

the Evansville MPO *Express*

Transportation Planning Updates for Henderson, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties

PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE: 2021

The Evansville MPO Participation Plan (PP) is a guide to the methods and strategies used to involve the public in the MPO transportation planning process, major documents, projects, and programs. The MPO reviews the Plan every 4-5 years for compliance with FHWA regulations and for potential revisions to the participation options. The MPO has completed an update to the PP, and has advertised for a 45-day public comment period, which began November 19, 2020 and ends January 4, 2021. The updated plan includes new methods and procedures for engagement with

the public in the metropolitan area. The updated PP has been distributed to libraries in the metropolitan area and a copy of the Plan and more information can be found on the EMPO website (www.evansvillempo.com). The EMPO will address comments received and ask the Technical and Policy Committees to adopt the Participation Plan at their respective meetings in January.

If you wish to comment, you may do so by emailing: comments@evansvillempo.com, or calling the EMPO office at 812-436-7833.



EMPO CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly review the planning process conducted by the Evansville MPO. The review team will look at some of the core functions of the MPO, including but not limited to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Participation Plan (PP), Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and the Congestion Management Process (CMP). Part of the review will also include opportunities for the public to provide comments. The Certification Review is currently scheduled for January 12 and 13, 2021, with public comment sessions tentatively scheduled for both days.

For up-to-date information, continue to check the Evansville MPO website (www.evansvillempo.com) and the Evansville MPO Facebook page.



Inside the Express:

FY 2020: Project Delivery Review	2
Transit, Bike & Pedestrian Layers are Online	2
FY 25-26 Notice of Funding Availability-CY 20 Call for Projects	3
EMPO Policy and Technical Committee Schedule Changes	3
FY 2021 Section 5310 Call for Projects	4
Public Transit Agency Safety Plan	4
Lloyd Expressway Improvement Project	5

Evansville MPO



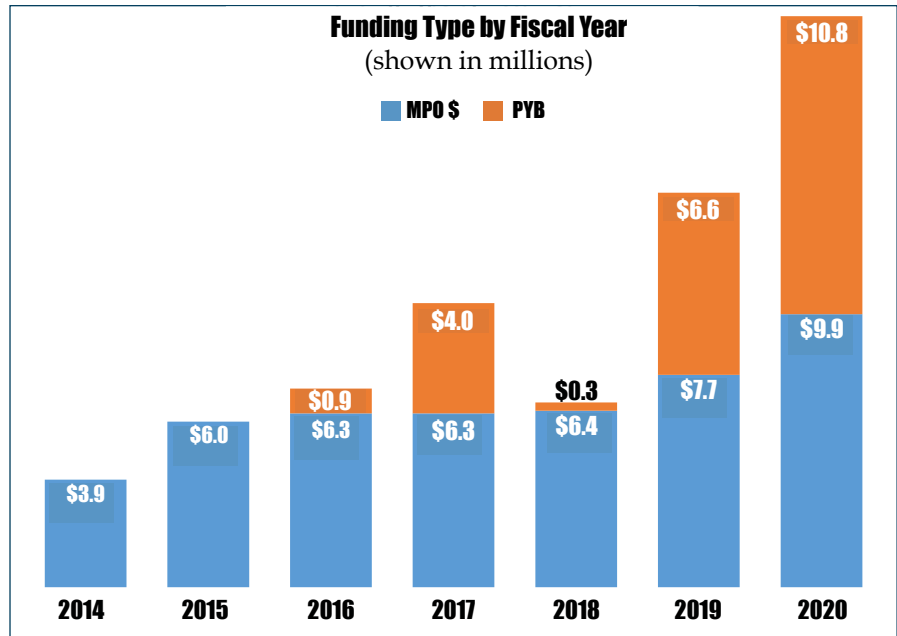
Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

FY 2020: PROJECT DELIVERY REVIEW

In a typical year, the Evansville MPO administers approximately \$6.75 million in federal funding for transportation projects in the Indiana portion of the Evansville urbanized area. With the addition of \$10.8 million in Prior Year Balances (PYB), and loans of \$3 million in funding from other MPOs in Indiana, the MPO, INDOT, LPA partners and consultants collaboratively delivered \$20.6 million in contract related projects in fiscal year 2020! That is \$6 million more than the next highest year in the last six years.

The FY 2020 projects delivered included six contract lettings for a total of \$19 million. The remaining \$1 million went to contract development costs. Moving forward, the MPO will continue to get an annual obligation, currently estimated at \$6.75 million, and will not be able to carry over any unused balances for future year project costs. As such, the first priority will be to fully fund construction costs of priority projects. Other expenses will be awarded funding if any balances remain at the end of the fiscal year. In the past, when balances were available for future years, the MPO put roughly 70% of the federal funds towards construction and 30% towards other program costs. Moving forward the program will reflect a split closer to 90% construction and 10% other program costs. With the increased emphasis on construction, project delivery “on time and at cost” is more important than ever. Drawing upon the collaboration and cooperation efforts of FY 2020, the Evansville MPO is looking forward to more years that are as successful in the future.

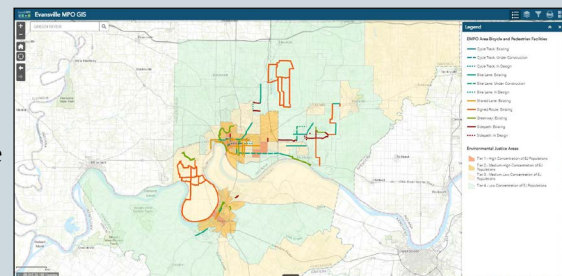
Projects Let in FY 2020	
City of Evansville	
Covert Avenue	Road diet with bike and pedestrian accommodations
Walnut Street Phase 1	Road diet with bike and pedestrian accommodations, green infrastructure, and a multi-use path
2nd Street/Washington Avenue Intersection Project	Boulevard construction with traffic calming elements
Vanderburgh County Sign Replacement Project	Replace regulatory and street guide signs that do not meet reflectivity standards
Vanderburgh County	
Columbia/Delaware Bridge	Bridge Rehabilitation
Warrick County	
Bell Road	Road widening with bike and pedestrian accommodations



TRANSIT, BIKE & PEDESTRIAN LAYERS ARE ONLINE

Regional transit, bike and pedestrian facilities are now available layers on the MPO's interactive GIS map. The facilities layers can be added to the map to see how existing and future routes relate to other geographic data such as MPO projects and Environmental Justice (EJ) population areas. The interactive GIS map can be found on the MPO website (evansvillempo.com).

To add the transit, bike and pedestrian layers, click on the Layer List (☰) on the top right of the screen. From there you can add EMPO Area Transit Routes and EMPO Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. The layers include METS, HART and WATS transit routes and existing, under construction and in design bicycle and pedestrian facilities for Vanderburgh, Warrick and Henderson counties.



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY – CY 2020 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Evansville MPO has begun work on the FY 2022 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a short-range plan that lists all transportation projects in the region using federal money within a four-year timeframe. The first step of this process was to issue a Notice of Funding Availability, or a Call for Projects, to the EMPO's Local Public Agencies (LPAs).

The Call for Projects provides LPAs the opportunity to apply to the EMPO for Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) funds to construct federal-aid roadway, bicycle and pedestrian projects within the region. This year, the Call for Projects was issued in July for Indiana LPAs (Vanderburgh and Warrick counties) that are within the EMPO Urbanized Area. Any project, regardless of anticipated FHWA funding source, was eligible for submission. The Evansville MPO received the four projects below, and after review, it was determined that all projects were eligible to receive federal funding.

The projects submitted and selected for funding support the MTP goals and objectives for a more inclusive approach to transportation. When complete, these projects will add two miles of bike lanes, two miles of sidewalks, nearly ½ mile of shared-use path, curbs, storm sewers, and ADA compliant ramps. A mobility bus and fixed route bus for METS is also included in the selected projects, which will help METS maintain a state of good repair for their fleet.

LPA	Project	Fed. Funding Requested
Vanderburgh County	Oak Hill Road	\$4,860,000.00
	Project includes a three-lane cross section on Oak Hill Rd (Lynch Rd to St George Rd) with bike lanes and sidewalk along one side of the road. ADA compliant curb ramps and crosswalks will be included, and curbs and storm sewers will be included for the road drainage system.	
Warrick County	Epworth Road	\$9,020,000.00
	Project includes a three-lane cross section on Epworth Rd (SR 662 to Lincoln Ave) with curb and gutter, bike lanes and a sidewalk along one or both sides of the road. A five-lane cross section (Lincoln Ave to Frontage Rd, just south is SR 66) is included with a shared-use path being constructed on the west side of Epworth Rd from Lincoln Ave to the Deaconess Hospital campus.	
METS	Mobility Bus Purchase	\$60,800.00
	Purchase a new mobility bus with an increased wheelchair capacity to replace a vehicle that is past the useful life benchmark for use for METS Mobility service.	
	35' Bus Purchase	\$360,000.00
	Purchase a new 35' bus to replace a vehicle that is past the useful life benchmark for use on METS' fixed route system.	

EMPO POLICY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Policy and Technical Committees will now meet **EVERY OTHER MONTH** starting January 2021. Meetings will still be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Civic Center has several restrictions and safety precautions that are in place. Visitors are required to wear a face mask or covering and have their temperature taken upon arrival. Anyone with a temperature above 100 degrees will not be permitted inside the building. There are signs on the floors

to encourage social distancing of six feet apart and new capacity limits — two per car — on public elevators.

Because of these restrictions, **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.

Policy meetings are streamed online through the Evansville MPO website at <http://www.evansvillempo.com/Meetings.html>.

2021 EMPO Meeting Dates:

January 14, 2021
March 11, 2021
May 13, 2021
July 8, 2021
September 9, 2021
November 10, 2021*

*November 10 is a Wednesday. The Civic Center is closed on the 2nd Thursday for Veteran's Day.

FY 2021 SECTION 5310 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Fiscal Year 2021 Section 5310 Call for Projects was announced on the MPO website on October 2, 2020. The call was for non-profit organizations that provide transportation to seniors and/or individuals with disabilities. The call was also announced in an email to the Regional Transit Advisory Committee (RTAC), mentioned at the MPO's Technical and Policy Committee meetings on October 8, and discussed at the RTAC meeting on October 19.

Four applications were delivered to the MPO by the November 2nd deadline. The Arc of Evansville and Missing Pieces CDC each applied for a low-floor minivan. Easterseals Rehabilitation Center applied for a large transit vehicle. New Hope CDC applied for a medium transit vehicle and a large transit vehicle. The federal amount requested for these five vehicles was less than the Section 5310 funding available, so all five vehicles were approved for funding after confirmation of eligibility.

The next steps are to begin the grant development process, which begins with the inclusion of these projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The process will start early in 2021 in order to submit the grant by late spring. With this timeline, funding should be available for these non-profits to begin the ordering process in the summer of 2021.



The first SAFE Transportation van acquired in 2019



Arc of Evansville van acquired with Section 5310 funds

PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCY SAFETY PLAN (PTASP)

On July 19, 2018, the FTA published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule. The rule requires both METS and HART to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS), as well as safety performance measures and targets. The PTASP rule became effective on July 19, 2019 and required all agencies to complete and certify their PTASP by July 20, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the impact it has had on public transit agencies, the FTA extended the deadline for completion to December 31, 2020.

The MPO worked with METS and HART to help them each complete their PTASP. Once the plan is finalized by each agency, it will go before the City of Evansville Board of Public Works and the City of Henderson Board of Commissioners for certification of completion before December 31, 2020. The plan will need to be reviewed and updated by METS and HART annually and after any major service changes.



METS Garage



HART Garage

LLOYD EXPRESSWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is planning to invest around \$100 million for improvements to make the Lloyd Expressway more efficient and safer for motorists. The improvement

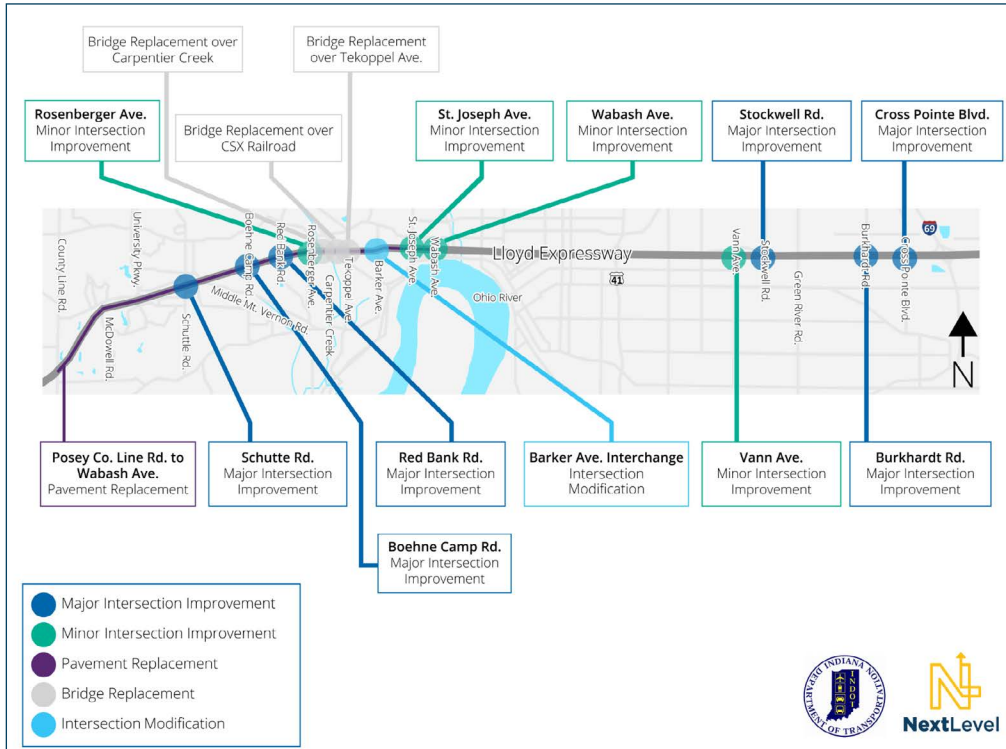
project extends from one end of Vanderburgh County to the other, from the West at Posey County Line Rd to the East at Cross Pointe Blvd. The project consists of major and minor intersection improvements, bridge replacements and pavement replacement along parts of the corridor. The improvements are split into two phases. Phase one is from Rosenberg Ave to Cross Pointe Blvd, with construction expected to begin in Spring 2024. Phase two is from Posey County Line Rd to Rosenberg Ave and construction is planned to start a year later, in 2025.

INDOT has created a website and Facebook page for the improvement project to engage the public throughout the process.

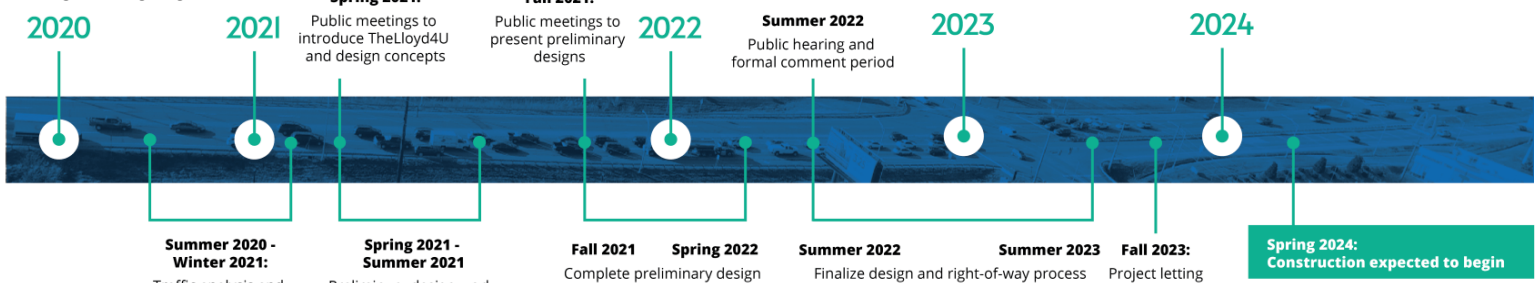
Website: www.thelloyd4u.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheLloyd4U/

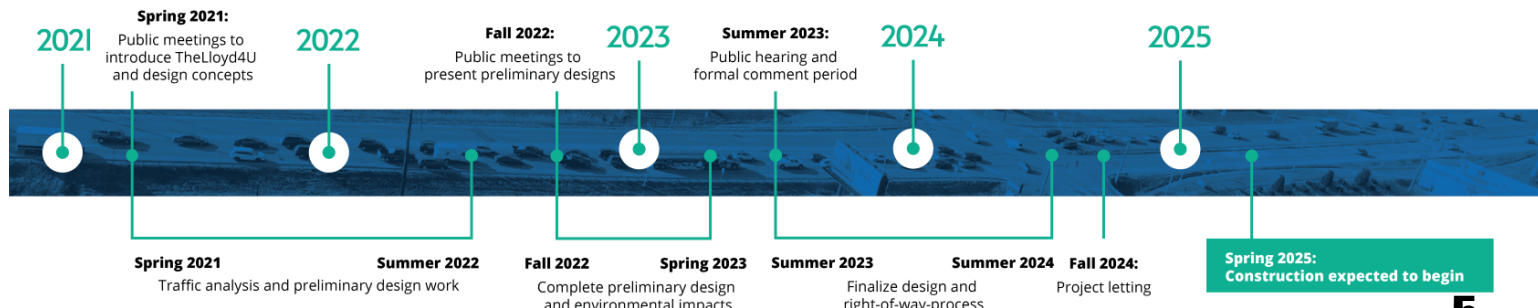
Follow the progress by signing up on the project website to receive updates by email and/or text message.



PHASE 1 Timeline



PHASE 2 Timeline



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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOTICE!

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