



NEWS RELEASE

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**Gifford joins Central Indiana Corporate Partnership as Executive VP,
will serve as Executive Director of Central Indiana Transit Task Force**
*Former Indy Partnership CEO will lead the transit effort organized by CICP and the Indy
Chamber of Commerce, focus on other policy priorities for regional business alliance*

(INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 15, 2011) Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP), the regional CEO alliance, announced today that Ron Gifford is serving as its Executive Vice President for Public Policy effective March 1, 2011. In that capacity, Gifford will also act as executive director of the Central Indiana Transit Task Force.

Gifford previously served as President and CEO of Indy Partnership, and oversaw the merger of operations between Indy Partnership and Develop Indy that took effect March 1. Gifford will join the Develop Indy board of directors to help ensure continued collaboration between the region's business attraction efforts and CICP's economic initiatives.

In his new role, Gifford will oversee CICP's public policy priorities, and will work primarily with the private-sector led Central Indiana Transit Task Force, the regional mass transit initiative co-founded by CICP, the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

"Ron has been with CICP since its beginnings – representing our interests at the Statehouse for several years, leading Indy Partnership after its merger with CICP in 2007, and now focusing all his attention on our policy agenda," said Mark Miles, CICP's President & CEO. "Ron is supremely qualified to lead the regional transit initiative, and we're enthusiastic about adding him to the team full-time, taking advantage of his expertise and insight."

"I'm particularly enthusiastic about spearheading the transit effort," Gifford noted. "We need a comprehensive, affordable regional transit system that will connect our workforce to jobs, encourage new development and reinvestment in our neighborhoods, and offer the kind of lifestyle amenities that make us a destination for talented people and new businesses," he added. "Developing a great transit system is

one of the most important things we can do to secure long-term economic growth in the Indianapolis region.”

The Transit Task Force is a group of business and industry leaders from throughout the region, organized by CICIP and the Greater Indianapolis Chamber along with the Central Indiana Community Foundation, who worked with the public sector and a team of experts throughout 2009 to create a recommended regional transit plan. The release of that plan in February 2010 kicked off the Indy Connect public feedback campaign, which produced a revised regional transportation plan in November. The Task Force is reconvening to work with the public sector to reach consensus on a cost-effective, comprehensive regional transit proposal and to seek legislative and public approval of such a plan next year.

“There’s much work to be done this year to create a transit proposal that can be acted on in 2012,” said John Neighbours, chair of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and a co-chair of the Transit Task Force. “We’re fortunate to have Ron organize the private sector’s efforts – his background in economic development, public policy and governmental affairs gives him a unique perspective on this process.”

Prior to joining the Indy Partnership in January, 2008, Gifford was a partner at Baker & Daniels LLP, where he led the firm’s government affairs practice and played a key role in major legislative initiatives such as creating the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund, restructuring Indiana’s tax system and enacting tort reform, among others.

Gifford graduated *magna cum laude* in 1985 from Georgetown University Law Center and received his B.A. with distinction from the University of Michigan in 1981. He was named in *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2005-07, and *Indiana Super Lawyers*, 2004-07. Gifford serves on the boards of numerous civic and charitable organizations. He is married, and has two daughters who attend Washington Township schools in Indianapolis.

The Central Indiana Corporate Partnership (CICP) is a coalition of the CEOs of Central Indiana’s major employers and its flagship university presidents, committed to transforming the regional economy. CICP focuses on strategic priorities like encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship, building a world-class workforce and creating a pro-growth business climate, as well as overseeing initiatives dedicated to the growth of the state’s key industry clusters. Visit www.cincorp.com to learn more.