



Indianapolis
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

2004 Annual Briefing

Transportation Planning Section
Division of Planning
Department of Metropolitan Development
City of Indianapolis

Useful Terms

AICP - American Institute of Certified Planners

CAC - Citizens Advisory Committee

CILC – Center for Interactive Learning & Collaboration

CIRCL - Central Indiana Regional Community League

CMS – Congestion Management System

ConNECTions- Study of NorthEast Corridor Transportation

DiRecTionS – Regional Rapid Transit Study

DMD - Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development

DPW - Indianapolis Department of Public Works

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration

FTA - Federal Transit Administration

IDEM - Indiana Department of Environmental Management

INDOT - Indiana Department of Transportation

IPTC - Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation / IndyGo

IRTC - Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council

IRTIP – Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program

ITS – Intelligent Transportation Systems

MIS – Major Investment Study

MPA – Metropolitan Planning Area

MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization

MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area

TCSP – Transportation and Community and System Preservation (Grant)

TEA-21 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

teMPO – The Indianapolis MPO's Quarterly Newsletter

TIS – Traffic Impact Study

TMS – Transportation Monitoring System

UPWP – Unified Planning Work Program

USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

MPO website: <http://indygov.org/indympo>

The Metropolitan Planning Organization

Responsibilities

Each Urbanized Area with a population of more than 50,000 is required to have a designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with the responsibility of conducting a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process. In the Indianapolis region, the **Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD)** is the designated MPO. The transportation section of the Division of Planning is staff to the MPO.

Currently, all MPO's are governed by federal legislation called the **Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)**, implementing regulations may be found in 23 CFR 400. The MPO planning process is a prerequisite to the area receiving federal funds for transit and highway transportation improvements.

Planning Area

The MPO is responsible for transportation planning in the area defined by the most current Census as being urbanized, plus the area anticipated to become urbanized by the year 2025. This area is known as the **Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA)**. The newly approved MPA is based on the 2000 Census and includes all of Marion County and portions of the surrounding counties of Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Morgan and Johnson where suburban growth has occurred (see map on page 4). The new MPA includes the following cities and towns:

Town of Atlanta	Town of Cicero	Town of McCordsville	City of Southport
Town of Arcadia	Town of Cumberland	Town of Mooresville	Town of Westfield
Town of Avon	Town of Danville	Town of New Palestine	Town of Whiteland
Town of Bargersville	Town of Fishers	Town of New Whiteland	Town of Zionsville
City of Beech Grove	City of Franklin	City of Noblesville	
Town of Brooklyn	City of Greenwood	Town of Pittsboro	
Town of Brownsburg	City of Indianapolis	Town of Plainfield	
City of Carmel	City of Lawrence	Town of Speedway	

Core Activities

The core activities of the MPO include the long range Indianapolis Regional Transportation Plan, the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP), Air Quality Conformity Analysis (for both the Regional Transportation Plan and the IRTIP) and the Public Involvement Program. In addition, the MPO annually prepares a Unified Planning Work Program that documents MPO studies and activities to be undertaken by the MPO staff and its contracted consultants. Following is a brief description of these core activities

The Indianapolis Regional Transportation Plan

The long range Transportation Plan is a document that helps guide the development of the area's transportation system through the year 2025 and is amended and updated as changing conditions and needs of the community dictate. With the help of transportation planners, engineers, elected officials and the public, the plan ensures facilities and services required to support the mobility needs of the community and its future growth are anticipated and available. It places potential projects "in the pipeline" for future funding consideration and provides decision-makers with information upon which to base their priorities. Federally funded transportation projects must first appear in the Regional Transportation Plan before they can be programmed in the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Plan.

➤ **The Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP)**

The shorter-range IRTIP programs needed transportation improvements identified in the Regional Transportation Plan using available federal dollars within a three-year time frame. The IRTIP is amended as necessary to reflect changing conditions and project priorities. Unlike the Regional Transportation Plan, the IRTIP is short-term in nature and is intended as an implementation as well as a planning tool.

➤ **Air Quality Conformity Analysis**

In November 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reclassified Indianapolis/Marion County as a maintenance area for the ground-level pollutant, ozone (O₃). A portion of the Indianapolis Central Business District (CBD) also remains a non-classified non-attainment area for Carbon Monoxide (CO). As such, approval of the Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Improvement Program is contingent upon conformity with the air quality regulations for the area as required by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA). The MPO is responsible for the air quality conformity analysis and documentation for Marion County. In addition, the MPO works cooperatively with the Indianapolis Environmental Resources Management Division of the Department of Public Works (ERMD) in conducting other transportation-related air quality activities for the city.

➤ **Public Involvement Program**

Public involvement is an important component of the MPO transportation planning process. See Public Involvement description, page 7.

➤ **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

The MPO prepares an annual work program that outlines its work activities for the coming year. See Year 2003 Program Re-Cap and a complete listing of Year 2004 UPWP projects starting on page 10. An annual work program is required by TEA-21 and must be approved by the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

Decision-Making

Metropolitan Development Commission

As the governing body for the Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), the Indianapolis **Metropolitan Development Commission** officially adopts all plans prepared by the MPO.

Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council

MPO plans and recommendations are developed in cooperation with the **Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council (IRTC)**. Once endorsed by the IRTC, MPO plans and recommendations are presented to the Metropolitan Development Commission for adoption.

The IRTC is composed of a Policy Committee and a Technical Committee. The **IRTC Policy Committee** consists of the elected officials of local governments and public agencies within the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The **IRTC Technical Committee** consists of planners and engineers from local governments and public agencies within the MPA. The Mayor of Indianapolis traditionally chairs the IRTC Policy Committee and the Director of the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) traditionally chairs the Inter-agency Technical Committee.

The IRTC meets quarterly (see meeting schedule, page 15). MPO plans and recommendations are endorsed by the IRTC's Technical Committee before going to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee endorses all plans and recommendations before they are presented to the Metropolitan Development Commission (MDC). Because the MDC has never contradicted its endorsement, the Policy Committee can be said to make the decisions. A chart depicting the MPO's decision-making process is located on the next page.

Public Involvement

The **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** advises the IRTC on a variety of transportation-related topics. Although its members are appointed to ensure diverse regional and philosophical representation, this loosely organized group encourages the participation of all interested parties. The CAC meets on a quarterly basis, at minimum, at the City-County Building located in downtown Indianapolis unless other meeting dates or venues have been advertised.

Media advisories and promotional news coverage of the upcoming CAC meeting and the planned agenda items are issued to 30+ newspaper, radio and television sources. These meetings, which normally last one and a half hours (from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM), are also taped by the government access channel WCTY for re-broadcast (Channel 16 on Comcast and Time Warner cable systems). In addition, the MPO publishes and distributes *CAC Minutes* – a report of each meeting that offers a brief synopsis of agenda topics. Electronic dissemination of the CAC Minutes on the new MPO's e-mail mailing list began in 2002.

MPO Decision Making Process

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

 The Indianapolis Metropolitan Development Commission

The IRTC includes Local Governments, including:

- Town of Atlanta
- Town of Arcadia
- Town of Avon
- Town of Bargersville
- City of Beech Grove
- Town of Brooklyn
- Town of Brownsburg
- City of Carmel
- Town of Cicero
- Town of Cumberland
- Town of Danville
- Town of Fishers
- City of Franklin
- City of Greenwood
- City of Indianapolis
- City of Lawrence
- Town of McCordsville
- Town of Mooresville
- Town of New Palestine
- Town of New Whiteland
- City of Noblesville
- Town of Pittsboro
- Town of Plainfield
- Town of Speedway
- City of Southport
- Town of Westfield
- Town of Whiteland
- Town of Whitestown
- Town of Zionsville

& Public Agencies, including

- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indianapolis Department of Public Works
- Indianapolis Airport Authority
- Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation/IndyGo

Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council (IRTC)

Policy Committee: Elected officials and representatives of public agencies.

Technical Committee: Planners and engineers who provide inter-agency coordination.

Citizens Advisory Committee

Appointed Area Representatives
Appointed Special Interest representatives.

MPO Staff

- MPO Manager/Master Planner
- Chief Planner
- Principal Planner
- Senior Planner
- Senior Planner
- Senior Planner
- Planner
- Planner

The CAC is only one component of the MPO's **Public Involvement Program**. Another major element is *teMPO*, the quarterly newsletter of the regional transportation planning process. The newsletter is distributed to almost 2,300 individuals and organizations including elected officials, neighborhood and civic associations, special interest groups, news media, libraries and government agencies. Four quarterly and one special issue are prepared annually. For past issues, or to receive *teMPO* free of charge in the future contact Catherine Kostyn, MPO Planner at 317/327-5142 or ckostyn@indygov.org.

Community involvement and public input is crucial to the MPO planning function and to the success of its core activities (see listing, page 3). Many of the projects included in the MPO's annual Unified Planning Work Program reflect concerns voiced at CAC meetings and other public gatherings. For this reason, in 2000 the MPO began a limited program of display advertising to run in conjunction with its traditional classified notices in order to increase public awareness of and participation in the ongoing Transportation Planning process. These ads now appear in the City-State section of *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis Recorder*. Below is an example of the ads described above.

I M P O R T A N T

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization, your MPO, invites you to review and comment on an amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan.

This document provides planning support for federally funded transportation improvements proposed for our region. The new amendment would extend the Plan to the year 2025.

For more information on the review and comment process, see our classified ad in today's paper.

For more information on transportation planning, call 327-5151 or visit www.indygov.org/indympo.



Process Certification

The MPO planning process is reviewed every three years for compliance with all pertinent federal regulations with a memorandum of understanding signed by the **MPO, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**. The MPO must maintain federal certification of its planning process to receive federal planning funds as well as federal funds for making transportation improvements in the Metropolitan Planning Area. The last scheduled certification was held in March 2003.

2003 Work Program Re-Cap

The MPO is required to prepare an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is submitted for approval to the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The MPO work program is funded with 80% federal transportation funds and 20% local funds provided by the City of Indianapolis. The budget for the Year 2003 Work Program was \$1.99 million. Major activities completed in 2003 include:

- 2025 Regional Transportation Plan Update
- 2004-2006 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP)
- DiRecTionS Regional Rapid Transit Study Phase I completed
- Glendale Special Neighborhood Study Final Report released
- ConNEcTions Final Environmental Impact Statement released
- Congestion Management System Update continued
- Coordination of the Transportation Enhancement applications for the MPA
- Coordination of the Section 5310 Applications for Marion County Federal Transit Administration's Capitol program Elderly and Disabled Persons
- Update of the Transportation Monitoring System, Phase 2

2004 Work Program Highlights

The 2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) reflects the need to provide for the efficient movement of people, goods and services to support the region's economy within the context of a healthy environment and livable community. The UPWP is designed to address the five transportation subelements and emphasis areas including an update to the region's Transportation Plan and addressing issues important to the community such as mode choices, sidewalks, access to transit and traffic noise. The UPWP also places greater emphasis on community involvement and the need to better communicate with the community.

1. **Coordination of Intelligent Transportation System Strategies with Management & Operations** – The MPO staff will continue to coordinate regional ITS deployment activities with INDOT. INDOT activities include construction of a Traffic Management Center as part of an Advanced Traffic Management System, Advanced Traveler Information System and Incident Management. Indianapolis is responsible for ITS activities on the non-Interstate highways inside the outer belt; these activities include coordinated signal systems, AVL for transit vehicles, traffic management and transit management.

2. **Update of the CMS** – The Congestion Management System (CMS) will be updated to incorporate the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan.
3. **Transportation Security and Emergency Planning** – The MPO will update the TMS to keep it current with changing conditions and to expand the system to include security, emergency preparedness and any other transportation planning and programming attributes, as applicable.
4. **Indianapolis Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit Study** – This study analyzes the feasibility of a rapid transit link from downtown Indianapolis to the Indianapolis International Airport in the context of a regional rapid transit system. Phase I examined and prioritized transit corridors and technologies and was completed in September 2003. During 2004, Phase II, (continued from 2003) will determine route alignments and Phase III will develop a regional system proposal.
5. **Regional Pedestrian System Plan** – Prepared in collaboration with IndyGo and other regional stakeholders in addressing the need for improved pedestrian amenities in the region. Phase I was initiated in 2002 and was completed in 2003, Phase II began in 2003 and is scheduled to be completed in 2004. Phase III will begin in 2004.
6. **Ozone Public Awareness Program** – The Indianapolis MPO will assist the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) in implementing the ozone public awareness program using Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds in MPO's budget. The Ozone Awareness Program partners with IPTC/IndyGo in implementing a fare reduction program to the public for using transit service, and with INDOT in utilizing the Intelligent Transportation System's Variable Message Signs providing ozone related information to the public.
7. **2025 Indianapolis Regional Transportation Plan** – The Regional Plan Transportation Plan will be amended as needed in response to new information and/or changing conditions.
8. **Major Review/Regional Plan Refinement Activities** – Major review activities include steps toward a major update of the Regional Transportation Plan as 2000 Census information becomes available. All plan components, including the Regional Mass Transit Service Plan, the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plans and major roadway expansion projects will be monitored and amended as needed to keep the plan current with changing conditions.
9. **Central Indiana Suburban Transportation and Mobility Study** – The MPO staff will actively participate in this INDOT study. The study is seeking long term transportation and land use solutions in coping with the fast growing suburban communities in the Central Indiana region. Among other stated objectives, this study will examine the pros and cons associated with an outer beltway with respect to relieving congestion on the freeway system and future growth impacts.

10. **Special Studies – Public Involvement** – Continue and expand efforts to actively involve the community in the transportation process via:
 - ❖ **Citizens Advisory Committee**, teMPO newsletters, media outreach and presentation materials, two CAC Sub-committees. e.g. Senior Mobility and Noise Abatement, as well as initiating other sub-committees as needed to address special topics of concern.
 - ❖ **Refinement of the Environmental Justice Process** - Continued special efforts to involve minorities and low-income populations in the transportation planning process through the MPO's Community Inclusion Project.
 - ❖ **The School Involvement Program** - Continue educational activities in collaboration with the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC). 2004 activities will include the fourth annual Student Institute, and continued work with Indianapolis Insight, which is an update of the Marion County Comprehensive Plan.
 - ❖ **Enhancement of MPO's website** - On-going enhancement of MPO website to make it a more user friendly and effective communications tool
11. **Evaluation of the Public Involvement Program** – This evaluation is to ensure the effectiveness of the MPO's Community Involvement Process and to identify opportunities for continued improvement.
12. **Interchange Justification Study** – Conduct an Interchange Justification Study to determine needs and location of a new interchange in the I-65/I-70 inner loop to potentially replace or modify the current Market Street interchange.
13. **Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program** – Prepare a 3-year listing of projects and programs for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year and make that list readily available for public review.
14. **Air Quality Conformity Analysis** - Continuing Regional Air Quality Conformity Analyses to support plan and program amendments and CMAQ applications.

MPO Staff

The Metropolitan Planning Organization has a staff of eight who function as a coordinated team. While every staff member is assigned specific areas of responsibility as “planner-in-charge”, each also maintains a general working knowledge of all MPO-related partners, procedures and projects. In this way, staff members are able to assist each other with meeting deadlines and coordinating work program activities. Consultant services help augment staff resources in completing work program activities. The MPO staff currently includes:

Mike Dearing, Master Planner/Manager

Mike is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the MPO planning process and for providing overall direction, including setting priorities, work program development and coordination with regional planning partners. Mike is the planner-in-charge of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit Study and other follow up activities related to the ConNECTIONS study of Northeast Corridor Transportation, the MPO’s Community Inclusion Project as well as the School Involvement Program and the Citizen’s Advisory Committee. In addition, Mike lends supervisory guidance to the activities of other MPO personnel. Mike can be contacted at 327-5139 or at mdearing@indygov.org.

Sweson Yang, AICP, Chief Transportation Planner

Sweson is a certified planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners and is the MPO’s in-house technical expert. He is the planner-in-charge of the regional travel simulation model and of coordinating the development of the work program, as well as the Long-Range Transportation Plan. In addition, Sweson is the planner-in-charge of work program status reporting, air quality conformity analysis, downtown parking issues, the Transportation Monitoring System, the 9-County Travel Simulation Model Expansion Project, and the Intermodal Freight System Plan and Airport Deployment Study. Sweson can be contacted at 327-5137 or at syang@indgov.org.

Steve Cunningham, Principal Planner

Steve is planner-in-charge of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Improvement Program (IRTIP) and the Transportation Improvement Enhancement Grant Program. He is also planner-in-charge of the Marion County Thoroughfare Plan, the Transportation Impact Analysis Process, the street functional classification system, railroad and airport issues, and contract coordination and monitoring, as well as the Market Street Interchange Modification / Justification Study. In addition, he works closely with Sweson on activities related to air quality conformity analysis and the travel simulation model and the Regional Transportation Plan. Steve can be contacted at 327-5403 or at scunning@indygov.org.

Philip Roth, AICP, Senior Planner

Philip, a certified planner through the American Institute of Certified Planners joined the MPO in February of 2002. His responsibilities include planner-in-charge of updating and implementing the Congestion Management System, coordinating with the Department of Metropolitan Development on land use modeling efforts, and policy analysis and studies including maintenance of the MPO's economic and demographic projections. Other responsibilities include co-Project Manager for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit Study, leading the MPO's corridor planning efforts and coordinating with the Central Indiana Regional Community League in the development of their Planning Guide, and assisting Steve Cunningham and Sweson Yang with the Regional Transportation Plan. Philip can be contacted at 327-5149 or at proth@indygov.org.

Kevin Mayfield, Senior Planner

Kevin is the planner-in-charge of development and maintenance of the MPO maps and data files. He is also planner-in-charge of coordinating Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) information with INDOT, traffic count data, the Street Facilities Inventory, and assists with the preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program and with the Ozone Awareness Program. Kevin is also Chairman of the Committee for Specialized Transportation, Indianapolis Area FTA Section 5310 (Capitol program for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities) Grant Program. Kevin can be contacted at 327-5135 or at kmayfiel@indygov.org.

Amy Inman, M.S., Senior Planner

Amy recently joined the MPO in November 2003 and is a native of Indiana having grown up in Bloomington. Amy obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs and a Master of Science degree in Geography at the University of Illinois at Urbana ~ Champaign. Her responsibilities include being planner-in-charge of bicycle and pedestrian ways, the Pennsy Corridor project, and co-Project Manager for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit Study and the preparation of the Regional Pedestrian Plan. Amy may be contacted at 327-5646 or ainman@indygov.org.

Catherine Kostyn, M.A., Planner

Catherine joined the MPO in February of 2002 and is the planner-in-charge of the public involvement activities of the MPO; this includes managing the MPO web site to make it a more effective community outreach tool. She assists Kevin Mayfield with the Community Inclusion Project and with the maintenance of traffic count maps. Other duties include the coordination of agendas and meetings of the Indianapolis Regional Transportation Council's Policy and Technical Committees, general mapping, contact database management and technical support for other MPO staff members. She also works with Steve on the Transportation Enhancement Grant Program. Catherine can be contacted at 327-5142 or at ckostyn@indygov.org.

For more information related to the MPO, please go to <http://www.IndyGov.org/indympo>.