

# Public Transportation

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## Mission

To improve personal mobility and the quality of life of individuals through the preservation and enhancement of passenger transportation systems.

## Summary of Activities

The state's role in public transportation, administered by the **Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)**, is comprised of four main grant programs: the Public Mass Transportation Fund, the Rural Transportation Program, the Specialized Transportation Program, and the Transportation Planning Program.

The Public Mass Transportation Fund (PMTF) receives 0.76 % of the state sales tax revenue. These funds are allocated to local public transportation systems, using a performance-based formula. The funds may be used to match federal and/or local funding for capital projects (buses, shelters, radios, etc.) and operating expenses (salaries, fuel, maintenance, etc.).

The Rural Transportation Program is available to all areas with a population of under 50,000 for public transportation needs. These funds are allocated to both new and existing public transit systems. Other funding is available specifically for Intercity Bus Transportation projects. The funds are used for capital projects and operating expenses.

The Specialized Transportation Program provides assistance to private non-profit corporations and eligible public bodies that deliver special transportation service to persons who are elderly and/or disabled. Funding provides capital assistance (vehicles and related equipment) on a discretionary basis for urban and rural areas. **Figure 1** is a photograph of the 1000<sup>th</sup> Transit Vehicle purchased through the Specialized Transportation Program, which is used by a social service agency in southern Indiana.

The Transportation Planning Program provides financial assistance to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for the planning, engineering, design and evaluation of transportation projects and other related technical studies. The funds are distributed to MPOs by a formula allocation based on the population of the urbanized area.

## External Factors



The demand for public transportation is influenced by the accessibility and convenience of travelling in personal vehicles. The cost of vehicles and fuel, as well as travel times and traffic congestion, affect the extent to which people choose to utilize public transportation. Other factors include the availability of parking and the proximity of residential housing to retail and commercial employment.

Funding allocation decisions made by the federal government have a great influence on the amount and quality of public transportation services provided in Indiana. Since 1991, federal transit funding has nearly doubled nationwide. This increase has prompted many Indiana counties, cities, and regional areas to look at public transportation to help solve local mobility challenges, and to diversify their transportation options.



**Figure 1**

## Evaluation and Accomplishments

Since 1997, the INDOT Public Transit Section has added six new local public transportation systems. These systems provide over 500,000 Hoosiers access to public transportation in seventeen counties. The PMTF has grown from \$19 million to \$27 million over the past five years, and the federal transit grant programs have grown from \$12 million to over \$16 million during the same time period. A performance-based allocation formula that rewards cost-efficient transit systems was created. **Figure 2** shows the growth of the state funds from 1981 to 1999.

In the last two years, the Public Transportation Program has undergone two management reviews by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in which Indiana was named one of the top states in the nation administering FTA grant programs. The Public Transportation Program also created a compliance program for grant recipients, which include on-site compliance reviews, program manuals, and technical assistance to all grantees. The technical assistance that is provided to grantees includes workshops, program manuals, marketing materials, feasibility grants and other related assistance.

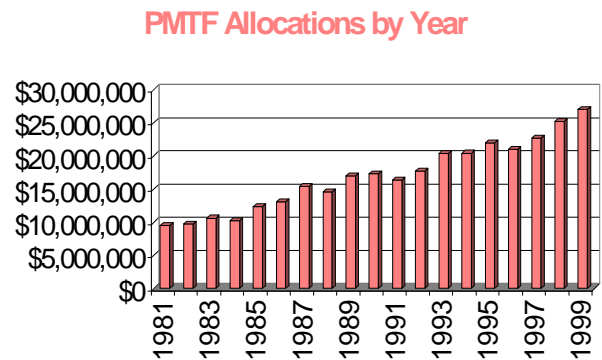


Figure 2

INDOT has also completed a *Statewide Public Transportation Needs Assessment Study* that documents on a per-county basis the unmet demand for public transportation in Indiana. It also received over \$19 million in federal funds, which helped local public transportation systems implement major capital improvements.

## Plans for the Biennium

INDOT will continue to work with communities on starting new or expanding existing public transit systems. In 2001 Indiana will have ten additional counties offering public transportation. In 2002 the Rural Transportation Program will have 20 potential countywide feasibility study requests.

<u>Program: 0720</u>	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
<b>Appropriation (All Funds)</b>	\$35,337,107	\$39,562,076	\$40,846,292	\$40,834,497	\$42,654,635
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$37,347,681	\$37,012,923	\$35,044,298		

**Sources of Funds  
FY 2001 (Approp)**

Legend: General (blue), Dedicated (maroon), Federal (yellow), Other (light blue)

77%  
18%  
4%  
1%

**Uses of Funds  
FY 2001 (Approp)**

Legend: Personal Services (blue), Distributions (maroon), Capital (yellow), Other (light blue)

82%  
12%  
6%