

the Evansville MPO *Express*

Transportation Planning Updates for Henderson, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties

Evansville Adopts Their First Complete Streets Policy

Earlier this year, the Evansville Trails Coalition (ETC) started a Complete Streets initiative in hopes of getting a Complete Streets Policy adopted by the City of Evansville. They partnered with City Council members Ben Trockman and Zac Heronemus, along with ETC staff, board and steering committee members, to assist the city in developing Ordinance G-2021-17. The ordinance was developed to support improved streets to safely and conveniently accommodate all modes of transportation for a safer, more accessible multimodal network for everyone.

The Complete Streets initiative was supported by multiple partners and agencies, including AARP Indiana, the American Heart Association of Indiana, Talent 2025, Health by Design, Welborn Baptist Foundation, Healthy Communities Partnership, and the Evansville MPO.

Ordinance G-2021-17 was unanimously passed by Evansville City Council members Ben Trockman, Zac Heronemus, Ron Beane, Alex Burton, Kaitlyn Moore Morley, Jonathan Weaver, Jim Brinkmeyer, Missy Mosby and Justin Elpers on October 25, 2017.



Inside the Express:

Warrick County Project Updates	2
Covert Avenue is Open to Bicyclists and Pedestrians!	2
INDOT is Seeking Input on STIP Update	3
KYTC is Updating the LRTP	3
Indiana Mobility Summit was a Success	4
Section 5310 Vehicle Shortages	4
Big Changes Coming to Main Street	5
Laura has Left the Building...	5

Evansville MPO



Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

Ohio River Crossing is Moving Forward



On September 22, it was announced that the environmental study for the Ohio River Crossing was complete, allowing Section 1 construction to begin. Section 1 consists of improvements in Henderson, KY and extends from KY 425 to US 60. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) were the last steps of the environmental study and are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for large, federally-funded projects.

The FEIS identified Central Alternative 1B Modified as the selected alternative, which is a four-lane I-69 bridge and one US 41 bridge retained for local traffic. This includes 11.2 miles of new interstate, including 8.4 miles on new terrain and 2.8 miles of upgrades to US 41. Only the I-69 bridge will be tolled.

On December 21, 2021, it was announced that a contract for Section 1 construction was awarded to Ragle, Inc./Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. design-build team. Construction is expected to begin in early 2022 and continue through 2025.

Warrick County Project Updates

Bell Road:

The road widening project on Bell Road is complete! With construction letting in early 2020, Bell Road has been reconstructed to include an added center left turn lane, sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes. This corridor is nearly two miles long between High Pointe Drive and Telephone Road. This project provides travel mode options between residential neighborhoods on the north end of the corridor and the commercial area at High Pointe Drive.



Bell Rd



Bell Rd

Warrick County Safe Routes to School:

The Warrick County Safe Routes to School project is also complete! Multiuse paths were constructed on Casey Road and Vann Road to provide connections between Castle South Middle School and Castle High School. The paths tied into existing sidewalks along SR 261 to provide connections to John H. Castle Elementary School and Castle North Middle School.



Casey Rd



Casey Rd

Telephone and Epworth Roads:

Telephone Road and Epworth Road are in the early preliminary engineering and design phases. These projects will both be road widening projects and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations that will connect to existing bicycle and pedestrian networks.



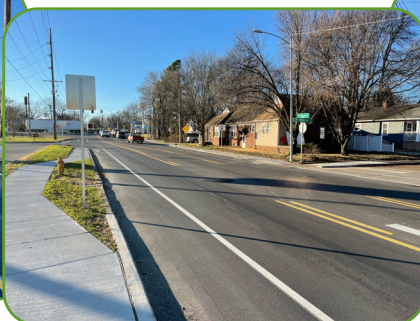
Vann Rd

Covert Avenue is Open to Bicyclists and Pedestrians!

The recently completed Road Diet project on Covert Avenue was a cooperative effort between the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County. The project spans just over 5 miles in total: 2.75 miles in Evansville between US 41 and Green River Road, and 2.25 miles between Green River Road and I 69 which the right-of-way is shared by Evansville and Vanderburgh County. The road diet consisted of reducing four travel lanes to three with the inclusion of a center left turn lane and various bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Dedicated bike lanes

and sidewalks were added between Green River Road and I 69, and sidewalks and curb ramps were updated to meet ADA requirements from Green River Road to US 41. The improvements on the Covert Avenue corridor tie into the INDOT SR 662 road diet recently finished in Warrick County, ultimately allowing users the opportunity to travel from downtown Evansville to Newburgh.

The Covert Avenue road diet project was constructed using CMAQ funds.



INDOT is Seeking Input on STIP Update



The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is in the process of updating the 2022-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is the State's 5-year planning and construction document that lists all projects and project phases expected to be funded within five years with federal funding, as well as state-funded projects that have been deemed "Regionally Significant."

A draft version of the STIP is available at www.in.gov/indot/STIP for a 45-day comment period between December 8, 2021 and January 21, 2022. Multiple

opportunities were and are available for the public to voice their ideas and opinions in the STIP development process. There were four virtual town-hall public meetings held on December 14th, 15th and 16th, 2021. The public can also provide comments using the online form, email or direct mail. The online form and more information can be found at www.in.gov/indot/STIP or by scanning the QR code below.



KYTC is Updating the Long-Range Transportation Plan



Kentucky's Long-Range
Transportation Vision

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is updating its Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan (LRSTP) which will be a planning document that identifies the goals, policies, needs and analysis tools that set the direction of Kentucky's transportation system for the next 25 years. The LRSTP is multi-modal and will look at how the future transportation system can best get travelers and goods where they need to go – whether it's in a car, on a bus or bike, in a boat, on foot or even in a plane or on a train.

The previous LRSTP was completed in 2014. The plan is updated roughly every seven years to keep it current and ensure it can meet the needs of today's rapidly

changing transportation demands and technologies.

In October, KYTC began gathering input from the public through an interactive Kentucky Statewide Transportation Survey to access the public's transportation needs, issues and priorities. Input collected will be used in preparing a plan which will identify the goals, policies, needs, and improvement priorities that will set the direction of Kentucky's transportation system toward the target year of 2045. The survey was open through early December.

As the LRSTP development process continues during the coming year, additional public input opportunities will be available,

including a chance to review and comment on the draft LRSTP before it's finalized. More information about these opportunities will be posted on the project website, GetThereTogetherKY.org, as they become available.

When the LRSTP is completed in late 2022, the content of the LRSTP update will set the stage for KYTC transportation policy decisions and investment strategies to be made between now and 2045. In addition to long-term goals, it will also include an Implementation Plan of short-term actions that need to be completed to support the fulfillment of the vision, goals, and objectives defined within the LRSTP.

Indiana Mobility Summit was a Success

The inaugural Indiana Mobility Summit, hosted by Health by Design in partnership with the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, was held November 16th and 17th via Zoom. The goal of the summit was to promote mobility management and share accessible and equitable transportation and mobility success stories from other states and different areas of Indiana.

Presenters from the National Center for Mobility Management, Moving Maine, and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services started off the Summit on Tuesday morning with a Mobility Management Panel. The panel discussed how mobility management networks have been started and are succeeding in other states. The afternoon included multiple presenters from across Indiana who shared their successes for improving transportation and mobility in their part of the state.

The Summit ended with a keynote from Joseph Pinnell, the Deputy Chief for Workforce Engagement for the State of Indiana.

The Summit was attended by over 80 individuals representing advocacy groups, transit agencies, public service agencies, businesses, and passionate people looking to get involved with mobility management in Indiana. Health by Design hopes to promote mobility partnerships across the state moving forward.

Matt Schriefer from EMPO was happy to help in planning the event. He started the Regional Transit Advisory Committee (RTAC) three years ago to better coordinate transit and mobility across the Evansville region. If you would like to know more about the RTAC or want to get involved, contact Matt at mschriefer@evansvillempo.com.

Indiana Mobility Summit

November 16, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m.
& November 17, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join Health by Design in partnership with the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities for an action-oriented, state-wide event about improving accessible and equitable transportation & mobility in Indiana.



Section 5310 Vehicle Shortages

As is the case with many other items, buses and minivans are currently hard to get do to supply issues with the manufacturers. The Section 5310 recipients who applied for minivans during the FY 2021 call for projects, were made aware that their orders have been put on hold indefinitely. The non-profits who applied for buses did get their purchase orders in, but have been

told that delivery dates have already been pushed back. It's unclear when vehicles will be available again. For that reason, the EMPO has put the FY 2022 Section 5310 Call for Projects on hold for now. We will continue to keep in contact with Midwest Transit in hopes that vehicles will be available sometime in 2022. If not, a larger call for projects will be held for FY 2023.



Big Changes Coming to Main Street

If you've traveled around Evansville and Vanderburgh County, you've become accustomed to orange barrels and road closed signs. Often these are for infrastructure improvements. Along Main Street in downtown Evansville and along North Main Street, oranges barrels, construction fences, and detours are for big changes coming to the area.

The biggest change has been the implosion of the 420 Main building, which has forever altered the Evansville skyline. The 420 Main building, which has been the tallest building in southwest Indiana for several decades, was imploded on

Sunday, November 21 and closed many streets downtown for several hours. The Sycamore building, on the same block, was also demolished with heavy machinery starting in August. Lane and sidewalk closures in the area will continue for several months until the block has been cleared. In their place a new development will begin construction in 2022 with two separate buildings and a park. The four-story and six-story buildings will include ground floor retail and restaurant space with apartment and office space above.

Construction continues on North Main Street at the site of the former IGA grocery store. Four separate three- and four-story buildings are being erected on the block at the northwest corner of North Main Street and Illinois Street. The development will include a mix of apartments for different income ranges and ground floor commercial space. Sidewalk closures and construction fences will continue in the area until completion, which is expected sometime in 2022.



420 Main St Site



North Main St



North Main St

Laura has Left the Building... Kind of!

The Evansville MPO congratulates one its longest serving staff members!

Laura Lamb, our Chief Transportation Engineer, is retiring after 17 years of service with the MPO. She won't be gone long, though. After taking a little time off to spend time with her husband, Aaron, and decompressing after 28 years of civil service between the MPO and Area Plan Commission, she will be assisting the MPO on a part-time basis to allow for a smooth transition.



Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization
Civic Center Complex - Room 316
1 N.W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Evansville, IN 47708



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Policy and Technical Committees meet every other month.
Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

January 13, 2022
March 10, 2022
May 12, 2022
July 14, 2022
September 8, 2022
November 10, 2022

Both Policy and Technical Committees will meet in Room 301 of the Civic Center Complex in Evansville. Technical Committee will meet at 10:00 AM. Policy Committee will meet at 4:00 PM.