The proliferation of surface transportation options throughout the Indiana Toll Road Corridor provides uncommon opportunities for the importation of wage and salary income from greater Chicago to the Corridor. Many prosperous communities in the Midwest have become so by effectively capitalizing on this strategy. For example, Hamilton County, Indiana, the wealthiest of Indiana’s 92 counties, exports over half of its workforce to locations outside the county. In Hamilton County’s case – like many other suburban locations – the economic result is higher resident income. Higher incomes correlate with higher educational attainment and higher tax receipts per capita. Higher income areas also tend to be more attentive to community and public services including amenities such as park and recreation, cultural opportunities, and protection of natural resources.

While other income importation opportunities may exist, many opportunities lie within the Corridor’s proximity to Chicago. Chicago is an international city with a metropolitan population and gross economic product larger than most U.S. states. It is home to multiple headquarters operations, technology firms, professional and technical service firms, entrepreneurial opportunities, artistic endeavors, and well-respected institutions of higher education. Chicagoland residents’ average income and educational levels well exceed national averages.¹

¹ For example, per capita personal income and average wage per job as well as percent of population with high school and higher education degrees.