

Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization Regional Freight Plan – Stakeholder Survey Results

As part of the Indianapolis MPO Regional Freight Plan Update, the project team implemented a survey of freight stakeholders across Central Indiana to determine some of the key freight characteristics, issues, and needs for the region. The freight survey was conducted using the MetroQuest public input platform, which uses a highly-engaging structure to share information with participants while also collecting feedback from them. The survey was open between October 20, 2021, and November 29, 2021. Active distribution of the survey began on October 28, 2021. The survey was marketed to potential participants using several distribution channels, and a total of 37 individuals completed the survey. The following is a summary of the key takeaways from the online survey responses:

Transportation Priorities: when asked to rank which transportation issues are most important to participants, infrastructure condition received the highest rank, followed closely by rail access issues and road traffic congestion.

Freight System Strengths: survey participants identified the relative geographic location of the region, opportunities offered by the region’s air cargo/FedEx operations at the Indianapolis International Airport, and the region’s interstate connections with other metropolitan areas as the strengths of the current freight network.

Freight System Weaknesses: participants identified workforce mobility, interchange congestion, and limited access to multimodal connection points as major weaknesses of the region’s freight system.

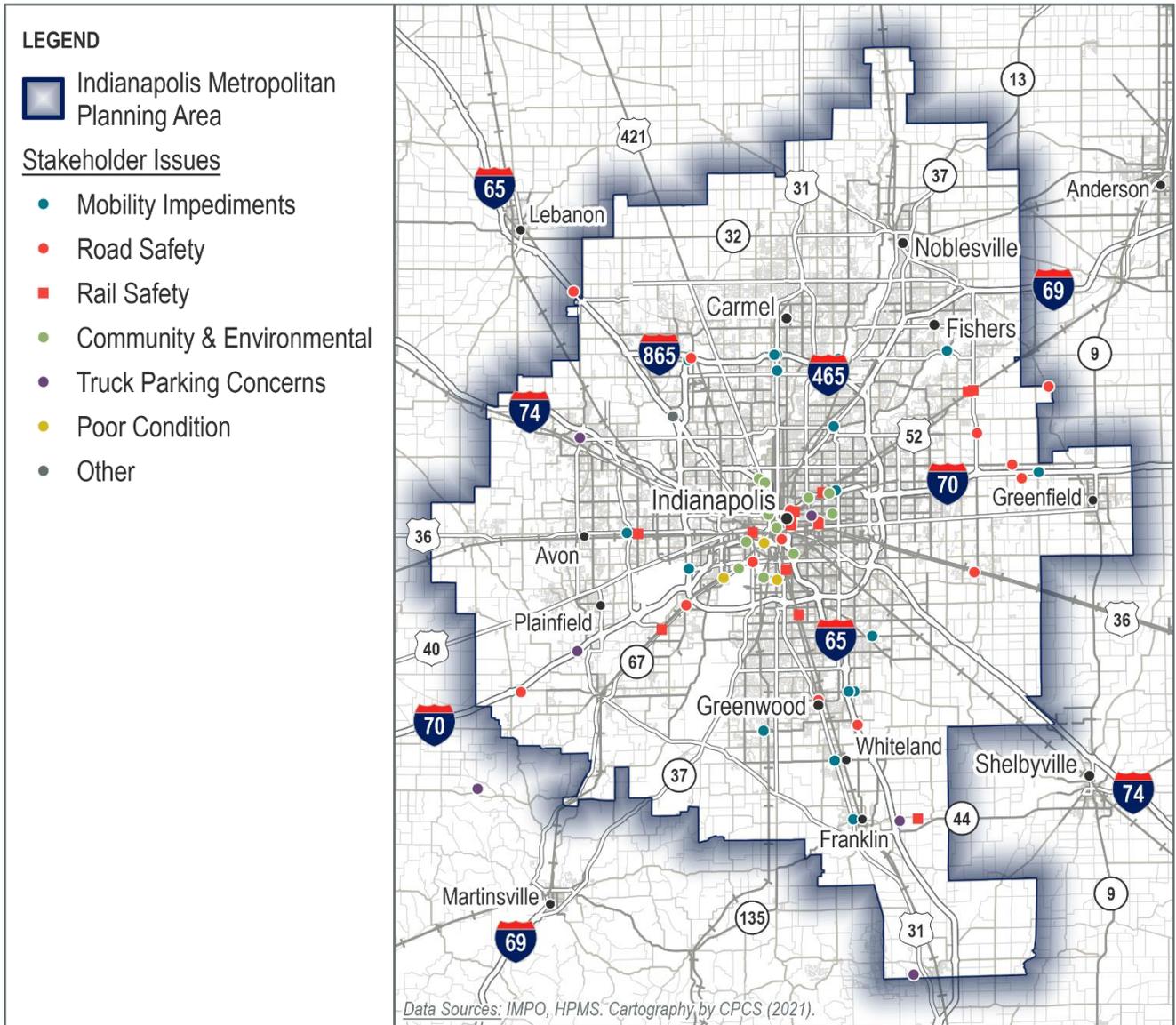
Freight System Threats: the threats identified by the participants included workforce availability and interstate congestion.

Locations of Freight Issues and Opportunities: the survey participants also identified the specific locations of freight issues and opportunities in the Central Indiana Region. There were seven category markers from which respondents could choose, one of which was an “Other” category that allowed respondents to identify their own:



The majority of issues identified by the stakeholders were related to freight mobility and road and rail safety. The map on the next page shows the locations for the freight-related issues identified by the stakeholders. As shown, the vast majority of the issues are in the downtown area or just south of downtown. There are also several freight-related issues in suburban locations. Most notably, there are several issues noted on I-65 south of the ring road and along the parallel US-31 facility and the parallel freight rail line in the same general area.

Stakeholder-Identified Freight Issues and Needs in Central Indiana



Source: CPCS, based on MetroQuest online survey results, 2021.