



Project Data

Key Scope Items:

- Expansion Projections
- Funding Component Projections
- Fiscal & Employment Impact

Development Budget: \$50,000,000

HSP Professionals Involved in Project: Rob Hunden

Time of Service: 1997 – 1998

RCA Dome & Indiana Convention Center Expansion

Indianapolis, Indiana

Mr. Hunden worked with the City of Indianapolis to develop a funding plan for the expansion of the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center in 2001. The expansion would allow the Indianapolis Colts to remain competitive with newer stadiums being built in other cities and would boost stadium revenue by adding club seats, restaurants and expanding and renovating luxury suites. Demand for space at the adjacent convention center had also outgrown the current facility, so an expansion to address this demand was sought.

The Indiana Legislature, along with local stakeholders would contribute \$18 million to the RCA Dome project to improve the facility. Various options were studied to finance the expansion, including an increase of auto rental and hotel/motel taxes in the city.

A \$50 million financing package was assembled for the convention center expansion that brought together contributions from the public and private sectors. This consortium of stakeholders included the City of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association, the Capital Improvement Board and the Lilly Endowment. In a unique funding structure, the Lilly Endowment provided a \$1.5 million grant to fund a hospitality industry academy for city residents, which in turn allowed for a \$28.5 million grant to support the expansion of the convention center.

As is often the case in professional sports, the need for a more modern stadium arose shortly after the expansion was complete. The RCA Dome was replaced in 2009 by Lucas Oil Stadium and would be demolished to make way for the subsequent expansion of the Indiana Convention Center, which opened in 2011.