhoods have been developed in areas already serviced by utilities and other infrastructure, or where those services could be readily extended. Development into the community's growth areas has been methodical, planned and sensitive to the existing natural environment and unincorporated county subdivisions.

Ties to the community's agricultural and rural history have also been maintained. While some farmland has been developed, New Carlisle has been able to successfully balance new growth with agricultural preservation. Historic farmsteads have been preserved within the Town's newly developed areas and New Carlisle continues to be surrounded by rural landscape and farms.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town benefits from a diverse tax base bolstered by retail, service, office and employment uses including a strong core of industrial / research businesses. The fully completed transportation system has proven to be a catalyst for development with a regional destination of industrial / research businesses, With walkable community assets including shopping, restaurants, parks and trails have eased the tax burden shouldered by local residents and facilitated improvements throughout the community to further enhance neighborhoods and commercial areas while maintaining a country feel with agriculture farming surrounding the Town.

The Town continues to benefit from a diverse tax base bolstered by retail, service, office and various industrial employers. The new South Shore stop/station has provided a transportation alternative for those pursuing work outside of New Carlisle and those commuting to employment within the New Carlisle region. Also, its location on the former Michigan Road and being an original segment of the Lincoln Highway has brought many heritage tourism visitors to town. By prioritizing and supporting the historic preservation of New Carlisle's commercial and residential buildings, the town remains an attractive destination to visitors and new residents, thus supporting the local businesses.

With its placement between U.S. 20 and State Highway 2, New Carlisle enjoys the benefits of easy access. New Carlisle residents continue to work and commute at myriad jobs and locations within a 2-hour radius and enjoy the ability to come home to the small town, rural feel and charm of New Carlisle.



COMMERCIAL AREAS

New Carlisle's commercial areas are flourishing. The historic downtown remains viable and alive with restaurants and boutique shops attracting both residents and visitors as a desirable destination. Additional commercial nodes to the west of the downtown also continue to thrive and develop, again providing restaurants and various types of retail. However, New Carlisle remains a viable and functional town with established banking services, grocery and hardware stores, a farm and feed store, beauty and barber salons and two healthcare facilities. This all contributes to the excellent quality of life for New Carlisle residents and eliminates the need to travel to nearby towns such as LaPorte or South Bend for commerce. Roadway improvements throughout the area have also enhanced circulation and access in the area for both pedestrians, bicycles, motorists and transit.



DOWNTOWN

Downtown New Carlisle continues to exhibit a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere which highlights the small-town charm. Residents are proud of the downtown which functions as a unique shopping and dining destination as well as a community gathering place and focal point. The once empty second story apartments in the historic commercial buildings have been rehabbed and are considered premium rental properties, thus contributing to the vibrancy of the downtown.

In addition to new businesses, public improvements such as streetscaping, wayfinding, landscaping and parking have made downtown New Carlisle a destination for visitors and local residents alike, rivaling other historic downtowns in the region.

MICHIGAN STREET

The west Michigan Street commercial corridor is experiencing renewed activity and patronage after a comprehensive streetscaping project took place. The addition of trees, a continuous sidewalk, wayfinding signs and angled parking have contributed to a more customer-friendly commercial area.



TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

The coordinated and compatible development of the Indiana Enterprise Center, to the east of the Town, and its studied transportation system allowed the relocation of the designated US 20 Truck Route to be removed from running through the Town's downtown. This allowed truck traffic to utilize St. Rd 2 south of the Town. This new truck route, combined with other roadway improvements, has alleviated congestion in Downtown New Carlisle and has allowed the Town to better define the design aesthetics and safety of the gateways into the town and in the vibrancy of the downtown.

The Town also continues to develop new roadway segments and wayfinding system as areas are developed. The Town has also continually upgraded and expanded upon the sidewalk and trail networks and residents can safely travel throughout the community on foot or on bike. This also includes the connective trail system connecting the Town with both Spicer Lake and Bendix Woods County Parks.

The new South Shore Station has increased visitation to New Carlisle and the surrounding areas. The successful marketing of the many agritourism experiences north of New Carlisle and into lower Michigan has resulted in the New Carlisle South Shore stop being quite popular for families, couples and groups of friends coming "to the country" to pick fruit, go wine tasting and attend popular harvest festivals. New Carlisle has coordinated with this popularity by pairing with their own festivals and events.

The second potential infrastructure development under study is the I-80/90 Toll Road exit north of the Town. This new exchange could carry significance in enhancing the traffic flow of the region and in creating a new hub of commerce in this portion of the county.

Together these improvements have helped keep New Carlisle a cohesive community for vehicles and pedestrians and as a destination transportation hub in our region.



PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

The residents of New Carlisle enjoy safe and easy access to an expanded and balanced park system that is interconnected by an extensive trail network. Trails have been created throughout the community, providing access to natural areas like wetlands / conservation areas in the Town’s southern borders. The defined county north/south trail connector connects New Carlisle residents to other communities and natural areas throughout the region including the two County Parks (Spicer Lake and Bendix Woods). Over the past twenty years the parks system has been enlarged and expanded to include more recreation facilities.

Another community park has been built to provide for athletic leagues and other recreational opportunities to New Carlisle’s growing population, “walk to” recreational opportunities are several new neighborhood parks secured through developer donation, along with smaller neighborhood and pocket parks that been located throughout New Carlisle’s previously underserved neighborhoods. Today, almost every New Carlisle household is within short walking distance of parks and recreation amenities.



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

At the center of the revitalized Downtown is the Town Hall and Police Station which provide critical services to the community and adds the area’s activity during the day. The New Carlisle-Olive Township Library continues to serve the community as a center for the community as well as an education and cultural resource. The New Prairie United Schools continue to be a highly regarded school system and is still a leading reason why families choose to move to New Carlisle area. New fire territory facilities have helped maintain excellent emergency response times throughout the community including New Carlisle’s growth areas.

INSERT GREATER INFORMATION HERE REGARDING THE FUTURE VISION OF THE FIRE TERRITORY, UTILITY SERVICES, AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

