Planning Activities

Transportation planning takes place before a project is programmed or accepted into a production schedule. Planning and programming activities lead to the production of a Long Range Plan, a STIP and amendments, consultation with stakeholders, and public involvement. The identification and analysis of transportation needs is a continual process and several planning steps may overlap.

The public is encouraged to participate in planning activities by working through Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) or INDOT district office.

Opportunities for Involvement

Opportunities abound for the general public to provide input on proposed projects during the planning process. Public comments may be submitted in person at public meetings, by mail, or by email.

INDOT is required to provide opportunities for public comment or feedback. These requirements include:

- District public meetings for STIP involvement
  - Meetings must be announced via media release, posted on the INDOT website, and announced to interested stakeholders
- Notification activities must take place at least 48 hours before meetings
- Printed notices must be posted at the INDOT Central Office, district office, or other meeting location; notices must also be provided to those who request in writing to be notified
- Additional public involvement outreach activities may be conducted at INDOT's discretion

MPOs conduct public involvement activities within their areas of jurisdiction. These activities include:

- Hosting public meetings and open houses
- Posting information on their websites
- Conducting comment periods for proposed projects
- Forming and coordinating advisory committees

Local officials outside of MPO areas also meet with INDOT to discuss transportation challenges and communicate with stakeholders.

Partners in Planning

INDOT has a number of planning partners, each with specific roles, responsibilities, and areas of jurisdiction.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – The FHWA oversees federal funds used for design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and maintenance of interstate highways, U.S. routes, state routes, and federally funded route facilities. www.fhwa.dot.gov.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – The FTA supports a variety of locally planned, constructed, and operated public transportation systems across the U.S., including buses, commuter rail, and other systems. www.fta.dot.gov.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – MPOs are federally required transportation planning bodies that represent the local, state and federal government or agencies. In urbanized areas of 50,000 or more, transportation planning is done in cooperation with the MPO. www.indianampo.com.

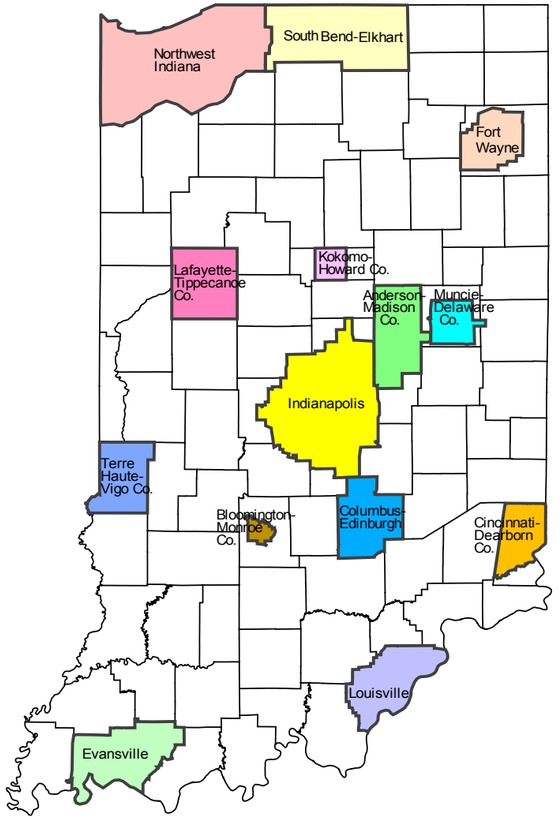
Rural or Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) – RPOs serve the transportation planning needs for small urban and rural areas. RPOs support INDOT planning staff with public outreach, technical assistance, and data collection.

Non-MPO Areas – These include small towns and cities not included in an MPO area. In non-metropolitan areas, INDOT district offices conduct transportation planning and help develop lists of projects to be included in the STIP.

Concerned citizens and stakeholders who live in MPO and RPO areas should work through their local organizations to participate in planning transportation projects.

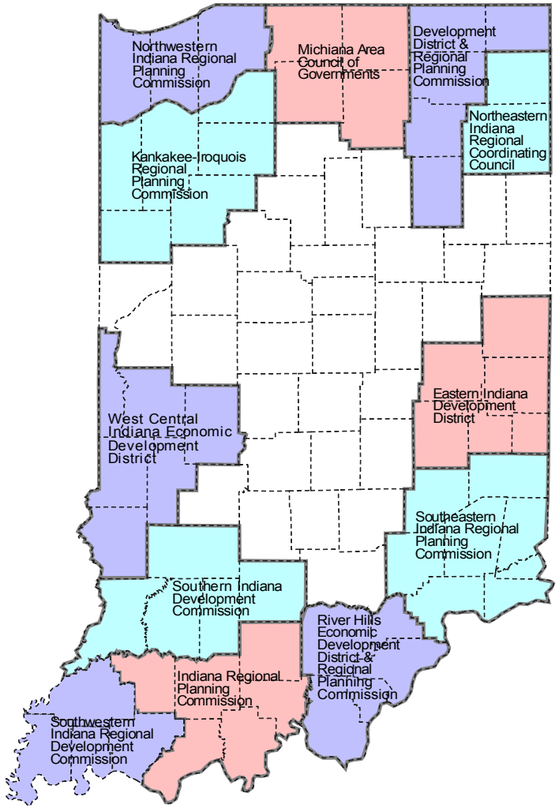
When it comes to transportation planning, where you live matters. Projects that involve local city streets or county roads are the responsibility of local city or county governments. INDOT is involved in planning transportation projects and facilities that involve only interstate highways, U.S. routes, or state routes.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations



www.indianampo.com

Regional Planning Organizations

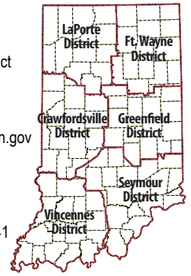


INDOT Offices

INDOT's Central Office and district offices play an important role in planning and programming activities, including coordinating with MPOs and RPOs, consulting with local officials, and conducting public involvement activities.

INDOT LaPorte District
315 E. Boyd Blvd.
LaPorte, IN 46350
Toll Free: 1-855-464-6368
LaPorteDistrictCommunications@indot.in.gov

INDOT Fort Wayne District
5333 Hatfield Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
Toll Free: 1-866-227-3555
NEinformation@indot.in.gov



INDOT Crawfordsville District
41 West 300 North
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Toll Free: 1-888-924-6368
westcentralIndiana@indot.in.gov

INDOT Greenfield District
32 South Broadway
Greenfield, IN 46140
Toll Free: 1-855-463-6848
eastcentralin@indot.in.gov

INDOT Vincennes District
3650 South U.S. Highway 41
Vincennes, IN 47591
Toll Free: 1-800-279-5758
swincommunications@indot.in.gov

INDOT Seymour District
185 Agrico Lane
Seymour, IN 47274
Toll Free: 1-877-305-7611
secommunications@indot.IN.gov

INDOT Office of Public Involvement
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N642
Indianapolis, IN 46204

INDOT STIP Director
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N955
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Toll Free: 1-866-849-1368
publicinvolvement@indot.in.gov
STIP Public Comment form: www.in.gov/indot/3132.htm

INDOT will plan, build, maintain and operate a superior transportation system enhancing safety, mobility and economic growth

Indiana Department of Transportation
100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N755
Indianapolis, IN 46204

www.in.gov/indot

How a Project Becomes a PROJECT

Indiana citizens play an important role in shaping the transportation decisions that affect their communities.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) recognizes that eliciting public input on transportation decisions is crucial to fulfilling its mission to plan and program transportation facilities that best meet Indiana's needs.

Steps to Success

A transportation project begins by identifying a transportation need, challenge, or opportunity, and grows through consecutive stages and activities. These include:

- Identifying and examining short- and long-term goals
- Studying demographic characteristics and travel patterns
- Assessing existing and possible future transportation assets
- Estimating resources and funds available to meet transportation challenges
- Evaluating alternatives for addressing current and future needs

Planning Steps

1. Transportation needs and projects are identified
2. Coordination with planning partners, transportation stakeholders and the public
3. Public input welcomed, considered and included
4. Call for Projects issued (See **What is a Call for Projects?**)
5. List of proposed projects reviewed
6. List of proposed projects narrowed for inclusion in the draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) (See **What is a STIP?**)
7. Proposed projects may or may not be selected; non-selected projects may be resubmitted later
8. Selected projects are advanced and incorporated into draft STIP
9. Public input again solicited and included
10. STIP is formally approved by the Federal Highway Administration
11. Projects entered into INDOT production schedule
12. Project development begins

What is a Call for Projects?

A Call for Projects is the beginning of a process by which proposals for new projects can be presented, reviewed, and prioritized. If approved, these projects are programmed or accepted into a production schedule.

The Call for Projects provides opportunities for agencies outside of INDOT to comment on the existing construction program. Although changes to existing projects can occur at any time, proposals for new projects can be submitted only in response to a Call for New Projects. Separate Call for Projects processes are held for state and local projects and multiple calls may be issued each year.

What is a STIP?

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) is a four-year planning document that lists all projects expected to be funded during those four years, including pavement and bridge facilities, and projects that address safety, congestion, mobility, and emergency response. The STIP includes investment in various modes, including highways, transit, pedestrian trails and paths, and bicycle facilities. Only projects for which construction and operating funds can reasonably be expected to be available are included. If a project is not included in a STIP, it is not eligible for federal funding.

Questions?

Indiana citizens play an important role in shaping the transportation decisions that affect their communities. INDOT recognizes the importance of involving the public when providing planning facilities and services that best meet Indiana's transportation needs.

More information about INDOT's planning and programming process is available on the INDOT website, www.in.gov/indot/2511.htm