There will be a public hearing at the February 20 meeting of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council for an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Review or comment on the amendment

INDOT Unveils "Trucks Park Here" System

INDOT has announced the launch of the Trucks Park Here system, a multi-state, regional effort to make interstate travel safer by creating a network of safe, convenient parking areas for truckers. Learn more.

IndyGo's Fare Modernization

IndyGo is developing an account-based ticketing solution that will allow passengers to move across IndyGo services including local fixed route transit service, bus rapid transit service and paratransit service. Learn more.

Carmel Roundabouts

Carmel residents really love their roundabouts and
can give you lots of reasons why. Natalie Conteras of IndyStar details the benefits of the circular intersections. Learn more.

**UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES**

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What is the MPO?
2045 LRTP Amendment #2 for Public Review and Comment

A proposed second amendment to the 2045 LRTP will be available for public review and comment from January 21 - February 4. It will also be considered for approval at the February 20 IRTC Meeting. Click here to review the amendment.

MPO Contract Opportunities

We've posted six RFQs for health benefits consulting, human resources services, legal services, office space / real estate assistance, and retirement benefits consulting, and for assistance with identifying and planning for regional centers. Learn more.

Project Funding Opportunities

There are two statewide trail funding opportunities available:

- **Next Level Trails** - The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is investing $90M for regionally and locally significant trails. Applications due February 15.
- **Tactile Urbanism** - The Indiana State Department of Health is providing funding to build quickly implemented, low-cost projects supporting safe physical activity. Applications due February 20.

INDOT Statewide Corridor
Planning Study Survey

Offer your input and take part in the INDOT's Statewide Corridor Planning Study. The information received during this study will help with future decisions concerning the INDOT's 2018 – 2045 Long Range Plan. Take the survey here.

New IndyGo Training Facility

IndyGo plans to invest $4 million for a new training and licensing facility on Indy’s north side as they prepare to bring in new buses and drivers for the planned expansion of transit throughout Marion County. Learn more.

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Public Involvement Plan comments due February 1

The comment period for the proposed update to the MPO's Public Involvement Plan (PIP) closes February 1. Click here to review or comment on the plan.

Vision Zero: Why does it matter?

In December 2018 the IRTC passed a resolution supporting Vision Zero principals. Vision Zero is a movement that strives to improve safety for all transportation users, with the ultimate goal of reducing all transportation-related serious injuries and deaths to zero. Check out this video to understand why and click here to learn more about vision zero.

2019 Paint the Plow

INDOT invites middle or high school art classes/programs to paint an INDOT snow plow blade with original artwork to represent their school. In addition to being seen in full service during the winter weather months, the blades may be used at events within the school’s community to enhance public awareness, promote safety and foster greater appreciation of both INDOT and the school’s art program. Learn more.

Public Comment Requested for IndyGo
Proposed Fare Change

IndyGo invites the public to review and comment on the proposed fare policy changes to go into effect spring 2019. Learn more.

Staff Spotlight: Nick Badman

As he was growing up, Nick Badman’s Air Force family moved around quite a bit, but he considers home to be Beavercreek, Ohio (“a safe, quiet suburb with not a lot going on”). He spent formative years there before going on to Bowling Green State University where, in an environmental planning course that taught him about active transportation and low-impact development, he caught the planning bug. Nick is now in the MPO’s planning section. Here’s some Q&A so you can get to know him better.

Pets? Two cats: Oliver (a Maine Coon Mix) and Portland (a Tuxedo cat).
Favorite author, musician, actor or pro athlete? Mel Brooks, who has written, directed and produced hilarious, timeless content that I have watched with my family since I was young.
Heroes growing up? My parents. The experiences they exposed me to created the path I pursue today, especially working in public service.
Favorite place to visit or vacation? New York City. I love everything about it. The subway, all the different kinds of food, the parks and the architecture are probably my top four reasons for loving to go there.
Most important recent trend in planning? The return to the urban center. Not only does it revive once-dilapidated spaces and reduce sprawl, it also influences how suburban centers should develop or redevelop to keep pace with consumer demand.
If you could wave a wand and improve Central Indiana infrastructure, what would you do? I would ensure that all roads have appropriate Complete Street infrastructure.
If you could change one thing about the way Indianapolis has grown over the years, what would it be? I would probably retain and improve the Indy area of the Interurban Rail System. It would have provided a great base for a mass transit where local service could grow, as well as connections to other regional cities.

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What is the MPO?
RFQs Posted

The MPO has reissued RFQs for Health Benefit Consulting and Retirement Benefits Consulting services. Questions for the requests are due to the MPO by February 8th and the deadline for responses are due February 22nd. Visit the MPO’s Contract Opportunities page for more information.

Media Advisory: INDOT 18-month Construction Letting List

INDOT has released list of scheduled construction projects over the next eighteen months. Click here to view a complete list of all projects, including location, contract number, type of work, and more.

Cold Weather Travel Tips

In response to the frigid temperatures that fell over the region over the past couple days, Indianapolis MPO Executive Director Anna Gremling has posted a video on the MPO Facebook page on travelling in cold weather. Learn more.

Biking in the US: 2018

People for Bikes has released a report on the state of cycling in the United States for 2018, including design...
preferences to increase cycling commutes, bike safety statistics, and methods for creating high quality bike networks. Learn more.

Legislative Roundup

The Indianapolis MPO received a report on important transportation legislation that was introduced at the Indiana Statehouse that affects both the organization and its members. Below is a select list of bills and brief descriptions.

HB1326: Classification of Electric Bicycles

Defines the term "electric bicycle" as a bicycle equipped with: (1) operable pedals; and (2) an electric motor with a power output not greater than 750 watts. Provides that an electric bicycle is not a motor vehicle. Provides that the operator of an electric bicycle is: (1) subject to all of the duties; and (2) entitled to all of the rights and privileges; of a bicycle operator. Provides that an electric bicycle shall be regulated as a bicycle. Provides certain exceptions. Exempts the operator of an electric bicycle from motor vehicle statutes concerning: (1) driver's licenses; and (2) financial responsibility. Exempts electric bicycles from motor vehicle statutes concerning: (1) certificates of title; (2) registration; and (3) off-road vehicles. Requires manufacturers and distributors of electric bicycles to affix and prominently display a label with the following information on each electric bicycle: (1) The class level of the electric bicycle. (2) The top assisted speed of the electric bicycle. (3) The total power output of the electric bicycle's electric motor. Requires all electric bicycles to comply with certain requirements adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. Requires all electric bicycles to be equipped with an electric motor that disengages or ceases to function when the operator: (1) stops pedaling; or (2) applies brakes. Specifies where electric bicycles may be operated. Allows a local authority or state agency with jurisdiction over a trail, bicycle path, or multipurpose path to regulate the use of electric bicycles on a trail, bicycle path, or multipurpose path subject to the local authority's or state agency's jurisdiction. Prohibits a person less than 15 years of age from operating certain electric bicycles. Allows a person less than 15 years of age to ride as a passenger on certain electric bicycles. Requires a properly fitted and fastened helmet capable of meeting certain safety standards to be worn by certain individuals when operating or riding on certain electric bicycles. Defines certain terms. Makes conforming amendments.

HB1364: I-65 and I-70 in Indianapolis

Prohibits the Indiana department of transportation (INDOT) from changing the location of the downtown corridor of I-65 and I-70 if the changes include above grade walls and additional lanes. Requires INDOT to consider increasing: (1) connectivity between neighborhoods and areas of commerce that are divided by the downtown corridor; and (2) opportunities for economic development surrounding the downtown corridor; when developing plans to change the location of the downtown corridor. Requires plans for changing the location of the downtown corridor to be submitted to the interim study committee on roads and transportation (committee). Requires the committee to review the plans for compliance and provide recommendations to the governor. Requires INDOT to consider recommendations from the committee.

HB1365: Central Indiana Transportation Projects

Repeals the prohibition that prevents certain counties from: (1) purchasing; (2) leasing; (3) acquiring; (4) constructing; or (5) operating a light rail project. Makes a conforming amendment.

SB89: Safe Distance for Overtaking Bicycles

Requires the driver of a vehicle, when passing a bicycle that is proceeding in the same direction as the vehicle, to maintain...
a safe distance of at least three feet between the vehicle and the bicycle. (A violation of this requirement is a Class C
infraction under IC 9-21-8-49.)

SB145: County Vehicle Excise and Wheel Tax Exemption

Provides that the fiscal body of a city or town may adopt an ordinance declaring that a vehicle registered in the city or
town is exempt from the county vehicle excise tax and the county wheel tax (nonparticipating municipality). Provides that
a nonparticipating municipality does not receive a distribution of county vehicle excise tax revenue or county wheel tax
revenue.

SB285: Public Transit Funding

Allows counties to impose an additional local income tax rate to fund the operations of a public transportation
corporation and the operations of a rural transportation assistance program. Provides that the rate must be adopted by
the county council and must be at least 0.1% but not more than 0.25%. Excludes from this provision any county that is
eligible to hold a referendum on funding transportation projects under the central Indiana public transportation projects
statute.

SR14: Urging the Legislative Council to Establish a Study Committee to Study
Issues Related to the Regulation of Railroad Crossings

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to establish a study committee to study issues related to the regulation
of railroad crossings.

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What is the MPO?
Public Comment is Open for 1st Quarter TIP Amendments

Proposed amendments to the 2018-2021 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program are now being offered for public review and comment. All comments should be received by February 19th, 2019. Click here for more information.

RFQ Posted: Scenario Planning

As the Indianapolis MPO begins work on Central Indiana’s 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), there is interest in developing scenarios for future growth that include land use and transportation choices. The intent is for these scenarios to guide policy decisions for the LRTP (or policy options lead to development of scenarios) and potentially influence the scoring of projects included in the LRTP. Learn more.

INDOT Winter Ops: Prepare for Slick Roads

INDOT has released a notice warning drivers in the state that after heavy rains and a temperature plunge to the low teens, flash freezing may cause black ice and hazardous conditions. Learn more.

AP: Indiana Ports See A Big Jump in Cargo Shipments

The Associated Press released a report showing that Indiana’s three major ports in Mount Vernon, Jeffersonville,
and Burns Harbor handled a record amount of cargo, mostly due to increases in steel, coal, soy, and grain. Learn more.

Indy MPO Agreement with InfoUSA Provides Business and Employment Data for Members

The Indianapolis MPO has contracted with InfoUSA for Business and Employment Data in 2019 and this includes access for our member communities. InfoUSA’s U.S. Business database contains information for 54 million businesses. Their business information is compiled from various sources (including telephone directories, business magazines, trade publications, and newspapers) and then it is phone verified. Available information includes company name, phone number, address, NAICS Codes, number of employees, sales volumes, and business expenditures to name just a few.

Please contact Jennifer Dunn to get set up with a username and password for the InfoUSA website. We can also assist with setting up an online tutorial.

Staff Spotlight: James Rinehart

Since his first time riding a city bus in kindergarten, Fort Wayne native James Rinehart has been drawn to transit. Little did he know it would become his job. James discovered planning after earning a bachelor’s degree in history at IUPU Fort Wayne when a former professor suggested he consider studying it in grad school. He went on to earn a master’s in urban and regional planning from Ball State University. Here’s some Q&A so you can get to know him better.

**Hobbies?**
Hiking, cycling and cooking.

**Pets?**
One dog, Molly; and one cat, Charlotte.

**Heroes growing up?**
I admired my undergraduate advisor. He was a world-renowned scholar in his field, but never acted like it. I appreciated that the most about him.

**Favorite place to visit or vacation?**
Germany and Ireland.
Most underappreciated aspect of planning?
Data analysis is a really important part of planning that does not always get the recognition it should. Design and policy are routinely taught in planning school without a lot of emphasis on quantitative analysis. Data helps inform policy makers and design experts about the planning needs of a community.

Most important recent trend in planning?
The return to more urban neighborhoods has been an important trend in recent years. The trend has led to investments in alternative modes of transportation (trails, multi-use paths, better transit), as well as economic development opportunities in urban areas.

What is the best-planned city in America?
What draws me to a city is its transit system. So, Chicago, Boston and Washington, D.C., are three of my favorites, but I don’t believe they are necessarily the best planned cities.

If you could change one thing about the way Indianapolis has grown over the years, what would it be?
The disinvestment in transit is what I would change. There were several decades where Indianapolis reduced the transit network. I’m glad it’s being addressed now.

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The MPO 2018 Annual Report has Been Published

The latest issue of Indy MPO’s Annual Report has been published for the public. Take a look at the major projects and changes that have happened at the MPO over the past year by viewing the document on Issuu.

Employment Opportunity: Transportation Planner

The Indianapolis MPO has an open position for a Transportation Planner to join the Long-Range Planning Section. Applicants must apply online by February 18th. View the job description here.

IndyGo: Red Line Construction Ramping Up

IndyGo is accelerating the Red Line construction schedule in order to open the city’s first bus rapid transit line by the end of the summer. Learn more.

Strong Towns: Effects of Eliminating Parking Minimums

Sandpoint, Idaho had a parking problem downtown; buildings were being demolished to make way for required parking spaces. However, after eliminating one line of zoning code, the city found that eliminating parking minimums for development led to an increase in jobs and millions in added value. Learn more.
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INDOT: Ditch Road Bridge Closing

INDOT is replacing the Ditch Road bridge over I-465. The bridge is scheduled to be completely closed from March 4th to September 30th. Follow the link for more information and the posted detour.

Image Credit: Google Maps.

Avon Town Manager Earns Award

On February 20th, Avon Town Manager Tom Klein received the Cause-Driven Leadership Award for Social Responsibility from the Hendricks Regional Health YMCA. This award recognizes volunteer leaders that work to fulfill the YMCA mission that all can learn, grow and thrive regardless of age, income, or background. Tom is a member of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council Administrative and Policy Committee. Congratulations Tom!

Fifth Section of I-69 Nearly Complete; Final Construction to Begin in March

Section Five of I-69, connecting Bloomington to Indian Creek, is nearing completion. Work on the sixth and final section is set to begin in March, connecting Martinsville to the south side of Indianapolis. Construction is set to be completed by 2024. Learn more.
Indianapolis MPO will be Hosting Sessions at the 2019 Neighbor Power Indy Event

Deputy Director Sean Northup, Senior Planner Rose Scovel, and Special Projects Planner Taylor Firestine will be facilitating sessions at Neighbor Power Indy 2019. Learn more.

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RFQ Posted: Suburban Transit Planning

The Indianapolis MPO has published a call for RFQs for suburban transit planning. The project will assist the MPO, IndyGo, and suburban planning departments in continued facilitation of the Central Indiana Transit Plan. The work would focus on transit planning in up to four suburban communities. Responses are due by April 10, 2019. Learn more.

INDOT is Hosting Public Open Houses for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a federally mandated four year funding and scheduling document for surface transportation projects in Indiana. For locations and dates of the public open houses, visit the calendar of events here.

$15 Million Equitable TOD Launched

To promote inclusive growth in Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Cinnaire, and JP Morgan Chase are partnering with the City of Indianapolis and other financial institutions, to launch the first equitable transit-oriented development. Learn more.

Spotlight: Jen Higginbotham, AICP

Jen is a Principal Planner in the MPO’s Long Range Transportation Planning Division. After graduating from Ball State and working in the private sector, Jen Joined the MPO.
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What is the MPO?
Indianapolis MPO announces Winners of Transportation Prize for Butler Arts Center Competition

The Indianapolis MPO funded a small award for the Butler Arts Center Scholastic Art and Writing Competition to increase transportation planning exposure and interest to youth. The Scholastic Awards are open to teens in grades 7 – 12 from public, private, or home schools. Over 350,000 works across 29 categories of art and writing were accepted into the competition. The MPO selected two submissions for the award: Street View (Above, Digital Art Category, Malaya Lee of Greenwood) and The Wanderer (Below, Photography Category, Alyona Rosenthal of Columbus).

INDOT Kicks off 2019 Next Level Roads Season

Governor Holcomb and INDOT kicked off the 2019 Next Level Roads construction season last week. Over 1,100 highway projects funded with over $2 billion of state funding will be completed this season, as a part of a larger plan that allocates over $30 billion in the next 20 years. INDOT will also release $140 million to address winter damage, including repaving portions of I-465.

Learn more.
Ford's City:One Challenge Comes to Indianapolis

Ford and the City of Indianapolis have partnered to launch the Indianapolis City:One Challenge to address issues of mobility in the city. Ford and local collaborators will provide up to $100,000 for testing of promising ideas through a pilot program. If you would like to provide an idea for the program, click here.

First Round of 2019 Community Development Block Grants Open for Applications

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has announced that the first round of 2019 CDBG grants are open for application. A video overview of the application can be viewed here. Round one proposals are being accepted until May 3 at 4:00 PM.

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2020 - 2023 IRTIP Public Review and Comment

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is offering a DRAFT of the 2020-2023 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP) for public review and comment now through May 5th. Click here to review the draft.

IndyGo: Red Line Progress by the Numbers

Did you know that as of April 1, IndyGo had replaced over 14,000 linear feet of sidewalk and installed over 200 ADA curb ramps? For more numbers like these learn more.

ESN Report: Emerging Mobility Technologies and Trends

Energy Systems Network, an initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, released a report examining trends at the intersection of transportation, mobility, and data. The report outlines ways communities can create more equitable and efficient transportation systems using data and technology, and includes case studies communities can learn from. Learn more.

INDOT Trash Bash

INDOT has announced that the annual Trash Bash! will take place from April 15 - 30. The event brings INDOT crews together with volunteers to clear
trash and debris from two-lane state roads. In 2018, crews and volunteers collected 3,457 bags of trash. The agency will also be increasing annual roadside maintenance from $19 million to $57 million to put more resources in cleaning and mowing along state highways. Learn more.

Arlington Tests the Future of Protected Bike Lanes

Arlington, Virginia has been testing new ways to separate cars from cyclists. The methods include testing out "Wave Delineators" and "BikeRails" instead of the traditional flex posts. These barriers were installed as part of the National Bike Summit, which the neighborhood hosted last month. Learn more.

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NEW: Crash Data Dashboard

The Indianapolis MPO has created its first public dashboard, displaying fatal and serious injury crashes in the region from 2015 to 2017. It also shows whether the victim was a vehicle occupant, cyclist, or pedestrian, and results can be filtered to each member municipality within the region. Learn more.

IndyStar: Is Indianapolis Housing Actually Affordable?

The Indianapolis Star took a dive into the challenges and opportunities facing the current housing market in the region. The article specifically mentions a Household Preferences telephone survey, which the MPO funded in 2018. Learn more.

From the Director: Riding Scooters in Central Indiana

Indianapolis MPO Director Anna Gremling created a video to share some tips on how to ride, and look out for, dockless scooter riders in the region. Watch the video here.

WFYI: Pacer Bikeshare Celebrates 5 Years
The Indiana Pacers Bikeshare is celebrating its fifth year in Indianapolis! They will be expanding their service area, rolling out 23 more stations this summer. This expansion is partially funded with $960,000 in federal funding from the Indianapolis MPO. [Listen to the WFYI interview here.]

INDOT: Watch Out for Lane Closures on South Side of I-65 This Summer

INDOT Crews will be shutting down one side of I-65 every weekend from April 26th through August to repair winter damage. The release also has a map and rough schedule of when certain parts of the highway will be closed. [Learn more.]

Staff Spotlight: Andrew Swenson, Data Planner

Andrew Swenson grew up in the Quad Cities’ Moline, Illinois, an industrial town that is home to John Deere’s international headquarters. That’s where he first rode public transit, using the “pretty good bus system,” before going on to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to study economics. He discovered a passion for planning during his last year as an undergraduate, moving to Indianapolis after earning his master’s in urban planning. Here’s some Q&A so you can get to know him better.

**Hobbies?**
Community singing as a member of my church choir the Indianapolis Arts Chorale. I also enjoy a form of German vocal art music called lieder, and I enjoy listening to Latin, bluegrass and jazz (both ragtime and jazz-fusion) and pipe organ music.

**Favorite author, musician, actor or pro athlete?**
Author: Philip Gulley (fiction and non-fiction)  
Musician: Paul Simon, Bobby McFerrin, Yo-Yo Ma, Leo Kottke  
Actor: Tom Hanks, Robert Duvall, Sally Field  
Pro athlete: Ernie Banks, John Wooden, Walter Payton

**Heroes growing up?**
Albert Schweitzer, a theologian, musician, and missionary doctor. I became aware of his work in India as a young person and have been inspired by his passion for service to humanity.
him because my grandfather was a family doctor with an interest in religion and music. Schweitzer was very accomplished in every one of his endeavors, made himself useful to others, and used as a guiding principal, a concept he called a “Reverence for Life”.

**Favorite place to visit or vacation?**
I enjoy water, so beaches, especially isolated beaches, are my favorites.

**Most underappreciated aspect of planning?**
Understanding how much development and what type of development we can afford in the long run.

**If you could wave a wand and improve Central Indiana infrastructure, what would you do?**
I would provide sub-pavement drainage for every road. Indy is a swamp.

**If you could change one thing about the way Indianapolis has grown over the years, what would it be?**
I would have focused on rebuilding Indianapolis’ county roads into urban roads with sidewalk and proper drainage infrastructure and would have worked harder to get higher density. I think the urban flight of the ’70s and ’80s pretty much made that work impossible.

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LIVE: Surveys for Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plans

The Indianapolis MPO has launched surveys for two regional plans to assess public preferences for bike and pedestrian infrastructure funding. Please provide input and distribute the links below:
https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com
https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com

FOX 59: City of Westfield Launches SafeRoads Campaign

Westfield's Mayor Andy Cook and police department are working to reduce the amount of crashes in the city by targeting distracted drivers and moving utility poles to reduce severe crashes when going off-road. Watch Fox59's video.

INDOT Public Involvement Plan Comment Period

INDOT is updating their Public Involvement Procedures (PIP). This document provides guidance to agency...
Want to Make a Difference In Indy Mobility?

Can you help identify solutions to unmet transportation needs for Indianapolis – solutions that factor in community preferences and needs? Then join The City: One Indianapolis Challenge project and help select one or more pilot projects to share up to $100,000 in funding to launch their ideas. The dates and locations of the meetings can be viewed here.

UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

Check out the MPO's Calendar for upcoming meeting dates of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council and its Committees. All locations are accessible by public transportation.

- **Technical Committee** - May 8, at 9am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- **Policy Committee** - May 22, at 9am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- **Administrative Committee** - May 24, at 8:30am at IndyGo, 1501 West Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46222
• **Joint Policy and Technical Committee Meeting** - June 12, at 9am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#)

[What is the MPO?](#)
The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is offering the proposed amendment to the 2018-2021 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program and 2020-2023 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program for public review and comment. Click [here](#) to review the documents.

### LIVE: Surveys for Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plans

The Indianapolis MPO has launched surveys for two regional plans to assess public preferences for bike and pedestrian infrastructure funding. Please provide input and distribute the links below:

- [https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com](https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com)
- [https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com](https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com)

### Musicians Needed to Perform at IndyGo Bus Stops Sept. 2-7

The Arts Council of Indianapolis, IndyGo, and Square Cat Vinyl have partnered to select Indiana-based musicians to perform at selected bus stops from September 2-7, 2019. These performances will help celebrate the opening week for the Red Line Rapid Transit bus line and the debut of route improvements throughout the IndyGo system. Applications are due June 2, 2019. Read more [here](#).

### Governor Holcomb Names First Next Level Trails Recipients

Governor Holcomb and IDNR Director Cameron Clark have announced the first recipients of funding from the Next Level Trails program. Plans for this program were first announced in December and by February, more than 80 applications were received. According to the Governor’s Office, this is the largest infusion of trail funding in state history.

Both the B&O Trail (Marion County) and Franklin Street Trail (Hancock County) received funds from this program. Read more [here](#).
FREE Transit & Disability Training Series for Indiana Transit Providers

Training opportunities are available both in person and via livestream regarding Transit and Disability. Registration is required regardless of preferred delivery. There are multiple dates and topics covered over the next couple months. For more information and to register, click here.

Bike to Work Day: May 17

Friday, May 17th is the annual Bike to Work Day! This event is designed to bring first time bicycle commuters in contact with experienced riders to lead Bike Trains to Downtown Indianapolis on safe routes from all over Central Indiana. Be sure to register here to allow for an accurate participation count, as well as find an Indy Bike Train Route. Following the commute, there will be a meet up at the Circle Monument where light refreshments will be provided.

UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

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www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up
28 Central Indiana Infrastructure Projects Receive $55.5 million in Funding

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization awarded $55.5 million in federal funding for projects that will go to bid in State Fiscal Year 2024. For more information, read the news release [here](#).

Bike Tips for Drivers: Video

Watch Director Anna Gremling's Bike Tips for Drivers video. It includes tips like the new state law, which requires three feet to be between your car and a bicyclist when passing.

*While this law goes into effect July 1, many communities throughout Central Indiana already have similar laws in effect.*

Photo: Randy Risling/Toronto Star

Surveys and Videos for Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plans are LIVE

As mentioned in previous teMPOs, the surveys will be open through June 7. Let us know what you think! [https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com](https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com) [https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com](https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com)

For each project, an overview and Q&A session video have been posted. View them and submit comments by commenting on the videos, sending an e-mail, or via direct messages on Twitter or Facebook.
UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

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[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#)
RFQs Posted: Financial Services Software & Human Resources Information System

The Indianapolis MPO has published a call for RFQs for Financial Services and Human Resources Information Systems. These RFQs are for the purpose of purchasing a cloud-based human resources information system and financial services software. Responses are due by June 19, 2019. For more information, click here.

Spotlight: Monon Trail Pedestrian Bridge in Westfield

Periodically, we will be sharing updates on projects throughout the region that have received federal funding through the MPO.

One of those projects, The Monon Trail Pedestrian Bridge, is under construction in Westfield. Expected to open in August, the bridge will allow trail users to cross SR 32 safely and also serve as an attractive gateway into the city. The project went into letting in July 2018 and received a low bid of $3,661,000. The project was funded at an 80/20 match by the MPO. Read more here.

Bike Tips for Cyclists: Video

Close out Bike Month by watching Director
LAST CHANCE: Bike and Pedestrian Plan Surveys Open until June 7

As mentioned in previous teMPOs, the surveys will be open through June 7. You only have a few days left to let us know what you think!
https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com
https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com

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Take the "Put The Phone Down" Pledge

The Indianapolis MPO strongly supports the Put the Phone Down Pledge campaign. It serves to remind all drivers that your life is worth it and distracted driving is not. Take the pledge [here](#).

Pedal & Park

There are several events in the region that participate in Pedal & Park, which allows attendees to bike (or rollerblade!) to an event and park for free! These are great opportunities to demonstrate and benefit from the advantages of non-motorized transportation. [Click here](#) for the schedule of events.

Road Closures This Weekend

INDOT will be closing portions of I-65 and I-70 near downtown Indianapolis June 7 through June 10. All closures will begin Friday at 9 p.m. and lanes will be reopened by Monday at 6 a.m. For more details, click [here](#).

We would also like to remind drivers to slow down in work zones and plan ahead. You could face some delays on Indianapolis interstates this weekend.

Staff Spotlight: Rose Scovel, AICP
Rose joined the MPO in August 2018 after working in the non-profit sector for 7 years. Prior to her non-profit work, Rose was a private sector consultant for 8 years working for a large national engineering firm and a small boutique planning firm. She holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development degree and a Master of Public Administration degree from Ball State University and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2002. Learn more about Rose here.

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What is the MPO?
City:One Challenge

Ford Motor Company has partnered with Indianapolis organizations to launch the City:One Challenge to pilot innovative ideas to solve mobility and transportation issues. The Challenge is accepting proposals through July 23 that will compete for funding up to $100,000 to pilot mobility solutions in Indianapolis! Click here for more information.

2020 U.S. Census

On April 1, 2020, the U.S. Bureau of the Census will be conducting a census of the U.S. population, one of the most important data gathering events. The IndyMPO strongly encourages all residents to participate and be counted; the MPO uses census-based data in all its operations. For more information about the Census in Indiana, click here.

SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDED: June 21st

The surveys for the regional bikeways and pedestrian plans have been extended to June 21st!
https://RegionalBikePlan.metroquest.com
https://RegionalPedPlan.metroquest.com
There are also Spanish versions available: https://planpeatonal.metroquest.com
I-65 NB/SB Full Closures

INDOT will be closing portions of I-65 northbound and southbound on the Northwest side in 15-day increments. The first closure will be on I-65 N from I-465 up to the I-865 interchange. This will begin at 9 p.m. on June 14 and will stay closed until July 1. Drivers can take I-465 N to I-865 W back to I-65 N as a detour.

I-65 SB will be closed from July 12 to July 29 on the Northwest side. Drivers can take I-865 E to I-465 S back to I-65 S as a detour. For more information about both closures, click here.

UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

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Learn About Local Transit at These Festivals

Have questions about local transit options and future plans in Greenwood, Carmel, or Westfield? Stop by the Central Indiana Transit Plan booth to learn more!

- **Greenwood Freedom Festival** - Craig Park - June 29, 1-10:30 pm
- **CarmelFest** - One Civic Square - July 3, 3-10:30 pm & July 4, 12-10:30 pm
- **Westfield Rocks the Fourth** - Grand Park - July 4, 2-10:30 pm

New School Bus Radar System Would Help Prevent Tragedies

New safety equipment for school buses is being tested in five states, including the Clark-Pleasant School Corporation, which serves Whiteland, New Whiteland, Franklin and Greenwood. The "Predictive Stop Arm" gives a verbal warning with flashing lights when a vehicle gets too close to the bus while the stop arm is out. It can be integrated with existing bus cameras to capture license plates of vehicles that pass the stop arm. Read more [here](#).

Public Meeting: I-465 Reconfiguration
INDOT will host a public meeting regarding the I-465 reconfiguration project in Marion County. An open house-style meeting will be conducted to gather input from local businesses, area residents, and the general public. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10 at 6:00 pm at Decatur Central High School with a brief presentation at 6:30 pm. For more information, click [here](#).

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**Spotlight: New Roundabout Coming to Beech Grove**

After a crash analysis at a key intersection in Beech Grove revealed that the number of crashes was much higher than average, local officials investigated design solutions and decided to construct a roundabout. Construction will begin in early fall on the roundabout at Arlington Avenue, Big 4 Roads, and the Churchman Bypass. The project received $1,319,200 for construction from the MPO. Learn more [here](#).

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[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org) | Newsletter Sign-up
Safe Driving During Heavy Rain and Flooding

Weather conditions impact road conditions. Because of this, drivers must be aware and educated regarding how to handle vehicles in inclement weather. Read these safety tips from the National Weather Service to stay safe while driving in heavy rain and flooding.

Construction to Begin on U.S. 40 in Greenfield

INDOT will begin construction on U.S. 40 in Greenfield on June 29. Beginning Saturday night, lanes will be permanently restricted to one lane open in each direction. INDOT will be changing the road from 4 lanes to 3. There will be one lane in each direction for moving traffic, a center turning lane, and designated bike lanes. For more information, click here.

Cycling Without Age

Cycling Without Age originated in Denmark but was brought to Indianapolis and Fishers last July. It’s a wonderful way for people who are unable to cycle by themselves to get moving and into the fresh air. Volunteers move people around town, cruising along places such as Fall Creek, the Monon, and the Cultural Trail. Volunteers are always needed to assist with rides! For more
What to Expect: Electric Buses

The Red Line's electric buses are being tested along Route 8, offering the opportunity for riders to experience what riding the Red Line will be like. For more information, like station design, how riders are responding to the new buses, and how bus drivers are being trained, read more here.

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www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up
New Ramp Allows Access to Southbound Keystone from 146th St

Motorists in and around US 31 and 146th Street now have a traffic fix that should make getting to and from the area easier. Hamilton County officials held a ribbon cutting at a new ramp that will allow access to southbound Keystone Parkway from 146th Street by traveling south on Lowe's Way. The MPO provided $4,889,200 (nearly half the project cost) in federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. For more information, click here.

City:One Challenge Innovation Networking Events

Two workshops will be held for residents and entrepreneurs to come and hear from the Ford Mobility team about the City:One Challenge and the results from community input about mobility in Indianapolis, and collaborate with others in the community. All attendees receive a $10 gift card! Make sure to register ahead of time!

- Tuesday, July 9 from 6 to 7:30pm at Tube Factory Artspace
- Thursday, July 18 from 6 to 7:30pm at Sun King Brewery

For more information and to register, click here.
LTAP Core Course: Roadway Safety

On July 31, the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is offering a free course about how to reduce crashes and improve the safety of roadways through data-driven analysis, including how to identify hazardous locations, low-cost countermeasures, typical Indiana road safety issues, and funding opportunities and requirements. For more information and to sign up for the course, click here.

IndyGo Releases Mid-Year Capital Projects Update

Since Red Line construction began in 2018, crews have been working both above and below ground to deliver the project on time. In addition to installation of more than 30 rapid transit stations thus far, construction also includes the following:

- 28 miles of resurfaced roadway
- 50,203 linear feet of curb replaced
- 30,570 linear feet of sidewalk replaced
- 25,983 linear feet of storm sewer installed
- 530 ADA curb ramps
- 34 station platforms constructed

Click here for more details.

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Video: Big Check Presentations

In 2019, the MPO allocated $55.5 million in federal funding for State Fiscal Year 2024. In honor of this, five communities - Beech Grove, Fishers, Franklin, Hamilton County, and Indianapolis - were awarded big checks, which will support transportation projects throughout Central Indiana. View the video to see the presentations or, for more details, click here.

Fishers Targets Improvements Along Allisonville Road

Several ongoing projects, and more planned, are bringing improvements and potential development to the west side of Fishers. The MPO has contributed $7,836,188 in federal funding to Fishers, some of which will be utilized for a major intersection rebuild at 116th and Allisonville Rd. Read more here.

Full Closures Planned for I-65, I-70 on the south side of Indianapolis

INDOT will be closing parts of I-65 and I-70 in response to rain delays experienced in May and June. I-65 southbound from the South
Split to I-465 starting July 12 at 9pm. The closure will last for 9 days and all lanes will reopen on Monday, July 22 by 6am. I-70 eastbound and westbound from I-465 to the South Split will be closed on July 26 at 9pm. The closure will last for 9 days and will reopen on Monday, August 5 by 6am. Click here for more information.

Webinar: Improving Intersection Safety for All Road Users

A Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) webinar will take place Friday, July 26, 12:30pm - 2pm, on how to make intersections safer for all road users. The webinar will feature examples from Pittsburgh and New York, along with information on an updated NCHRP design guide for bike and pedestrian safety at intersections and interchanges. To sign up, click here.

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www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up

What is the MPO?
IndyGo Announces Inez Evans as New President and CEO

The IndyGo Board of Directors announced Inez Evans as their new President and CEO. Evans will be replacing Mike Terry, the current President and CEO in mid-to-late August. Currently, Evans serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), where she leads 1,600 employees and oversees nearly 700 vehicles. Evans brings more than 25 years of experience to IndyGo, including the installation of bus rapid transit service (BRT) and master planning for 100% fleet electrification. Read the press release here.

MPO Deputy Director Included in Executive Leadership Series

The MPO’s Deputy Director Sean Northup has been included in the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership (SKL) Series, Class XLIV. Each year, 25 individuals are chosen because of their significant community involvement and professional achievement; their demonstrated interest in community issues; a record of participation and achievement in voluntary community activities; and their willingness to expand their leadership role in the community. Learn more here.

Internship Opportunity

The MPO is currently seeking a qualified intern for the Fall 2019 academic semester. The candidate will work part-time (no more...
than 20 hours per week) on innovative transportation projects and GIS analyses. This is a paid position. Submissions will be accepted no later than 12:00 Noon EST, Friday, August 2, 2019. For more information, click [here](#).

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**New Configurations Following Red Line Debut**

When the Red Line opens later this summer, it will impact how users interact on the roads and crosswalks. IndyGo released brief videos highlighting what it means as a transit rider and a driver along the Red Line route. College Avenue, Meridian Street, and Capitol Avenue will all have new configurations. To watch the videos and get more information regarding safety once the Red Line opens, click [here](#).

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[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#)
There will be a public hearing on August 21 for Amendment #3 to the 2045 LRTP and Transportation Conformity documentation. Click here for the public notice.

North Split Public Survey

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is preparing to reconstruct the I-65/I-70 North Split Interchange in downtown Indianapolis. The project will repair deteriorating bridges, upgrade pavement conditions, and improve traffic flow and safety within Indiana’s second-busiest interchange. INDOT released a survey, which will assist the project team in identifying and addressing potential burdens and benefits of the project on residents. The survey is available here or by phone at (317) 917-5240. Si desea recibir una copia impresa en español, envía un correo electrónico a info@northsplit.com.

VIDEO: Driving Safely Through Construction and Work Zones

Watch Director Anna Gremling’s video about driving safely through construction and work zones.
OPEN HOUSE: Monument Circle | East Market St. Reconstruction

The Monument Circle | East Market St. Phase Reconstruction Project is the complete reconstruction of East Market St. from Pennsylvania St. to Alabama St. and will correct the deteriorating condition of the roadway and ADA compliance of the sidewalks, curb ramps, and crosswalks. There will be an open house at the Indianapolis City Market at 222 E. Market St. on July 31 from 4:30pm to 6pm. The open house will go over the construction plans, potential effects to motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists, and the impacts to the Original Farmers’ Market at Indianapolis City Market. Read more here.

Project Spotlight: White Lick Trail in Avon

The White Lick Trail is a major trail-building initiative by the Town of Avon. It is designed to create a scenic, multi-use, north-south trail that follows the White Lick Creek. In total, the MPO has allocated $3,186,368 in federal funding for the project. The trail is being built in phases, and will connect the Plainfield Recreation Center to Williams Park in Brownsburg by way of Washington Park. Read more about the project here.

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- **Administrative Committee Meeting** - September 27 at 8:30 am at **IndyGo Board Room**, 1501 W Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46222
There will be a public hearing on August 21 for an amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program. Click here for the public notice.

**Back to School Means Sharing the Road**

Both drivers and cyclists need to be aware of kids getting to school, whether they are walking, biking, or riding the bus. Stay on the look out and slow down as everyone gets back to their school year commute. Read more back to school safety tips here.

**Next Level Trails**

Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources announced details of the second round of the Next Level Trails grant program, including three workshops in August for those who are interested. Up to $25 million will be awarded for regional projects and up to $5 million for local projects. The application period is between October 1 and November 1. Visit the Next Level Trails website for more information.

**Help Launch the IndyGo Red Line**

IndyGo is seeking volunteers to assist and educate riders at Red Line stations during the week of Sunday, September 1 to Saturday, September
We're on Instagram!

The MPO now has an Instagram account! Follow us [@Indy.MPO](https://www.instagram.com/Indy.MPO) to see spotlights from communities, as well as highlights about transportation in the region.

UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

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[www.IndyMPO.org](https://www.IndyMPO.org) | [Newsletter Sign-up](https://www.IndyMPO.org/newsletter-sign-up)
Cultural Trail Adaptive Bicycle Pilot Program

Adaptive bicycles are now available to ride on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. There are five different styles of adaptive bikes to meet various accessibility needs. Click here to learn more about the bikes.

SURVEY: McCordsville Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

The Town of McCordsville is seeking input from residents for their bike and pedestrian master plan. Their future plan will integrate with a larger interconnected plan that links with the Hancock County Trails Plan, the City of Fishers, and the City of Lawrence to encourage the community to bike and walk more. Take the survey here.

New Roundabout Open in Avon

The new roundabout at Avon Avenue and 150 South is now open, just in time for school to start. The MPO allocated $1,366,748 in Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding for the project. Learn more here.
Month of September

Riding the Red Line will be free for everyone during the month of September and all other IndyGo routes will be free for the first two weeks of September. Read more here. The Red Line also introduces dedicated bike lanes and new travel patterns. To learn the rules of the road, watch these animated videos.

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- **Technical Committee Meeting** - October 9 at 9:00 am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

www.IndyMPO.org  |  Newsletter Sign-up
Car Free Day Friday, September 20th

Friday, September 20th marks the 4th annual Car Free Day Indy! This event celebrates various forms of sustainable transportation. You can participate as an individual or take the corporate challenge. There will also be events and activities on September 20th, including live music and refreshments. Visit Car Free Indy to take the pledge and learn more.

VIDEO: Vanpool with CIRTA

The Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA) offers different commute options, including vanpooling. Vanpools consist of 5-15 people commuting to and from similar destinations each workday. Watch the video or click here to learn more about van- and carpools in the region to make your commute less stressful, save money, and connect with others.

RedLine Impacts on Driving

The RedLine launch is less than three weeks away and it is important for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to understand how the new configurations impact mobility throughout the RedLine corridor. This article provides information about the new travel patterns for motorists. Videos are available along with maps, Rules of the Road, and frequency information. Be sure to be attentive when traveling through the corridor and obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane rules. Don't
forget: the RedLine will be free the entire month of September!

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**Swenson Celebrates 35 Years with City**

Andrew (Andy) Swenson celebrated 35 years with the City of Indianapolis/MPO this week. Andy began his planning career as a long-range transportation planner for the Indianapolis MPO in 1984, but since 1986 has had various other positions with different Indianapolis-Marion County government agencies. Andy has been a great addition to the team, managing the Travel Demand Model, data development, and GIS resources among other tasks. Learn more about Andy [here](#).

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[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#)
Pacers Bikeshare Program Expansion

The Indiana Pacers Bikeshare will expand next month, adding 22 more stations throughout Indianapolis. On September 5th, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:00 am in Broad Ripple. For more information about the expansion project, read this article. Volunteers are also needed to assist with 275 new Pacers Bikeshare bikes. Volunteers can unbox and unpack bikes, organize bike parts, or assist with minor bike assembly. Click here to sign up.

Indiana GIS Day

The Indiana GIS Day Conference is September 17th! MPO staff members Taylor Firestine and James Rinehart will be presenting Transit Oriented Development: ArcGIS Online Map Series during the morning session. For more information and the conference schedule, click here.

Westfield places longest Monon Bridge span

On August 22nd, the City of Westfield installed a bridge span over SR 32, providing Monon Trail users a means to travel safely over SR 32 rather than
Staff Spotlight: Taylor Firestine

Taylor Firestine is a Special Projects Planner with the MPO and has been with the organization since November 2016. His primary responsibilities include developing annual reports, analytical mapping, and exercising his graphic design skills. Firestine is a native of Fort Wayne, which he describes as "Rust Belt and Corn Belt chic". He earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Urban Planning/Design from Ball State University. Learn more about Taylor here.

UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES

Check out the MPO's Calendar for upcoming meeting dates of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council and its Committees. All locations are accessible by public transportation.

- Administrative Committee Meeting - September 27 at 8:30 am at IndyGo Board Room, 1501 W Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46222
- Technical Committee Meeting - October 9 at 9:00 am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- Policy Committee Meeting - October 23 at 9:00 am at The Hornet Park Community Center at 5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107
It's Here! Red Line Debut Sept. 1 - Free All Month

The moment has arrived! Sunday, September 1st is the debut for the Red Line! Riding the Red Line is free for the entire month of September and all other IndyGo routes will be free for the first two weeks. There will be transit ambassadors at some Red Line stations throughout its first week to help educate riders and answer any questions you may have. They will be wearing light blue t-shirts with white text. Learn more about the Red Line here.

Photo: IndyStar

VIDEO: Back to School Safety

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has produced educational videos for kids promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety. Click the video to watch. FHWA also created websites with age-appropriate information for pedestrians and bicyclists. Each web page has different selections to choose from based on the age groups of the children.

Johnson County Trails Master Plan

Johnson County Trails and Aspire Johnson
County are developing a county-wide trails plan that will connect communities, parks, schools, businesses, retail and dining, and government facilities. This plan will help improve non-motorized accessibility, promote safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, and improve the quality of life in Johnson County. Find out more about the plan here.

Indianapolis MPO Staff Retreat

MPO staff members gathered at Eagle Creek recently for an all-staff retreat. The day was full of sessions to help staff step away and assess the very best ways to provide service to the region. Watch for these improvements as the MPO continues to implement the four pillars of convene, inform, plan, and fund. To learn more about what the MPO does, visit IndyMPO.org.

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- Policy Committee Meeting - October 23 at 9:00 am at The Hornet Park Community Center at 5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107
Travel Training for IPS Parents and Students

Indianapolis Public Schools and IndyGo are hosting training sessions for parents and students to learn how to ride IndyGo. The sessions will include a short presentation, riding to and touring the Julia M. Carson Transit Center, and riding back to the school. There are multiple dates and locations to choose from. To register, click here. For more information about the IPS and IndyGo Pilot Program, click here.

Photo: IndyGo

Don't Block the Box!

If you are unable to complete your turn through an intersection, don't enter the intersection! This is dangerous for other road users like bicyclists and pedestrians. Stay behind the crosswalk and the solid white line to ensure everyone's safety and mobility. To learn more about the "Don't Block the Box" campaign, click here.

Photo: austintexas.gov

Safety Workshop: Systemic Analysis & Low-Cost Countermeasures

Purdue University's Local Technical Assistance
Program (LTAP) is hosting a workshop on Systemic Analysis and Low-Cost Countermeasures in support of Local Road Safety Plans on September 24th from 10 am to 3 pm at the INDOT Transit Management Center. There is no cost to attend, but registration is limited to 50 people. To register, click here.

Central Ave Bridge is Open!

After two and a half years of being closed, the Central Avenue bridge that crosses over Fall Creek is now open! The MPO provided $5.3 million in funding for the project. The bridge underwent a complete historic restoration after many years of erosion. The bridge is now open for two-way traffic, which is different than before it was closed. Read more about this project here.

Google Maps Now Includes Biking and Ridesharing Directions with Transit

Google announced a new feature that will be included in Google Maps, where it will pair transit directions with biking and ride-sharing options. This allows users to plan trips and utilize a variety of transportation modes to get where they need to be. These features are under the "transit" tab in the app. Learn more about this feature here.

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- Policy Committee Meeting - October 23 at 9:00 am at The Hornet Park Community Center at 5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107
**Red Line Delivers a 'Sudden' Transformation for Indy**

"... but the transformation was anything but sudden. It is, in fact, the result of changes in state law, more than a decade of meetings, planning, conversations and public input."

MPO Executive Director Anna Gremling talks about what went into getting the Red Line in Indianapolis and what it means for Central Indiana in her op-ed in Inside Indiana Business. Read the op-ed [here](#).

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**Pacers Bikeshare Community Rides**

Join Indiana Pacers Bikeshare for a free community ride along the Cultural Trail and new bike lanes in downtown Indianapolis on September 27 at 6pm! Everyone will meet at the Pacers Bikeshare station on Lugar Plaza at the corner of Delaware and Washington St. There will be a quick educational session to go over group riding, riding on an active trail system, and bike riding 101. New, old, young, and experienced riders are all welcome! For more information, click [here](#).

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**INDOT Hiring Fair**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is hosting a state wide hiring event for seasonal employment on Tuesday, September 17. There are multiple locations throughout the state, all occurring from 10 am - 3 pm. Click [here](#) for more information.
Next Week is National Roundabouts Week!

Each year during the third week of September, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) celebrates National Roundabouts Week. Modern roundabouts reduce severe crashes by approximately 80 percent compared to traditional two-way stop-controlled intersections. Some communities in the region are celebrating, including Carmel! Click [here](#) for some events.

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[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org) | [Newsletter Sign-up](#)
Annual Call for Project Applications

The SFY 2025 call for CMAQ, HSIP, STBG, and TAP funding is now open. Applications are due via MiTIP by 5:00pm on Wednesday, November 27th. Learn more.

Plainfield Begins Bike Share Program

Plainfield has kicked off their new bike share program, BeWELL. This program is a partnership between local officials and Hendricks Regional Health. Fifteen bikes are available from three docking stations at the Richard A. Carlucci Recreation and Aquatic Center, Hummel Park, and Friendship Gardens. Bikes are free for the first 30 minutes and $1 for each additional half hour. Monthly and yearly subscriptions are available. Learn more here.

Open Position: Active Transportation

A part-time position is open for an active transportation intern/co-op student/graduate assistant. The position will last up to eight months with hourly compensation not to exceed a total of $10,000 over the total period of employment. Applications are due October 4th by 5:00pm. Learn more here.

Staff Spotlight: James Rinehart

Since his first time riding a city bus in kindergarten, Fort Wayne native James Rinehart has been drawn to transit. Little did he know his boy-hood passion for transit would turn into a career. James discovered planning after earning a bachelor’s degree in history at IPFW in Fort Wayne, IN when a former professor suggested he consider studying it in grad school. He went on to
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www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up
Join Our Team!

We are looking for someone to join our team as a Special Projects Planner. The deadline to apply is October 11, 2019. For more information, please click here.

RFQ: Section 5311/5307 Allocation Analysis Services

A request for qualifications for Section 5311/5307 Allocation Analysis Services has been issued by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization. This RFQ is for the purpose of finding a consultant to assist in determining the best methodology for defining urban versus rural trips based on actual transit trip data. The intent is to establish an honest and fair reporting methodology that will ensure the highest federal formula funding allocation for the Indianapolis urbanized area for Section 5307 and Section 5311 funding. Submissions are due by October 11, 2019 by 3:00 pm. For more information, click here.

MPO's Crash Data Dashboard Recognized by Esri & Two Events

Esri, an international GIS mapping software company, gave the Indianapolis MPO a shout-out for our crash data dashboard! The dashboard was also featured at GIS Day on September 17th and at the Indiana MPO Conference on September 26th. The Indianapolis MPO has several dashboards for public use and is working on many more. To see the dashboards, click here.

IndyGo Fare and Pass Changes
A 2-Hour Transfer Ticket will allow you to ride IndyGo for free within two hours of the original purchase. When you insert the ticket into the farebox, it will be time-stamped & validated for two hours! You are able to purchase the tickets on the bus, as well. Click [here](#) for more details.

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**Johnson County Economic Development Corporation Merges with Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, now Aspire Johnson County**

Members of the Greater Greenwood Chamber of Commerce and Johnson County Development Corporation (JCDC) approved a merger of the two organizations. Representatives from both organizations joined area civic and business leaders and officially launched Aspire Economic Development + Chamber Alliance. The new organization creates a stronger, more unified engine to drive economic growth in Johnson County and south of Indianapolis. For more information, click [here](#).

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- **Administrative Committee Meeting** - December 6 at 8:30 am at IndyGo Board Room, 1501 W Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46222
PUBLIC NOTICE: IRTC Sub-Committee Meeting

A sub-committee of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council (IRTC) will be meeting at 10:00 AM on Monday, October 21, 2019 at MIBOR REALTOR Association located at 1912 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 to discuss a proposal from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to exchange federal transportation funds for state funds in regards to the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP), which documents the Federally funded transportation improvements proposed for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). Click here for the public notice.

IndyGo Red Line Remains Free into November

IndyGo announced the Red Line will remain free until November 10th. This decision was made because of issues with service during the first month of operations and because it became clear that the new ticketing machines would not be fully operational by an agreed-upon deadline. For more information, click here.

Public Open House: County Road 300 South Project on Oct. 10 6-7:30pm
Boone County, the Town of Zionsville and the Indianapolis MPO are investigating the expansion and reconstruction of County Road 300 South from the Town of Whitestown/Zionsville limits to the Boone County/Hamilton County Line. The open house will present various options for alignments and potential roadway and intersection improvements and discuss other potential considerations which may be affected by the roadway project. This meeting will allow interested parties to view and comment on preliminary renderings and plans prepared by the project engineer. Read the public notice here.

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**Record Number of Submissions for Indianapolis City:One Challenge**

Over 120 proposals were submitted to the Indianapolis City:One Challenge, marking a record amount. The City:One Challenge works to put residents in the center of the conversation by having them work with private and public sectors to identify solutions that address mobility needs. One or more pilot projects will be selected to share up to $100,000 in funding to launch their proposals. For more information and to check out submissions, click here.

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**UPCOMING IRTC MEETING DATES**

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- **Sub-Committee Meeting** - October 21 at 10:00 am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202
- **Policy Committee Meeting** - October 23 at 9:00 am at The Hornet Park Community Center at 5245 Hornet Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46107
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[Facebook](#)  |  [Twitter](#)  |  [YouTube](#)
PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Hearing and Request for Public Review and Comment for the 2020-2023 IRTIP

A proposed amendment to the 2020-2023 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP) is now being offered for public review and comment. There will also be a public meeting at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the Hornet Park Community Center at 5245 Hornet Avenue, Beach Grove, IN. For more information, click here.

INDOT Public Meetings for Final Section of I-69

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will be hosting multiple public meetings to provide updates on the final section of I-69 construction between Evansville and Indianapolis. Each meeting is from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm with a presentation at 6.

- October 21 at Martinsville High School
- October 22 at Center Grove High School
- October 24 at Perry Meridian High School

Car Free Day Breaks Records

Over 1,200 people pledged to be car-free or car-lite for the 4th Annual Car Free Day Indy. This was a 70% increase in pledges from the previous year, setting a new precedent for years to come. For information on how to go car-free or car-lite more often, click here.

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[www.IndyMPO.org](http://www.IndyMPO.org)  |  [Newsletter Sign-up](#)
RFQ: Communications Assistance

A Request for Qualifications has been released by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization for Communications Assistance. This RFQ is for the purpose of assisting the MPO with communications, including media coordination, drafting releases, scripts, and other communications, point of contact with regional government public information officers, branding and image, and paid public messaging.

RFQ: Public Engagement

A Request for Qualifications has been released by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization for Public Engagement. This RFQ is for the purpose of assisting the MPO with public facilitation, coordination of meetings/booths/sponsorships/etc., partner collaboration/coordination, and engagement assistance.

To learn more about either or both RFQs, click here. To subscribe to our RFQ distribution list, click here.

City of Fishers Hiring a Planner II

The City of Fishers is hiring a Planner II to join their team. Click here for more details.

MPO Partnering with DMD and IndyGo for TOD along Blue Line

The Indianapolis MPO is partnering with the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) and IndyGo to work on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) along the planned Blue Line bus rapid transit route. Learn more here.
Adaptive Bikes Open House

Join Pacers Bikeshare at the Adaptive Bikes Open House on Saturday, October 26th! From 9:30 am to 11:30 am, attendees will be able to try out the adaptive bicycles. They are specially designed for those with mobility challenges or those who are not comfortable riding a traditional two-wheeled bike. For more event details, click here. To learn more about the adaptive bikes program, click here.

Staff Spotlight: Kristyn Sanchez

Born and raised in Indianapolis, Kristyn discovered her interest in planning about halfway through her undergrad at Butler University while playing development-oriented games. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Urban Affairs from Butler University (with high honors), then went to Ball State University for a Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning. Learn more about Kristyn here.

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www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up
How'd They Do That: The Central Avenue Bridge Rehab

The stone arch bridge spanning Fall Creek on Central Avenue is finally finished! Indiana Landmarks is hosting an illustrated talk, where you can learn more about the complexities of the rehabilitation design and lessons learned in rebuilding the bridge. The event is Thursday, November 14th. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the talk begins at 6 pm. For more information and to register for the event, click here. Photo: Butler Fairman & Seufert

VIDEO: Whitestown Reveals New Additions Along Big 4 Rail Trail

Watch the unveiling ceremony of the two new historical markers along the Big 4 Rail Trail, the new mural, and the newly redesigned Walking Man public art piece that honors Whitestown's history.

Fourth Economy Community Index

Fourth Economy, a community and economic development consulting firm, created an index that evaluates the vibrancy of communities. Check out the
dashboard [here](#) and find your county's score and ranking. Photo: Fourth Economy Community Index

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**CR 300 South Project Materials Now Online**

The presentation, images, and documents from the County Road 300 South Corridor project public open house are now available online to view or to download. Access them [here](#).

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Plainfield Connectors to Operate on Weekends

The North and South Plainfield Connectors, a service of Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA), has started running on the weekends in addition to their normal weekday schedules. This comes in response to the high demand for workers during the holiday season. The fare is $1 per one-way trip, with the first pick up scheduled at 5:15 am. For more information, click here.

INDOT to Receive a Large Federal Build Grant for I-65

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will be receiving a multi-million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the I-65 Mobility and Access Project. The work aims to modify four interchanges along I-65 within Boone County to minimize heavy congestion and to support growth in Whitestown and the surrounding area. Learn more here.

Plainfield/Guilford Township Transit Survey Now Open

Local leaders are trying to gauge the public's
perspective on transit in Plainfield and Guilford Township through a survey. The survey will be open until December 12. Access the survey here.

Staff Spotlight: Anita Bjork

Office manager Anita Bjork was born and raised in Midland, Michigan, an eclectic and inclusive community that also is home to Dow Chemical Co. As a child in the sports-oriented town, she walked to school or rode her bike. As an adult, she loves the arts. Learn more about Anita here.

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www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up
As the holidays approach, everyone here at the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization wishes you happy holidays!

We will be closed on the following days during the holiday season:
- Thursday, November 28
- Friday, November 29
- Tuesday, December 24
- Wednesday, December 25
- Wednesday, January 1

City of Franklin Developing Bike Pedestrian Plan

The City of Franklin received funding from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization last year to develop pedestrian and bicycle master plans. The city has hired Rundell Ernstberger Associates to help lead the effort. They held an open house earlier this week regarding the plan. To learn more, click here.
Following six months of community workshops and input, local research, and the framing of key mobility issues, applicants submitted 120 proposals, four of which were chosen to receive funding. These projects will launch next year in Indianapolis. Learn more about the challenge and see who won [here](#).

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**Survey for Transportation Organizations**

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) is conducting a survey among transportation organizations that provide service for older Americans and people living with disabilities. The results will be used to advocate for support and funding for organizations. If you’re a transportation provider, click [here](#) to take the survey.

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Indianapolis Cultural Trail to Receive $1M Grant from Anthem Foundation

The Anthem Foundation has awarded a $1 million grant to support the Cultural Trail's programs and maintenance endowment, which helps keep the Cultural Trail accessible for everyone. Read more about the grant and the cultural trail [here](#).

National Transportation Safety Board Recommends Bicycle Safety Laws

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has compiled a report examining bicyclist safety. The report includes recommendations for reducing injuries and deaths ranging from mandatory helmet laws to protected bike lanes across the country. Approximately 62% of bicycle fatalities were related to head injuries, according to the report. Learn more [here](#).

Red Light Running Deaths Hit 10 Year High

According to data analysis conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, more than two people are killed every day on U.S. roads. Based on 2017 data, the deaths caused by running red lights is at a 10-year high. For more information about the study and tips for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to reduce the number of red light running crashes, click [here](#).
Call for Proposals Open for 2020 Walk Bike Places Conference in Indianapolis

Indianapolis will be hosting the Project for Public Spaces Walk Bike Places Conference in August 2020. A call for proposals to present at the conference is open until January 3rd at 5pm ET. Access the proposal application here.

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- **Administrative Committee Meeting** - January 24 at 9:00 am at IndyGo Board Room, 1501 W Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46222
- **Technical Committee Meeting** - February 5 at 9:00 am at MIBOR Realtor Association, 1912 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46202

www.IndyMPO.org | Newsletter Sign-up
We're Hiring a Special Projects Planner

The MPO is hiring a Special Projects Planner. The application will be open until December 25 at 11:59PM. For more information about the position, click here.

Bicycling in Winter

Winter bicycling can be enjoyable but requires important safety measures, particularly when cycling in snow and low temperatures. Be sure to check the weather before leaving to help decide if you can bike safely. Make sure you dress in layers and in bright colors or high-visibility clothing for warmth and visibility. For more winter biking safety tips, click here.

2020 Grant Funding for Tactical Urbanism Demo Projects

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity is providing funding to communities to assist in the
design and implementation of low-cost pop-up, tactical urbanism projects that support active living in Indiana. Up to four grantees will be awarded funding. Applications are due no later than 4:00pm on February 20th, 2020. Click here for more information.  

Photo: WalkDenver

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**Dandy Bridge over Eagle Creek Reopens on Westside of Indy**

The Dandy Trail Bridge over Eagle Creek has reopened after its rebuild. The project cost over $3 million, to which the MPO provided funding. Improvements include a wider bridge deck, sidewalks, guardrails, and a protected multi-purpose path. For more information, click here.  

Photo: The Indy Channel

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- **Policy Committee Meeting** - February 5 at 9:00 am Location TBD

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As a reminder, the office will be closed on the following days:
- Tuesday, December 24
- Wednesday, December 25
- Wednesday, January 1

MPO/ULI Technical Assistance Grant Applications Open
January 2-31, 2020

The MPO is providing financial assistance to support Local Planning Agencies (LPAs) in good standing with the MPO to conduct Technical Assistance Panels with the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Indiana District Council. This program aims to assist LPAs with addressing challenging transportation, land use, and economic development issues. Applications will open January 2 and will remain open through the 31st. For more information, click here.
Data Dashboard for Transit-Oriented Development
Now Available

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) is an urban development strategy that mixes different land uses and other amenities into a walkable neighborhood near transit. The MPO has developed a web map series to help inform people about the benefits of TOD. It includes information about TOD, maps displaying data in relation to transit, and dashboards that allow users to filter data based on their interests. View the dashboard website here.

INDOT LPA Guide Released

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has released its Local Planning Agency (LPA) Guide. The guide provides resources for LPAs, including INDOT priorities, project funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, and more. Access the guide here.

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- **Policy Committee Meeting** - February 19 at 9:00 am at the Hornet Park Community Center, 5245 Hornet Park Ave, Beech Grove, IN 46107

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