



On the Road to Recovery

Projects in the Indianapolis region continue their progress under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). September first brought a major deadline for communities receiving funds under the program. On this day, all projects funded by ARRA were to be turned in to INDOT Districts Offices for final review before the projects were sent to INDOT's Central Office in Indianapolis for final preparation and advertisements for bids.

The MPO has been monitoring 100 projects, of which 58 are funded projects and 42 are reserve projects. Reserve projects are ready to go and eligible to receive ARRA funding in the event that projects on the first list are not able to move forward for any reason. The plan is to fund the primary 58 projects first, then award any remaining funds to projects on the reserve list. This system will ensure that the MPO is able to obligate the total amount of ARRA funds that were allocated to the region: \$39,569,672.

All 58 primary projects were submitted to their INDOT district by the September 1st deadline, and at least 35 of the reserve projects have also been submitted. Reserve projects were accepted by INDOT Districts Offices until September 16th.

Of the ARRA projects in the Indianapolis MPO, one project in the Town of Plainfield was let to a contractor in late July and construction is expected to begin in September. The remaining projects are on schedule to receive bids from contractors in October, November, and December, with the final letting date for ARRA projects scheduled for December 9th. Following that date, any difference between the total amount of ARRA funds awarded to projects and the \$39,569,672 allocated to the MPO will be made up by funding reserve projects that will be scheduled for a January 27th letting.

Project progress will continue to be monitored by the MPO over the coming months, and another report detailing project status will be provided in the next issue of the TeMPO.

If you would like to see the lists of ARRA projects, please visit the following link to the Indianapolis MPO's website (refer to page 32 of the document) http://www.indympo.org/Plans/IRTIP/Documents/2009_3rd_Qtr_ARRA_Green_Pages.pdf



Northeast Corridor: Alternatives Analysis (AA)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement(DEIS)

The MPO, IndyGo and Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA) selected HNTB as the consultant most qualified to assist in finalizing the Alternatives Analysis and conducting the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northeast Corridor Rapid Transit Line. This phase of the project is required as part of the Federal planning process. The project is anticipated to last 12-18 months and will have several opportunities for public input.

Public participation and input is key to the transportation planning process and the MPO will make every effort to involve neighborhood groups, interested citizens, special interest groups and others interested in the Northeast Corridor.

For the latest project information, check the MPO website at www.indympo.org

IndyGo Onboard Survey

To better understand passenger trip origins and destinations and gain feedback on transit services, IndyGo, in conjunction with the MPO, will conduct an onboard survey on all fixed routes. It is anticipated that the surveys will begin on September 28th. Some riders may be asked to take the pilot survey a few weeks prior to this date for testing and training purposes.



The survey will be designed so that passengers can easily complete it before reaching their intended destinations. The survey will provide IndyGo and the MPO with valuable insight into passengers' travel patterns and experiences riding the bus. Information from the onboard survey will assist in future travel demand modeling efforts and aid IndyGo in understanding passengers' travel patterns.

"It is important for us to understand where people are coming from, and going to" said Anna M. Tyszkiewicz, MPO Principal Planner. "It allows us to gather valuable data that will be used in future transit planning." All data analysis and final reports will be completed in early 2010.



Walk to School Day - October 7, 2009

The partners of Health by Design are encouraging people to join in celebrating international Walk to School Day on October 7, 2009. Walking and biking to and from school offers tremendous potential health, environmental, and cost saving benefits. As you are likely aware, the number of students who walk and bike to school has declined dramatically in just one generation. Safe options for active transportation provide our youngest citizens a chance to engage in the neighborhoods in which they live, socialize with parents and friends, and to experience a sense of independence and responsibility.

There can be many challenges to walking and biking to school. Safety is obviously of highest priority. Maybe sidewalks and crosswalks are missing near the school or traffic is too heavy for safely biking. Perhaps most students live a significant distance away. And given Indiana weather, who knows if sunscreen, mittens, or an umbrella will be needed?

The good news is that many administrators, teachers, parents, and students have already tackled these issues and found creative solutions. More than 40 communities throughout Indiana are participating in the Safe Routes to School program. There are numerous organizations and local leaders willing to provide you the resources and support you need to join the fun.

Without question, it is Health by Design's goal for more children to walk and bike to school every day. Still, Walk to School Day provides a opportunity to raise awareness, build enthusiasm, and promote the policy and environmental changes to ensure a lasting impact.

For more information, visit www.walktoschool.org.

Newest Staff Members

The MPO has made two great additions to our staff. Jeremy Moore has joined the Multimodal Section as a Senior Planner and Erika Hinshaw has joined the Regional Planning Section as a Regional Planner.

Jeremy attended Ball State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning and Development in 2004. Prior to joining the MPO, Jeremy worked for the City of Indianapolis' Division of Planning, representing the Administrator before the Board of Zoning Appeals regarding landuse petitions, and the Division of Compliance reviewing building permits for sites throughout Marion County.

Erika recently completed her Masters of Community Planning at the University of Cincinnati. She also holds a B.S. in Geology and a B.A. in Geography and German from Indiana University. After graduating from IU, Erika served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia, West Africa, where she taught math and science at a rural middle school. While working on her master's degree, Erika worked as an intern at Over-the-Rhine Community Housing and was a Seasongood Fellow with the City of Cincinnati, working in the Office of the Mayor and the Department of Community Development.

Other Noteworthy Changes

Catherine (Cat) Griffith was recently married on September 19, 2009. Please note her new last name, Schoenherr, and email address (cschoenh@indy.gov).

The MPO recently moved to a new floor of the City County Building. The new office is now located on the 19th floor of the City County Building in Suite 1922.



ARRA: End of Year Report

The end of the year brings about notable progress for the Indianapolis MPO in regards to the numerous road projects that will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). By the end of 2009, forty-seven projects, totaling about \$22.2 million, were let to contractors. With approximately \$39.5 million total allocated to the Indianapolis MPO, over half of the funds have now been awarded to projects.

Eleven communities, including Plainfield, Fishers, Avon, Westfield, Indianapolis, Meridian Hills, Beech Grove, Noblesville, Lawrence, Southport and Greenwood, and four counties, Johnson, Hancock, Morgan and Hamilton have received funds for their projects. The one remaining letting date scheduled for primary projects is January 27th and the eleven primary projects that have not yet been awarded contractors will be let on this date.

At the end of January, the MPO focus will shift to reserve projects. Following the funding of all the primary projects, any remaining funds will be awarded to reserve projects. The MPO is maintaining a list of thirty-six reserve projects that are ready for funding, should it become available. At this point, it appears that there will be funding available for a number of these projects; however, the amount still remains to be determined. Reserve projects will be scheduled to receive bids on INDOT's final ARRA letting, which will be held February 24th.

With the end of ARRA rapidly approaching, the MPO will be busy finalizing details, compiling data, and further tracking project progress. Please look for the final ARRA report in the next edition of TeMPO, to be issued in early spring 2010. In the meantime, if you would like to see the lists of ARRA projects, please visit the following link to Indianapolis MPO's website, http://www.indympo.org/Plans/IRTIP/Documents/2009_ARRA_Amendments_all.pdf and refer to page 43 of the document.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Indianapolis MPO issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on December 14th, 2009 to solicit statements of qualifications for professional transportation planning and/or engineering services from qualifying consulting firms. The Indianapolis MPO may execute consultant contracts for all or some of the following activities in 2010 and 2011:

- 1) Air Quality Planning,
- 2) Public Education / Outreach / Marketing / Public Relations,
- 3) Multi-Modal Planning,
- 4) Freight Planning,
- 5) Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems,
- 6) Safety and Security Studies,
- 7) Long Range Transportation Plan,
- 8) Special Transportation Studies,
- 9) Traffic Counting,
- 10) Travel Demand Model,
- 11) Transportation Information Management.

The RFQs must be submitted by December 30th, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. EST to the attention of

Philip Roth, Assistant Director
Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization
200 E. Washington Street
City-County Building, Suite 1922
Indianapolis, IN 46204

An electronic version of the RFQ can be found at <http://www.indympo.org>. Questions should be directed to Philip Roth at 317.327.5149 (proth@indy.gov) or to Mike Dearing at 317.327.5139 (mdearing@indy.gov).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization is currently seeking comment on its Public Participation Plan. The Public Participation Plan is the document which provides the public participation requirements for the transportation planning process in the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area. The proposed plan is now

available on the MPO's website at http://www.indympo.org/Public/Documents/PIP_new.pdf

Public comments on the proposed Public Participation Plan may be made by phone to Anna M. Tyszkiewicz at 317.327.5487, by e-mail at atyszkie@indy.gov or by mail addressed to:

Anna M. Tyszkiewicz, Principal Planner
Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization
200 E. Washington Street
City-County Building, Suite 1922
Indianapolis, IN 46204



All comments must be received by December 29th, 2009.

MULTIMODAL WORKSHOP 2010

A multimodal workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 9th, 2010 at the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors (MIBOR) offices at 1912 N. Meridian Street. This will be a great opportunity to examine alternative modes of transportation and some ideas on how to develop a more balanced transportation system for Central Indiana. The Multimodal Task Force will work with the MPO staff to develop content for this event. Some suggested topics are the Safe Routes to School Program, Complete Streets, and the Multimodal Design Guidelines. The workshop will also include an update on MPO planning activities by MPO Staff.

The mission of the Multimodal Task Force is to establish and maintain sustainable and livable communities by facilitating collaboration between public and private entities who are interested in connecting our neighborhoods and communities within the greater Indianapolis area. This connection will be achieved through the creation and promotion of multiple modes of transportation and supporting infrastructure.



PEDAL & PARK

Tom McCain, chair of Pedal & Park, feels quite confident about sustained growth and interest looking towards the 2010 season. The Pedal & Park program continued to grow in 2009 and served both an increased number of events and number of bicyclists by expanding to a total of 16 events and recording a total of 3,949 bicycles parked. Those numbers are actually up from 2008's record setting season which saw more than a thousand additional bikes parked than the previous year.

The 2009 season opened earlier than ever, in late February, to accommodate a new event. Added this past year was the National Handmade Bicycle Show, where 277 bikes were parked over three days. CarmelFest, July 3rd and 4th, was extremely successful this year parking 549 bikes in two days, even with rain on the 4th. At each event, people park their bikes or skates for free in a fenced, continuously monitored Pedal and Park bike corral. As a program sponsor, the MPO pays \$1 per bike parked, with the proceeds shared among the participating not-for-profit organizations whose volunteers supervise the corral.

This is the eighth year the MPO has sponsored Pedal & Park bike corrals. The program was founded by the Greenways Foundation to encourage use of non-motorized transportation alternatives, promote activity on Indy Greenways, dispense relevant recreational literature, and raise funds for its partnering not-for-profit organizations. For more information or to find out how to volunteer for this great program, please visit www.pedalandpark.org.