



STANDARD OF LIVING

The following diagram shows the likely socio-economic growth of the states and counties along the proposed I-66 Corridor. It can be seen that, in the 1980's the standard of living in the corridor fell dramatically in relation to the national average. Furthermore, it is likely that, if current developmental and transportation/land-use policies continue, the standard of living in the corridor will continue to fall so that, by the year 2010, the level of economic well-being will be at least 20 percent below the national average and even further behind the richer areas of the country. The development of the I-66 Corridor could do much to change that picture providing increases in growth that, conservatively, by the year 2030, would give a standard of living between 90 and 100 percent of the national average, and possibly even equal to the national average. The level of growth will be determined in the study by measuring the economic growth effects of the "do nothing" option and of the "do something" corridor investment options. Using the Aschauer and RENTS economic models, the impact on standard of living will be quantified and the effects of different transportation strategies will be compared to show which will create the greatest improvement in standards of living in the corridor.