



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Design Memo No. 26-22

August 28, 2026

TO: All Design Personnel and Consultants

FROM: /s/ John McGregor
John McGregor
Traffic Operations Director
Traffic Management Division

SUBJECT: 2026 Interstate Highways Congestion Policy (IHCP)

SUPERSEDES: DM 24-08 MOT on High Volume Interstate Highways
DM 25-01 Interstate Highways Congestion Policy Exception Requests

EFFECTIVE: As Noted

The INDOT Interstate Highways Congestion Policy (IHCP) has been updated. The 2026 IHCP will supersede the 2017 IHCP, fully replacing its requirements, procedures, and restrictions.

Summary

See the [INDOT: IHCP](#) webpage for a summary of key changes from the 2017 IHCP.

Key requirements of the 2026 IHCP include:

- **Responsibilities:** The policy defines roles for Requestors, Reviewers, District Traffic Engineers, the Work Zone Council, Approvers, and Responsible Site Supervisors.
- **Restriction Planning:** All restrictions must be planned in accordance with the Select Interstate Restrictions and Times in Appendix B.
- **Notification:** All restrictions, including those compliant with Appendix B, must be reported to the District Traffic Office via the IHCP Restriction Notification Form and must comply with the reporting requirements of the [INDOT CARS Policy](#)
- **Policy Exceptions:** All exceptions must be in accordance with the Policy Exceptions requirements in Appendix C and the Construction Contracts on High-Volume Interstate Routes requirements in Appendix D (where applicable). Requests for exceptions must include quantitative analysis, alternatives evaluation, and queue mitigation strategies, and are subject to review and approval as detailed in the policy and appendices.
- **Queue Mitigation:** Preventing or minimizing the formation of queues due to congestion remains essential to enhance safety and mobility in interstate work zones. Designers are reminded that queue mitigation and all other mitigation measures that are part of an approved policy exception must be included in the contract documents.

- **Exempted Activities:** Emergency and urgent repairs, as well as certain exempted activities (e.g., incident response, winter operations), are addressed in Appendix A and are not subject to all requirements of the policy.

Effective Date

The 2026 IHCP becomes effective September 25, 2026, and must be incorporated into all new and ongoing projects (as noted), daily operations, and maintenance activities on Indiana's Interstate system, including the Indiana Toll Road.

- Existing approved 2017 IHCP policy exceptions remain valid.
- For lettings before September 25, 2026, the 2017 IHCP Appendix B Preapproved Interstate Closure and Restriction Times remain valid. After the 2026 IHCP becomes effective, all new restriction requests and amendments to an approved 2017 IHCP policy exception will be subject to the requirements of the 2026 IHCP, including its appendices.
- For lettings on or after September 25, 2026, the 2026 IHCP Appendix B Select Interstate Restrictions and Times requirements apply. All initial policy exception requests and amendments to an approved 2017 IHCP policy exception will be subject to the requirements of the 2026 IHCP, including its appendices.

Resources

The [INDOT: IHCP](#) webpage has several resources. Some resources are in progress and will be posted at a later date.

- Current IHCP (2026) and appendices
- Required restrictions notification details
- IHCP Policy Exception Preparation and Review Process Guidance document. This is the primary resource supporting the use and application of the 2026 IHCP.
- Queue analysis guidance and queue mitigation resources

Training

2026 IHCP Training – Restriction Planning and Policy Application webinar is scheduled for Friday, September 4, 2026, for 10 AM EDT. Registration is available from the [INDOT: IHCP](#) webpage. A recording of the webinar will be posted for future reference.

Questions

For general questions related to the IHCP, contact the [Work Zone Safety Section](#) Supervisor, Mischa Kachler, at mkachler@indot.in.gov or the Traffic Management Division Traffic Operations Director, John McGregor, at jmcgregor@indot.in.gov.

For project-specific questions related to applying the policy and exceptions, contact the appropriate District Traffic Engineer.