

Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council Joint Committee

Date: June 13, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Hornet Park Community Center
5245 Hornet Ave.
Beech Grove, IN 46107



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions	Craig Parks, Vice Chair	5 min.
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Status Reports

2. Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization Certification	Robert Dirks, FHWA & Susan Weber, FTA	15 min.
3. Air Quality Conformity	Anna Gremling, MPO	5 min.
4. Strategic Plan		60 min.
a) Short Term- Independent MPO	Anna Gremling, MPO	
i. Presentation		
ii. Small group discussion/feedback		
b) Long Term- Regional Convener	Rich Overmoyer, Fourth Economy	
i. Presentation		
ii. Small group discussion/feedback		

Other Business

5. Announcements, other	Anna Gremling, MPO	5 min.
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6. Adjournment	Craig Parks, Vice Chair	1 min.
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*Materials pertinent to item number 4 are attached. For additional information, please see www.indympo.org
For accommodation needs for persons with disabilities, please call 327-5136.*

Upcoming meeting dates:

IRTC Administrative Committee Meeting- July 27, 2018 @ IndyGo
IRTC Technical Committee Meeting- August 8, 2018 @ MIBOR
IRTC Policy Committee Meeting- August 22, 2018 @ MIBOR



Memo

To: Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council Technical and Policy Members
From: Anna M. Gremling
Date: June 4, 2018
Re: MPO Strategic Plan Update

We have spent the last 12 months working on the Central Indiana Strategic Plan. The process has taken us from the rose, bud, thorn exercise at the 2017 retreat to convening over 150 people in panels on landuse, housing, transportation, water, and economic development. MPO Executive staff and a handful of MPO Administrative Committee members have visited the Atlanta Regional Commission and Denver Regional Council of Governments to learn from successful regional organizations. While the strategic planning process isn't completed yet, there seem to be some clear next steps for the MPO as an organization.

In the short term, the MPO will consider becoming an independent (not hosted by the City of Indianapolis) organization. We will be discussing the pros and cons to being hosted by the City of Indianapolis as well as the financial impacts to the MPO under an independent scenario at the retreat. We are interested in hearing your thoughts. As such, the meeting space will be set up in small groups to have discussion among members.

As part of the long-term plan, we are having discussions and exploring opportunities for the MPO to expand its current scope of work to provide a greater portfolio of planning services to its member jurisdictions. The timeline attached in this packet shows on a high level how this may play out long term for the organization. We see 4 primary roles for the organizations (see below).

Primary Roles for the Organization

- Convene – Regularly bring together regional partners to discuss issues in their fields, to analyze data trends, better understand the root cause of issues, and to identify collaborative solutions that move Central Indiana forward.
- Inform - Set benchmarks and track data trends. This “observe and report” role will support planning and policy-making, and will include hosting speakers and providing public education support.
- Plan – Use professional planning staff to document expert discussions, formalize strategies, adopt plans, and track implementation strategies.
- Fund -Identifying federal, state, and other third-party funding opportunities for regionally-significant projects. This retreat is geared towards getting your feedback on both the long term and short term direction of the MPO.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to call me at 317.327.5487.



MPO-Indianapolis Hosting Agreement

Pros

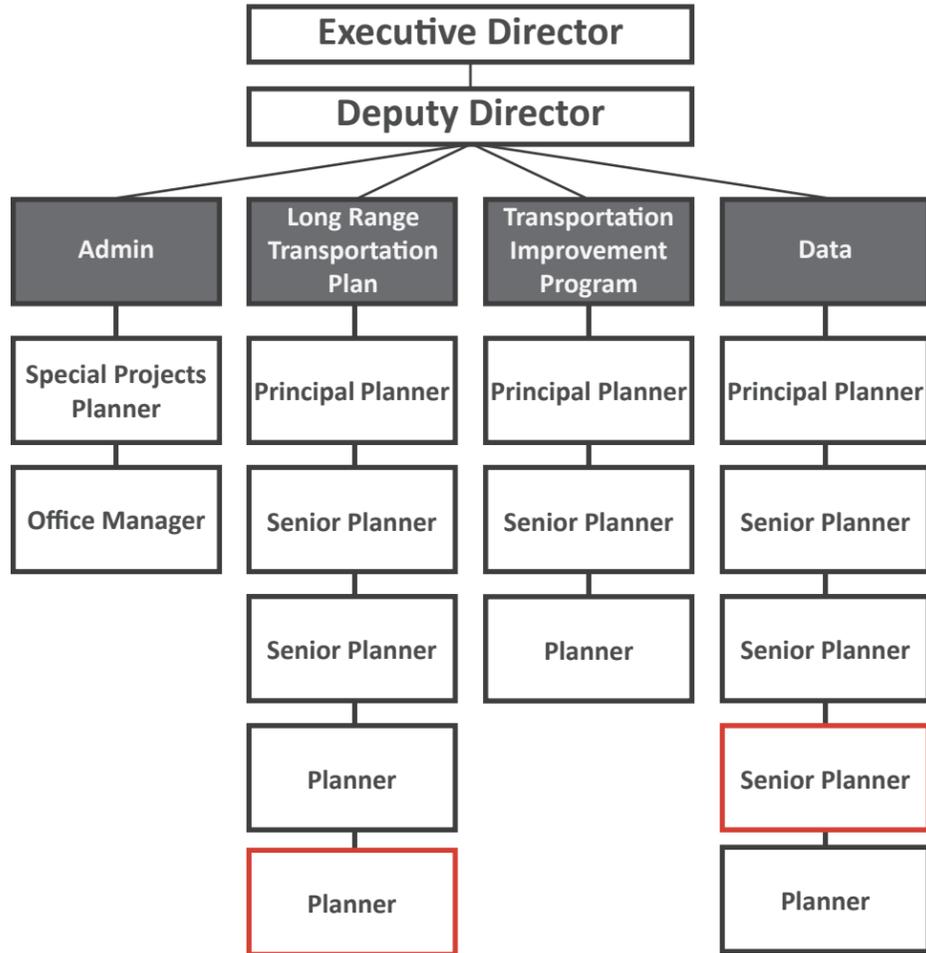
- + City provides approximately **\$2M capital float each year**.
- + The hosted arrangement allows for **low overhead**, which keeps operating costs low as planning funds remain flat.
 - + **Legal, HR, and financial services are included** in very low hosting fee (currently \$35,000/year).
 - + Relatively **low rent** (doesn't include parking).
 - + City contracts (like IT and printing) allow for more **affordable services**.
 - + **Access to other City services** like procurement, trainings, staffing services, and internal audit.
- + City employees are eligible for the **Public Employee Retirement Fund** (though an independent agency could become PERF-eligible, as CIRTA is).
- + The Metropolitan Development Commission meets bi-weekly, enabling **quick, regular contract approval**.

Cons

- **Legal, HR, and Financial Services** would need to either be hired or contracted, which would certainly cost more than the MPO pays today.
- **Limited control of salaries and other staffing decisions**. The City has denied salary increases numerous times, including once very recently, which has resulted in attrition and difficulty attracting strong candidates.
- **Lack of attention** from dedicated City staff.
- MDC approval of contracts and City PO approval **could easily become politicized**.
- Many **City enterprise contracts offer inconsistent service quality**, and the MPO has no recourse (expensive/slow tech support, infrequent hardware updates, poor internet access, limited software options, poor printing services).
- Hosting arrangement subjects MPO to many **potentially objectional policies** (Marion County residency requirements, IT contract oversight, City ethics policy, onerous vendor insurance requirements, no work from home policies, time-consuming / redundant policies, slow adoption of digital and new technology solutions).
- **Budget approval** as part of the City. Very difficult and time consuming (months, or quarters) to amend the budget.
- **Slow processing** of contracts for signature, routing of purchase orders.
- The potential for **negative perception of City influence over MPO business**, which can hurt both the MPO and the City of Indianapolis.

Current Structure

The current structure of the Indianapolis MPO is the product of years of tweaking, expansion and turn-over. The LRTP section now houses multi-modal and long range planning, and new positions have been added to increase in-house planning and modeling capacity.



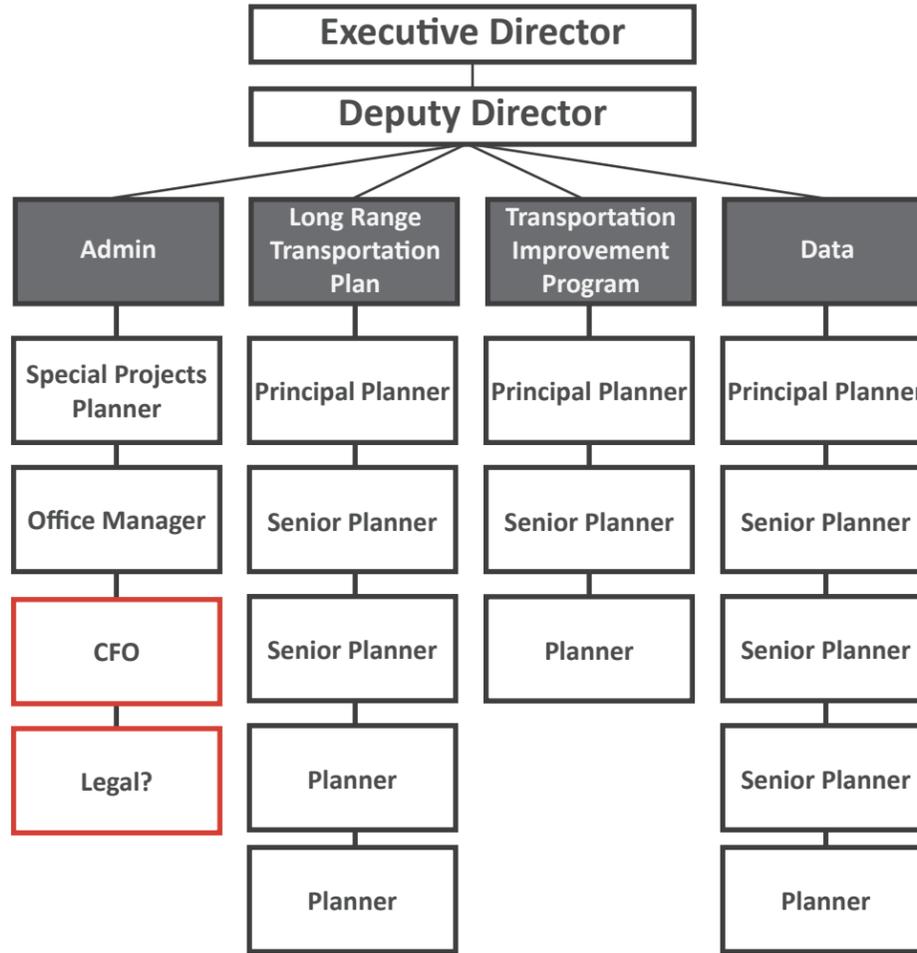
17 positions

Red Box - New Position

Transportation	Data	Land Use	Housing	Economic Dev	Water
L RTP	TDM	Convener			
TIP	Scenario Planning				
Performance Measures	Traffic Counts				
Bikeways	Pavement Data				
Walkways					
Freight					
CMP					
Transit					
TOD					

Independent MPO

If the IRTC Policy Board elects to dissolve the MPO's hosting relationship with the City of Indianapolis, the Governor would designate a new entity as the official MPO. This could be an interim step before creating a more expansive regional organization, with minimal impact on IRTC structure.



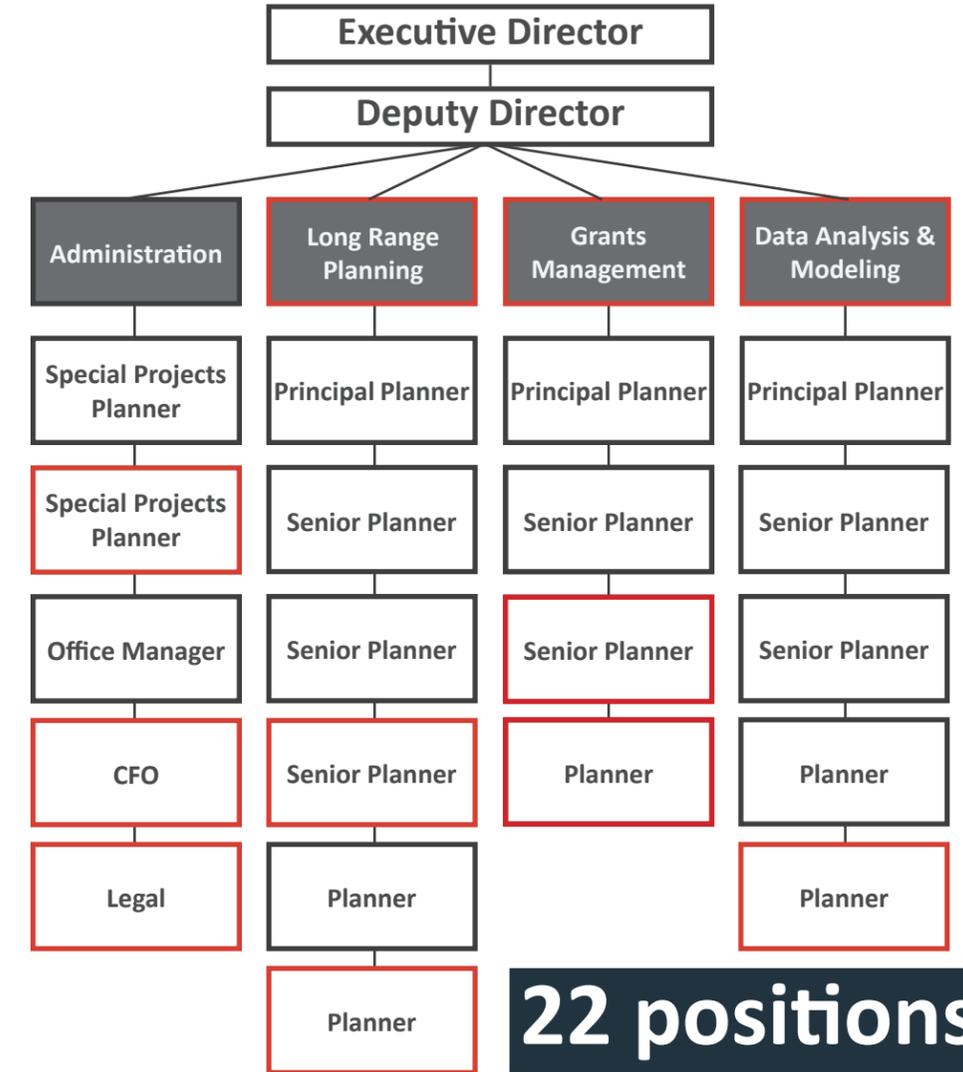
18/19 positions

1-2 New Positions | 2020 is the earliest possible date

Transportation	Data	Land Use	Housing	Economic Dev	Water
L RTP	TDM	Convener		EDD	
TIP	Scenario Planning			CEDS	
Performance Measures	Traffic Counts			Convener	
Bikeways	Pavement Data				
Walkways					
Freight					
CMP					
Transit					
TOD					

Regional Convener

If IRTC were to expand the charter of the MPO to include land use, housing, economic development, and water, a new regional organization would be created with an entirely new board structure, adding RDA and EDD authorities (among others) to the current MPO responsibilities.



22 positions

8 new positions | New roles phased in over time

Transportation	Data	Land Use	Housing	Economic Dev	Water
L RTP	TDM	Convener	Convener	EDD	Convener
TIP	Scenario Planning			CEDS	Advocate
Performance Measures	Traffic Counts			Convener	
Bikeways	Pavement Data				
Walkways					
Freight					
CMP					
Transit					
TOD					



The Central Indiana Regional Strategic Plan identifies four primary roles for the organization:

Convene

Regularly bring together regional partners to discuss issues in their fields, to analyze data trends, better understand the root cause of issues, and to identify collaborative solutions that move Central Indiana forward.

Inform

Set benchmarks and track data trends. This “observe and report” role will support planning and policy-making, and will include hosting speakers and providing public education support.

Plan

Use professional planning staff to document expert discussions, formalize strategies, adopt plans, and track implementation strategies.

Fund

Identifying federal, state, and other third-party funding opportunities for regionally-significant projects.

Timeline: Independent MPO to Regional Convener

	Business Process	Transportation	Economic Development	Land Use & Housing	Water
Becoming an Independent MPO 2019 and 2020 <i>“continue MPO business process improvement”</i> <i>“focus on move-out logistics”</i>	1. Form “Transition Team” to advise on business policies (HR, procurement, financial system, IT, bylaws, etc.) 2. Begin independent designation of MPO Policy Board with State and Governor’s Office 3. Draft “Central Indiana regionalism” statute and bill 4. Determine structure, staffing, and funding plans	1. Retain and continue to pursue talented staff 2. Implement new internal policies (file management, standard operating procedures) 3. Improve and expand data collection per Data Analytics and Modeling Plan 4. Build scenario planning tools 5. Update multimodal plans (ped, bike, regional transit)	1. Work with regional partners to scope, secure public and private funds for an updated CEDS plan	1. Continue land use panel’s focus on transit oriented development	1. Management will continue to attend Drinking Water Collaborative meetings
Grow Independent MPO 2020-2021 <i>“take action on ‘low-hanging’ collaboration opportunities”</i> <i>“begin convening, informing, planning, and funding”</i>	1. Study branding for new regional organization 2. Expand staff capacity for convening, facilitation and human centered design 3. Establish data warehouse and launch open data portal	1. Adopt targets for performance measures, track, and begin reporting 2. Expand Connexus partnership and update regional freight vision 3. Review and implement analysis tools for project selection	1. Begin CEDS update (hold contract, convene partners) 2. Begin designation as a federally-recognized Economic Development District	1. Continue land use panel’s focus on transit oriented development 2. Study activity center and corridor analysis program alternatives	1. Convene water-related organizations to define shared goals and opportunities for collaboration 2. Utilize government relations capacity to assist regional water partners
Formalize Organization as Regional Convener 2021 and beyond <i>“formalize non-transportation structures”</i> <i>“staff up to do more in-house, set up new revenue streams”</i>	1. Establish new board structure, bylaws 2. Expand staff to take on additional roles and produce more in-house	1. Re-evaluate traffic counting program 2. Utilize new data sources for advanced scenario planning techniques 3. Adopt 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan	1. Establish economic development committee 2. Establish metrics and track relevant data 3. Document progress and update plans 4. Manage EDA sustaining funds	1. Establish land use and housing committee 2. Provide technical assistance to membership 3. Establish metrics and track relevant data 4. Document progress and update plans	1. Establish regional water committee, focused on both supply and quality 2. Establish metrics and track relevant data 3. Document progress and update plans