The MPO's teMPO

The teMPO is the newsletter of the MPO. If you have a story idea for an up-coming teMPO, please send an e-mail to Jen Higginbotham. To subscribe to the MPO's email list and receive electronic teMPO editions and public meeting notices, sign up today.

2016 Annual Report

The 2016 Annual Report is now available! The Annual Report is where we describe the MPO's news and accomplishments and changes from the previous year. Check it out!

MPO UPDATES

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

The 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) completed its work on performance measure development in late 2016. The performance measures provide a snapshot of transportation metrics key to decision makers and will be used further in the 2045 LRTP planning process, likely in project screening and scenario development.

Work on the LRTP continued with county meetings, inviting local public agencies to discuss their needs and wants to 2045. The conversation produced a list of local and state projects to run through the 2045 LRTP screening process, which is the next step for the 2045 LRTP. The next steering committee meeting for the plan will be in April.

Check out the project website for more information on the LRTP update process!
Transportation Improvement Program Update

As we do every other year, the MPO is developing a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is a short-range program of projects using Federal funds within the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area. This new TIP will cover State Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021 and include illustrative projects through the end of 2022. Unlike the LRTP, the TIP only covers four years and typically only includes projects that have actual dollars programmed for their implementation. The Draft TIP is available on the project website now through April 21 for review and comment.

The MPO is also nearing the end of the State Fiscal Year and is in the process of obligating (spending) the last of our annual allocation of Federal dollars. As of March 21, all projects scheduled to go to letting have done so and $9,964,476.96 of purchase orders remain to be issued. If all goes according to plan, the MPO will have obligated (spent) it's entire annual allocation of Federal funds for the third straight year under INDOT's annual allocation policy, aka the "use it or lose it" policy. The MPO could not be successful in this effort if not for the help and cooperation of our local public agencies and our planning partners.

Transit Updates

Marion County Transit Plan
On February 27, 2017, the Indianapolis Marion County City-County Council passed the 0.25% proposed dedicated transit tax with a vote of 17-8 to implement the Marion County Transit Plan. The tax will take effect in October, and starting in 2018 will increase IndyGo's annual operating budget by $54M. This will lead to significant improvements in the frequency, hours, and days of operation for many IndyGo routes, as well as provide funding for three rapid transit lines.

Also, the recently released U.S. Department of Transportation's "Ladders of Opportunity, Transportation Empowerment Pilot, LadderSTEP, 2015-2016 Report" highlights the progress of all seven cities (including Indianapolis) that are attempting to achieve upward mobility through transportation decisions in their communities.

The Red Line
The design phase is moving right along. Though IndyGo is still waiting on Congress to pass the 2017 budget, which promises federal funding for the Red Line, IndyGo is in a good position to move the Red Line forward despite the delays, thanks to the passing of Marion County's new dedicated transit tax. Check out recent public presentations at indygo.net/redline, and keep an eye out for a new Red Line website that will keep the public informed of the project's progress, design schematics, and construction schedule.

Regional Transit Planning
Indy Connect held three educational transit workshops in March in Carmel, Greenwood, and Lawrence. Residents from all over Central Indiana participated, learned much about how transit works, and had fund doing it!
Also, CIRTA recently updated their website to make it easier for users to find transportation connections throughout Central Indiana. Head over and give it a whirl!

**Awards**
Indy Connect and the MPO won three Hoosier Planning Awards in March 2017!

- The Indianapolis MPO received the Award for Outstanding Economic Development for the Central Indiana TOD Strategic Plan
- Indy Connect won the Honorable Mention for Outstanding Transportation Plan for the Central Indiana Transit Plan
- Indy connect won the Honorable Mention for Outstanding Outreach and Communication for the Marion County Transit Plan

**Latest News from the IRTC**

At the February meeting, the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council (IRTC) Policy Committee:

- Nominated and voted for the membership of the IRTC Administrative Committee moving forward. New members include Boone County, the City of Fishers, and the Town of Whiteland. Members that did not change include the City of Beech Grove, the Town of Avon, IndyGo, the City of Greenwood, the City of Westfield, and the City of Indianapolis. The purpose of this nine-member committee is to serve as a sounding board for MPO staff on issues that will be presented to the IRTC during official meetings for public hearing and approval.
- Approved a resolution to amend the MPO’s Unified Planning Work Program (the MPO’s budget).
- Held a public hearings for and approved amendments to (1) the current Long Range Transportation Plan to include a second phase of SR 37 improvements in Hamilton County between 146th Street and SR 32, and (2) the Transportation Improvement Program for Avon and Indianapolis projects.
- Heard from Director Anna Gremling who noted that the MPO will likely have unused federal funding in 2017 as a result of INDOT’s annual allocation policy, so the MPO plans to use it to pay down debt for a recent federal funding exchange agreement with INDOT on the 96th and Keystone project.
- Approved funding for seven local planning projects that will be funded this year.
- Passed a resolution encouraging the Statehouse to adopt a long-term dedicated transportation funding source.
- Heard an update on the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which is currently involved in a call for projects to include in that plan. Staff are also now looking toward scenario creation and project screening methodology creation.
- Discussed the recommended projects list for the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The recommended project list will be up for approval from the Policy Committee.
during the May 24, 2017 IRTC Policy Committee meeting.

Complete Streets Updates

**MPO's Complete Streets Policy**
The MPO issued a call for projects for funding in 2022. This call for projects was the third under the MPO's Complete Streets Policy. The policy requires that Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects within the urbanized area (UZA) include a sidewalk or multi-use path on at least one side of each proposed road improvement, or bike lanes, with some allowable exceptions.

In the 2022 call for projects, all 15 of the recommended projects that are required to comply with the policy comply. Collectively, they propose 1.4+ miles of new sidewalk, 8.2+ miles of new multi-use path, 16 new crosswalks, 38 new ADA accessible ramps, 6 median pedestrian refuges, 1 road diet, and three of the projects propose amenities like pedestrian-scaled lighting, street furniture, bicycle racks, etc. MPO staff will continue to track and monitor compliance to the Complete Streets Policy.

**Dangerous by Design**
The 2016 version of "Dangerous by Design" was released in January 2017. There have been three versions so far: 2011, 2014, and 2016. The Indianapolis-Carmel region's "Pedestrian Danger Index" has gone from 63.5 to 72.9 to 69.9. In 2016, our region ranked as the 50th most dangerous for pedestrians out of 104 regions in the United States. The lowest score was 13.5 in Colorado Springs. Meanwhile, the State of Indiana ranked 22nd most dangerous of the 50 states, with a "Pedestrian Danger Index" of 46.3 in 2016. The safest state was Vermont with a score of 11.4.

INDOT Updates

**INDOT STIP Review - Public Meetings**
Attend a district meeting to learn what projects are listed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for fiscal years 2018 - 2021, as well as key planning documents and information related to a variety of INDOT programs and initiatives. This is an excellent opportunity to speak with agency team members representing a number of INDOT programs. Contact the INDOT Office of Public Involvement with questions: Rickie Clark rclark@indot.in.gov.

- Tuesday, March 28, 2017 - Seymour District Office, 185 Agrico Lane, Seymour, Indiana from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (local time)
- Thursday, March 30, 2017 - Crawfordsville District meeting to be held at Crawfordsville Public Library, 205 South Washington, Crawfordsville, Indiana from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (local time)
- Thursday, April 13, 2017 - Greenfield District meeting to be held at INDOT Traffic Management Center, 8620 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, Indiana from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
**INDOT Rebuilding Six Bridges on I-65 (south side)**

Six I-65 bridges will be rebuilt over I-465 and Lick Creek on the south side of Indianapolis. Work on the bridges, which were originally built in 1963, is anticipated to begin in March. Drivers should prepare for future 150-day ramp closures. **Subscribe** to receive text and email alerts about INDOT projects, or learn about highway work zones and other traffic alerts at [indot.carsprogram.org](http://indot.carsprogram.org), 1-800-261-ROAD (7623) or 511 from a mobile phone.

**I-69 Section 6 - Draft EIS Published for Public Comment**

The final leg of [Interstate 69 from Evansville to Indianapolis](http://www.in.gov/indot/pressreleases) is one step closer to reality. The **Tier 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is now available for public review and comment online and at several locations, as noted in this announcement. Comments are due by May 8, and may be submitted via the [online comment form](http://www.in.gov/indot/pressreleases) or by mail to the I-69 Section 6 project office, 7847 Waverly Road, Martinsville, IN 46151. INDOT will incorporate comments and refine the Draft EIS, which recommends a preferred route for the highway, exit and overpass locations, estimates the potential impact of the highways on homes, businesses, and natural resources, and identifies mitigation measures.

INDOT will also host two public meetings. Open houses will begin at 5:30pm with formal presentations and comment periods at 6:30pm.

- Thursday, April 6th, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Perry Meridian High School, 401 W. Meridian School Rd. in Indianapolis
- Monday, April 10th, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Martinsville High School, 1360 E. Gray St. in Martinsville

Special accommodations (interpreters, signers, readers, or large print) will be made with advance notice given to Rickie Clark, INDOT Office of Public Involvement, 317-232-6601, rclark@indot.in.gov.

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**OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES**

**USDOT Responds to Overwhelming Criticism of Congestion Rule**

Check out a [40-minute webinar](http://www.in.gov/indot/pressreleases) on the four changes below:

- FHWA removed peak travel reliability measure (which focused on the difference between speeds in the middle of the night and rush hour).
- FHWA added a "person-hours" measure of delay, which will consider how many people are using the road (walking, driving, using transit, etc.) instead of just how many vehicles are delayed.
- FHWA added a new carbon dioxide emissions measure to track the percent change in CO2 emissions generated by on-road mobile sources on most bigger roadways.
- FHWA added a new multimodal measure - the portion of non-single occupant vehicle travel.

**Stop. Trains Can’t.**

In January, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Railroad Administration launched a [new railroad crossing safety ad campaign](http://www.in.gov/indot/pressreleases). Check out the website for a video: part of a two-year, focused effort to reverse the uptick in railroad crossing fatalities. Its message is simple: Stop. Trains can’t.

**All Transportation is Local: A Field Guide for City Leaders**
Local officials can hold a lot of influence over transportation in their communities. **This handbook** outlines practical steps that local elected officials can take right away to improve their transportation systems and make their cities better places to live, work, and visit.

**Preparing for Aging Populations in America’s Cities**
The AARP and the U.S. Conference of Mayors released a report on how cities across the Nation are preparing for their aging populations. The report summarizes the results of a survey of city leaders that tried to identify the resources, infrastructure, and policy changes that are needed to make cities more livable so that residents can choose to age in place.

**The Effect of High-Visibility Enforcement on Driver Compliance With Pedestrian Right-of-Way Laws (4-year follow up)**
This report includes data on a 4-year follow up to a report on the effects of using High-Visibility Enforcement on Driver Compliance With Pedestrian Right-of-Way Laws. Results of the observational follow-up study indicated that "the increase in yielding percentages seen in the original study not only persisted but also increased further as measured during the follow-up period." Check out the full report for details.

**Getting from Vision Zero Plan to Vision Zero Progress**
On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, the PBIC will host a webinar about approaches for overcoming challenges and implementation success stories for Vision Zero policies and plans. Speakers from the New York City Department of Transportation and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency will talk about the importance of collaboration, building a plan, and setting yourself up for success.

**Recreational Trails Program 2017 Achievement Awards**
The Coalition for Recreational Trails will be presenting its 19th annual Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards in Washington, D.C. on June 14th during Great Outdoors Month®. This awards program recognizes outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. American Trails makes a web page for each winning project. See the over 100 award pages created since 2003. Project award categories include: maintenance and rehabilitation; construction and design; public-private partnerships and access to public lands; community linkage; education and communication; accessibility enhancement; multiple-use management and corridor sharing; accessibility enhancement; youth conservation/service corps and community outreach; engaging public-sector partners; and enhancement of federal lands. Nominations are due by April 13, 2017.

**UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES**

All upcoming meeting dates of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council and its Committees can be found on the **MPO's website**. All locations are accessible by public transportation.

- **Administrative Committee** - April 28, 2017, at 9 AM at IndyGo's Administrative Office, 1501 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46222
- **Technical Committee** - May 10, 2017, at 9 AM at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- **Policy Committee** - May 24, 2017, at 9 AM at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- **Joint Technical & Policy Committee** - June 14, 2017, at 9 AM at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

**STAY CONNECTED**
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The MPO's teMPO
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MPO UPDATES

Moving On Up!

The MPO has a new home in the City-County Building - same street address, different floor. Due to a city department that needed to expand into the MPO's old space, the MPO has moved up from the 19th to the 23rd floor! The move gives our staff a chance to take advantage of a larger conference room space and a better office layout. Feel free to stop by and say hello!

Our new mailing address will be:

Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization
200 East Washington Street, Suite 2322
Indianapolis, IN 46204
MPO Receives National Award

We’re pleased to share that the MPO was selected as the recipient of the Excellence in MPO Coordination and Partnership Award from the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).

Executive Director Anna Gremling attended the fall AMPO conference to receive the award. The MPO is proud of its coordination efforts and strong partnerships, and would like to thank our many partner agencies, especially IndyGo and the Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA) who were the particular partners mentioned in the award application. Thank you!

Long Range Transportation Plan

We’re in the final stretch of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)!

The MPO hosted 15 community meetings on the recommendations of the LRTP in September. That feedback was incorporated into the final draft 2045 LRTP that is available for public comment through November 8.

On December 13, there will be a public hearing on the plan at the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council (IRTC)’s December meeting, and the draft will be up for approval by the IRTC. Check out the project website for more information on the LRTP update process!

Pavement Condition Data Collection

From August 2 - September 30, two vans from Data Transfer Solutions (DTS) canvassed Marion County’s major road network to collect data on pavement conditions. The vans covered approximately 1,100 centerline miles, or 2,330 lane miles. Pavement condition data for these segments was last comprehensively collected in 2009.

Now that the raw data has been collected, the task to assigning pavement condition ratings for the collected data is underway. Completion is expected by the end the year. The pavement condition scores will be loaded into the DPW’s pavement management system and into the MiTIP...
regional pavement data repository. This scored data will provide the basis for 5-year and 10-year pavement rehabilitation/resurfacing/repair programs.

**MPO Talks Autonomous Vehicles**

On October 5, nine MPO staff members visited the [IUPUI Transportation Active Safety Institute](https://www.iupui.edu/) to learn about their research into the current performance of and future opportunities for autonomous vehicles.

Following that was a summit, held on October 26, and hosted by the MPO, on the topic of autonomous vehicles and the impact that this new technology could have on Central Indiana. There were many great speakers and about 60 people attended. We all learned much about the future of automated transportation and our team looks forward to applying our new knowledge to transportation planning in Central Indiana!

**Transit Updates**

**Staff Present During Webinar**

On October 25, Jen Higginbotham, AICP, and Taylor Firestone of the MPO presented to an online crowd of 500. The presentations focused on public input for the Let's Talk Transit surveys in Hamilton and Johnson counties, and public engagement for the Near North Village Center study. Check out the recording!

**The Coordinated Plan**

The Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update (aka Coordinated Plan) was approved at the October 25, IRTC Policy Committee meeting. This plan includes asset inventories, goals, and recommendations for Central Indiana's transit providers, particularly those seeking Section 5310 federal grant funding for vehicles and other assets that allow them to serve the transportation needs of their communities' older population and those with disabilities. You can check out the final plan on the project website.

**Latest News from the IRTC**

Since the February meeting, the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council (IRTC) Policy Committee:

- Approved 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarter Amendments to the 2016-2019 [Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP)](https://www.tri-indy.org/)
- Approved the 2018-2021 IRTIP
- Approved 2018 IRTC Membership Dues
- Approved a Summer Amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Approved an amendment to the MPO’s 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Approved the MPO’s 2018 UPWP
Approved the updated Coordinated Public Transit/Human Services Plan
Approved a list of ten local planning studies that will move forward in ranked order as funding becomes available.

MPO Staff Updates

- Kristyn Campbell married in September and is now Kristyn Sanchez. Her new email address is Kristyn.Sanchez@IndyMPO.org. Her phone number hasn’t changed.
- Nathaniel Simmons has joined our team as a graduate assistant for the 2017-2018 school year.

UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

All upcoming meeting dates of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council and its Committees can be found on the MPO’s website. All locations are accessible by public transportation.

- Administrative Committee - December 1, 2017, at 9 AM at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- Joint Technical & Policy Committee - December 13, 2017, at 9 AM at the Hornet Park Community Center, 5245 Hornet Ave, Beech Grove, IN 46107

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