

RESOLUTION NO. 11-25
A RESOLUTION ENDORSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
FORT WAYNE-NEW HAVEN-ALLEN COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024-2028
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) is the organization designated by the Governor as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible, together with the State, for carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 (Federal-Aid Highway planning requirements), and capable of meeting the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5303 (Federal Transit planning requirements) in the Fort Wayne-New Haven-Allen County Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Transportation Advisory Board serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization policy body for the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, all federally funded highway and transit improvements within Allen County must be included in the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) prior to the expenditure of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the MPO consulted with the Interagency Consultation Group and the MPO anticipates, subsequent to Policy Board approval, the USDOT will find that the proposed TIP amendment meets transportation conformity requirements and are within the maintenance area and are non-exempt, under Section 176(C) of the Clean Air Act per 40 CFR Parts 51.390 and 93, and a revised Transportation Conformity Document was updated and a new formal conformity finding will be requested; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the amendments below, the Urban Transportation Advisory Board here within finds that they are consistent with the 2045 Transportation Plan and its corresponding conformity analysis; and

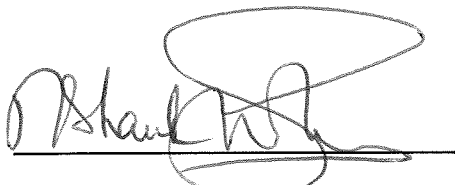
WHEREAS, the NIRCC Participation Plan does not require a separate public involvement meeting for TIP amendments, and the public participation procedure was followed; and

WHEREAS, this amendment will result in a TIP that remains fiscally constrained; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Transportation Advisory Board of the Fort Wayne-New Haven-Allen County Metropolitan Planning Organization from time to time amends its TIP; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Wayne-New Haven-Allen County Metropolitan Planning Organization's FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is amended as presented in the attached.

ADOPTED by the Urban Transportation Advisory Board, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization policy board of the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council on this 6th day of May 2025.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shan Gunawardena', is written over a horizontal line.

Shan Gunawardena, Chairperson
Urban Transportation Advisory Board

Air Quality Supporting Documentation for Amendment AM 25-73a NIRCC MPO

AQC Non-Exempt 3-5-25

3-5-25 ICG informal consultation notice sent out from Jeff Bradtmiller at NIRCC MPO for Amendment 25-73a (Attached)

#2500554

Airport Expressway and Norfolk Southern
Railroad Grade Separation

3-12-25 FHWA Response: "FHWA has reviewed, and we do not have any comments at this time." (Attached)

3-24-25 EPA Response: "EPA has reviewed and has no comments at this time." (Attached)

3-25-25 FTA Response: "FTA has reviewed and has no comments at this time." (Attached)

Stacey Gorsuch

From: Jeff Bradtmiller
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 7:09 AM
To: Anthony Greep; Brian Callahan; Frank Baukert; Gale Ferris; Jason Kaiser; Jay Mitchell; John Metzinger; Lakesha Stewart; Mike Cales; Shawn Seals; Stephanie Belch; Susan Weber (susan.weber@dot.gov); Tait, Erica (FHWA); Tony Maietta
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch
Subject: ACTION: ICG Review for Amendment(s) to 2045 MTP, Conformity Report, and FY 2026-2030 TIP
Attachments: NIRCC Conformity MTP2045_2024_2028TIP Draft.pdf; 2045 Plan Amended Draft Chapt 6.pdf; AM 25-74a Scott Rd RR overpass Study ICG 2-26-25.pdf; AM 25-73a Airport Exp NS RR overpass 2-26-25.pdf; Airport Expressway Grade Separation Map.pdf; Scott Rd Project Map.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello ICG members,

The Northeastern Indiana Coordinating Council(NIRCC) has 2 new project amendments to the 2045 MTP and an update to the Transportation Conformity Document for consideration by the NIRCC Policy Board at their upcoming meeting on 04/01/25. One project is a Railroad Grade Separation project, while the other is for a Planning Study for the C.R.O.S.S. (Comprehensive Rail Overpass Safety Strategy) project. The projects are safety and mobility projects, in the MPA, on roadways classified as a Principal Arterial-Other Expressway or Freeway and a Major Collector. We believe only the Railroad Grade Separation project on Airport Expressway is considered regionally significant (non-exempt), as the grade separations are not adding any additional capacity. We consider the Scott Road project as an exempt because it's a planning study and it's not regionally significant.

Our proposed schedule for these amendments is:

- 3/5/2025 – ICG email communication (informal consultation – this email)
- 3/12/2025 – deadline for ICG questions or comments on the included project amendments
- 3/5/2025 to 3/26/2025 – public/ICG comment period on amendments and conformity report
- 4/1/2025 – approved documents will be shared with FHWA to initiate formal consultation

Project Descriptions:

1. Airport Expressway Grade Separation over the Norfolk Southern railroad - City of Fort Wayne
 - a. Location: between Airport Drive and Bluffton Road
 - b. The project is being moved from the unfunded project list to the funded project list within the current 2045 MTP.
 - c. The proposed project was selected for Project Development, Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction and includes activities to support grade crossing improvements along Norfolk Southern track in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The project aligns with the selection criteria by improving safety, as it will reduce the number of crashes in the project area and enhance access to a new hospital, the Fort Wayne International Airport, and the Indiana National Guard 122nd Fighter Wing base. The project will also improve mobility, as it will provide more direct routes for deliveries and commuting patterns.
2. Planning Study for The C.R.O.S.S. (Comprehensive Rail Overpass Safety Strategy) Scott Road grade separation over the Norfolk Southern Railroad - County of Allen
 - a. Location: between Bass Road and State Road 14

- b. The proposed project was selected for Project Planning and includes activities to evaluate alternatives to improve the Scott Road at-grade crossing in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The project will explore the feasibility of grade-separating the crossing at Scott Road, a north-south connector road, over the Norfolk Southern track. The project aligns with the selection criteria by enhancing safety, as the project will increase the mobility and safety of motorists and pedestrians while increasing the fluidity of the freight rail network in the region.

Attached you will find a draft of the Air Quality Conformity Report, a draft of Chapter 6 “The Selected Plan” from the amended 2045 MTP, the FY 2024-2028 TIP project listings, and maps showing the project locations.

In lieu of a conference call, I’m providing the following list for approval and/or amendment requests for the plans/programs listed and their exemption status.

Please consider this an informal request for review and comment regarding the need for air quality consultation for the proposed amendments. We are requesting that you reply to this email by 3/26/2025 if you have any questions, comments, or would like to request a conference call to discuss further. Per the 09/2022 Interagency Consultation Group Conformity Consultation Guidance Document, no response can be interpreted as concurrence.

Thanks;

Jeff Bradtmiller
Senior Transportation Planner
Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
200 E. Berry Street - Suite 230
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 449-3605
Fax (260) 449-8652
www.nircc.com
Jeff.Bradtmiller@co.allen.in.us

2024-2028 TIP
ICG - February 26, 2025

| Project Information | DES # | Phase | Fiscal Years & Estimated Cost | | | | | Other Year | Federal Funds | Local Funds | LPA | Contract # | TIP Date | Comments |
|--|--------------|-------|-------------------------------|------|------|-------------|-------|------------|---------------|-------------|-----|--|------------|----------|
| | | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028* | | | | | Funding | ICG Date | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Letting | AQ Finding | |
| Airport Expressway and Norfolk Southern Railroad | TBD | PE | | | | | | 2023-25 | \$0 | \$1,100,000 | FW | FRA Grade Crossing Elimination Grant Discretionary Funding | | |
| Railroad overpass between Bluffton Rd and Airport Dr | | RW | | | | \$1,500,000 | | 2029 | \$1,200,000 | \$300,000 | | | | |
| Railroad Grade Separation | | CN | | | | | | | \$21,800,000 | \$5,450,000 | | | | |
| Total cost for project: | \$29,850,000 | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,500,000 | \$0 | | \$23,000,000 | \$6,850,000 | | | | |

Stacey Gorsuch

From: Stewart, Lakesha (FHWA) <lakesha.stewart@dot.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 2:28 PM
To: Jeff Bradtmiller; Greep, Anthony (FTA); Brian Callahan; Frank Baukert; Gale Ferris; Jason Kaiser; Jay Mitchell; John Metzinger; Mike Cales; sseals idem.in.gov; Stephanie Belch; Weber, Susan (FTA); Tait, Erica (FHWA); Tony Maietta
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch
Subject: RE: ACTION: ICG Review for Amendment(s) to 2045 MTP, Conformity Report, and FY 2026-2030 TIP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Thank you, Jeff! FHWA has reviewed, and we do not have any comments at this time.

Best Regards,

La' Kesha Stewart | Community Planner
Federal Highway Administration | Indiana Division
(317)226-5353 | lakesha.stewart@dot.gov
www.fhwa.dot.gov/indiv/



From: Jeff Bradtmiller <Jeff.Bradtmiller@co.allen.in.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 7:09 AM
To: Greep, Anthony (FTA) <anthony.greep@dot.gov>; Brian Callahan <bcallaha@idem.in.gov>; Frank Baukert <FBAUKERT@indot.IN.gov>; Gale Ferris <GFERRIS@idem.IN.gov>; Jason Kaiser <JASONKAISER@indot.IN.gov>; Jay Mitchell <jaymitchell@indot.in.gov>; John Metzinger <JKM@fwcitolink.com>; Stewart, Lakesha (FHWA) <lakesha.stewart@dot.gov>; Mike Cales <mcales@indot.in.gov>; sseals idem.in.gov <sseals@idem.in.gov>; Stephanie Belch <sbelch@indot.in.gov>; Weber, Susan (FTA) <susan.weber@dot.gov>; Tait, Erica (FHWA) <erica.tait@dot.gov>; Tony Maietta <Maietta.Anthony@epa.gov>
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch <Stacey.Gorsuch@co.allen.in.us>
Subject: ACTION: ICG Review for Amendment(s) to 2045 MTP, Conformity Report, and FY 2026-2030 TIP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello ICG members,

The Northeastern Indiana Coordinating Council(NIRCC) has 2 new project amendments to the 2045 MTP and an update to the Transportation Conformity Document for consideration by the NIRCC Policy Board at their upcoming meeting on 04/01/25. One project is a Railroad Grade Separation project, while the other is for a Planning Study for the C.R.O.S.S.

Stacey Gorsuch

From: Maietta, Anthony <maietta.anthony@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 5:50 PM
To: Stewart, Lakesha (FHWA); Jeff Bradtmiller; Greep, Anthony (FTA); Brian Callahan; Frank Baukert; Gale Ferris; Jason Kaiser; Jay Mitchell; John Metzinger; Mike Cales; sseals@idem.in.gov; Stephanie Belch; Weber, Susan (FTA); Tait, Erica (FHWA)
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch
Subject: RE: ACTION: ICG Review for Amendment(s) to 2045 MTP, Conformity Report, and FY 2026-2030 TIP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Jeff,

EPA has reviewed and also has no comments or questions at this time. Thanks for the opportunity for review

-Tony

Anthony Maietta
EPA Region 5
maietta.anthony@epa.gov
(312) 353-8777

From: Stewart, Lakesha (FHWA) <lakesha.stewart@dot.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Jeff Bradtmiller <Jeff.Bradtmiller@co.allen.in.us>; Greep, Anthony (FTA) <anthony.greep@dot.gov>; Brian Callahan <bcallaha@idem.in.gov>; Frank Baukert <FBAUKERT@indot.IN.gov>; Gale Ferris <GFERRIS@idem.IN.gov>; Jason Kaiser <JASONKAISER@indot.IN.gov>; Jay Mitchell <jaymitchell@indot.in.gov>; John Metzinger <JKM@fwcitilink.com>; Mike Cales <mcales@indot.in.gov>; sseals@idem.in.gov; Stephanie Belch <sbelch@indot.in.gov>; Weber, Susan (FTA) <susan.weber@dot.gov>; Tait, Erica (FHWA) <erica.tait@dot.gov>; Maietta, Anthony <maietta.anthony@epa.gov>
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch <Stacey.Gorsuch@co.allen.in.us>
Subject: RE: ACTION: ICG Review for Amendment(s) to 2045 MTP, Conformity Report, and FY 2026-2030 TIP

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Thank you, Jeff! FHWA has reviewed, and we do not have any comments at this time.

Best Regards,

Stacey Gorsuch

From: Weber, Susan (FTA) <susan.weber@dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:22 AM
To: Maietta, Anthony; Stewart, Lakesha (FHWA); Jeff Bradtmiller; Greep, Anthony (FTA); Brian Callahan; Frank Baukert; Gale Ferris; Jason Kaiser; Jay Mitchell; John Metzinger; Mike Cales; sseals idem.in.gov; Stephanie Belch; Tait, Erica (FHWA); Forbush, Daniel (FTA)
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch
Subject: RE: ACTION: ICG Review for Amendment(s) to 2045 MTP, Conformity Report, and FY 2026-2030 TIP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good morning all,
FTA has reviewed and has no comments at this time.
Thank you,
Susan



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Susan Weber
Lead Community Planner
Region V
susan.weber@dot.gov
312.353.3888



From: Maietta, Anthony <maietta.anthony@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:50 PM
To: Stewart, Lakesha (FHWA) <lakesha.stewart@dot.gov>; Jeff Bradtmiller <Jeff.Bradtmiller@co.allen.in.us>; Greep, Anthony (FTA) <anthony.greep@dot.gov>; Brian Callahan <bcallaha@idem.in.gov>; Frank Baukert <FBAUKERT@indot.IN.gov>; Gale Ferris <GFERRIS@idem.IN.gov>; Jason Kaiser <JASONKAISER@indot.IN.gov>; Jay Mitchell <jaymitchell@indot.in.gov>; John Metzinger <JKM@fwcitilink.com>; Mike Cales <mcales@indot.in.gov>; sseals idem.in.gov <sseals@idem.in.gov>; Stephanie Belch <sbelch@indot.in.gov>; Weber, Susan (FTA) <susan.weber@dot.gov>; Tait, Erica (FHWA) <erica.tait@dot.gov>
Cc: Stacey Gorsuch <Stacey.Gorsuch@co.allen.in.us>
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Jeff,

2024-2028 TIP
UTAB - May 6, 2025

| Project Information | DES # | Phase | Fiscal Years & Estimated Cost | | | | | Other Year | Federal Funds | Local Funds | LPA | Contract # | Conformity |
|--|--------------|-------|-------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| | | | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028* | | | | Funding | Date | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | A/M | Letting | AQ Finding |
| Airport Expressway and Norfolk Southern Railroad | 2500554 | PE | | | | | | 2024 | \$0 | \$1,100,000 | FW | R-43142 | 3/5/2025 |
| Railroad overpass between Bluffton Rd and Airport Dr | | RW | | | \$1,500,000 | | | | | | | FRA Grade Crossing Elimination Grant | |
| | | CN | | | | | | 2029 | \$21,800,000 | \$5,450,000 | | Discretionary Funding | non-exempt |
| Railroad Grade Separation | | | | | | | | | | | 25-73a | 10/12/2028 | |
| Total cost for project: | \$29,850,000 | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,500,000 | \$0 | | \$23,000,000 | \$6,850,000 | | | |

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 25-73a | Amendment |
| | Modification |
| | Grouped Project |

Requestor: NRCC[illegible]