

the Evansville MPO *Express*

Transportation Planning for Henderson, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties

INDOT and KYTC Coordinate for Fix for 41

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) have collaborated on a construction project that will rehabilitate seven bridges and highway pavement between the bridges on U.S. 41. The project will span from the U.S. 41 interchange with I-69 in Evansville south to the Indiana/Kentucky border. The project began in early May and will continue through the summer of 2019, with an expected cost of \$25 million.



The design of the 3.8 mile construction zone will enable two lanes of traffic in each direction to remain open at all times. By doing this, emergency services, law enforcement and the general public will be minimally impacted. Once the project is complete, the lifespan of the bridges and roadway will be extended by 25 years.

Project highlights include:

- The weigh station at the Indiana/Kentucky border is expected to stay open during construction.
- Wide loads and heavy hauls will need to use the detour through Maceo, KY, using the U.S. 231 Bridge.
- Dynamic message boards will be located on I-69, U.S. 41, the Lloyd Expressway and Kentucky State Routes to provide motorists with advanced warning and traffic information.
- The speed limit will be reduced throughout the life of the project. INDOT and KYTC have partnered with law enforcement agencies to provide extra patrols in order to maintain safety.
- Traffic cameras will be used to aid in emergency response.

For more information, visit the Fix for 41 project page at <http://www.in.gov/indot/3459.htm>

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Evansville MPO



Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

EMPO Receives Federal Certification

On February 1-2, 2017, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) led a certification review of the transportation planning process conducted in the Evansville, IN-KY urbanized area. The review consisted of three primary activities: a site visit, a review of planning products (in advance of and during the site visit), and preparation of a Certification Review Report that summarized the review and offered findings.

Required at least every four years, the review focuses on compliance with Federal regulations, challenges, successes, and experiences of the cooperative relationship between the MPO, the State DOTs, and public transportation operators in conducting the metropolitan transportation planning process.

In joint conclusion, the FHWA and FTA certified the EMPO metropolitan planning process, while commending the MPO on noteworthy practices and providing recommendations to improve the planning process moving forward.

Be Safe! Bicycle Safety Reminders

WEAR A HELMET:



WRONG



RIGHT

Helmets should be worn level, not tilted back - a tilted helmet won't protect you properly. The helmet should sit low on your forehead - one or two finger-widths above your eyebrow. It should fit snugly and should not move or slide around.

USE HAND SIGNALS:



LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



STOP

Be sure to use these hand signals while riding to let motorists know where you are going. Making eye contact and waving to alert drivers of your intentions is also helpful, especially at intersections.

Cycling safely on city streets requires an understanding of traffic rules. Follow these simple steps to become a safer cyclist:

- Obey **ALL** traffic rules - stop at stop signs and red lights.
- Always **RIDE RIGHT - WALK LEFT** - always ride in the same direction as traffic. Sharrows and Bike Lane markings point in the direction you should be traveling.
- Use front and rear lights and have reflectors if you ride at night. Wear reflective or light-colored clothing.



Summer Air Quality Season

Summer is here, which means that weather conditions are favorable for ground-level ozone formation. Emissions from motor vehicles are the primary source of ozone-causing pollutants, accounting for almost half of our air pollution. Because heat and sunlight are important factors in ozone formation, ozone pollution generally peaks during the months of April through October, on hot, sunny days with little or no wind and no precipitation.

Air quality forecasts are available on the City of Evansville/Vanderburgh County website: <http://www.evansville.in.gov/home/index.asp?page=518>, as well as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website: <http://www.airnow.gov>.

To reduce your air quality impact, consider these transportation tips:

- Bike, walk or use public transit for trips when possible.
- Combine trips when you drive. Fewer trips reduces your impact.
- Reduce engine idling time. Park and go inside instead of using drive-through windows, especially when the line is long.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained. Your vehicle and the environment will benefit.
- Postpone fueling your vehicle until after 6 pm. Don't 'top-off' your tank when filling up.

For more information on air quality matters, including additional ways you can reduce your impact, see Healthy Air Healthy Communities, a locally produced television series focused on air quality and ways that you can take action, at: <http://www.evansvillempo.com/AirQuality.html>.

2018-2021 Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan

The MPO has completed an update to the region's Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Often referred to as the Coordinated Plan, it is a requirement of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in order for our region to continue to receive Section 5310 funding. This funding is used to assist METS, HART and area non-profit organizations acquire buses and vans for the transportation of seniors and individuals with disabilities.



The following public involvement events helped in developing this new Coordinated Plan:

- November 2016: Survey delivered to non-profits who serve seniors and/or individuals with disabilities to determine their transportation needs.
- December 2016: General public survey made available to get input about METS, HART and WATS from existing and potential riders. 97 surveys were returned.
- April 2017: Questionnaire and open houses to gather input specifically from seniors and individuals with disabilities. 12 questionnaires were returned and 14 people attended the open house events.

Next Steps: A 30-day comment period will run to June 23, 2017. The MPO will ask for the Technical and Policy Committees to adopt the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan at a later meeting. A PDF of the Plan can be found on the MPO website: www.evansvillempo.com.

EAB Thankful for Grant to Purchase Bus

As the Evansville Association for the Blind (EAB) works to fulfill our mission to educate, employ, and empower persons with disabilities, primarily those blind or visually impaired, we continue to be blessed by the people we meet along the way. This certainly includes the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (EMPO) who made us aware of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant opportunity which allowed EAB to purchase their first, ever, passenger bus. As EAB celebrates their 100th year next year, it is past time for the Blind Association to be able to offer transportation services and with EMPO's assistance this is now possible.

While we continue to employ persons with disabilities, provide services for the blind, visually impaired, and offer activities for our blind, visually impaired population, this bus will meet a great need for our agency. Services as well as activities are performed both at EAB and throughout the community. You will most likely see this bus at the zoo for our "White Cane Day at the Zoo" event, at Eastland Mall for our "Day at the Mall" for our teens, at Washington Square Mall for our older population's mall walking activity, as well as providing transportation to employees and clients who don't have transportation.

Our community is truly fortunate to have the Evansville Association for the Blind to serve those who are blind, visually impaired and the Evansville Association for the Blind is fortunate to be in such a generous and caring community. And,

finally, those of us who work with and for our population every day are blessed with the opportunity to witness their desire to learn, work, and provide themselves and their family quality, independent lives. We celebrate each person's success to become educated, employed, and empowered to acquire the quality of life they desire and are very grateful for the many ways this passenger bus will assist those EAB teaches, employs, and serves. Evansville Association for the Blind's Board, Staff, Employees, & Consumers sincerely appreciate the assistance provided by the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization in receiving this generous FTA grant.

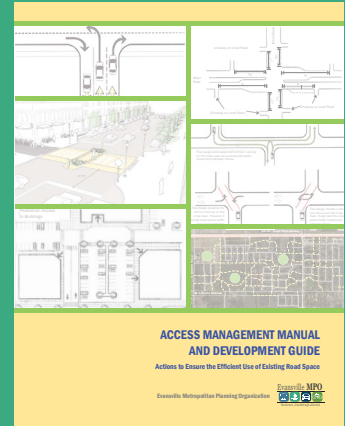
Karla L. Horrell
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Executive Director
Evansville Association for the Blind



Evansville Adopts the Access Management Manual

On March 30th, the City of Evansville's Board of Public Works adopted by resolution the MPO's Access Management Manual and Development Guide. This document was created in 2015/16 by a steering committee consisting of engineering and planning agency individuals from Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Warrick County, City of Henderson, Henderson County, INDOT, and KYTC, as well as representatives from the Southwestern Indiana Builders Association. This will give the city engineer's office a document of current access standards to refer to when making access decisions involving new or modified developments.

The Guide is available at: http://www.evansvillempo.com/Docs/Access_Management/EMPO_Access_Management_Manual_Development_Guide_Final07.11.16.pdf



Work Continues on Evansville's First Cycle Track

In November 2014, the Jacobsville Area Community Corporation approved a plan that would transform North Main Street and the Jacobsville neighborhood. At one time, this neighborhood had the highest reported crime rate in the city, as well as the lowest median household income. A result of extensive collaboration led by Jacobsville Area Community Corporation, and facilitated by the City's Department of Metropolitan Development, the investment along the North Main Street corridor is the first major public investment in this area in decades.

The infrastructure improvements will extend for one mile on North Main Street from Division Street north to Morgan Avenue/Garvin Park entrance. Improvements include:

- A buffered cycle track with decorative pavers on the east side of the corridor.
- Travel lane width reductions to further traffic calming.
- Sidewalk and curb ramp improvements on both sides of the street.
- Pedestrian-scale lighting, along with new historic replica acorn top street lights with brighter LED bulbs to offer more light coverage on the sidewalk and discourage crime.
- New trees and landscaping to beautify the streetscape.

Approximately 50 on-street parking spaces were removed from North Main Street to make room for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. To mitigate this parking loss, the city purchased land to create around 120 off-street parking spaces.

Also being constructed is a similar cycle track facility on Virginia Street that will connect North Main Street west to First Avenue.

Prior to construction, the Department of Metropolitan Development requested an Economic Impact Study to determine the economic potential of the North Main Street investments. This study estimated that the completed urban street will generate nearly \$11,000,000 in new economic activity by the end of year seven after completion.

Construction began in the summer of 2016 and is expected to be completed by this fall. The project is estimated to cost \$13.5 million, with funding coming from bond payments out of the Jacobsville Tax Increment Financing district.



Community Crossings Matching Grant



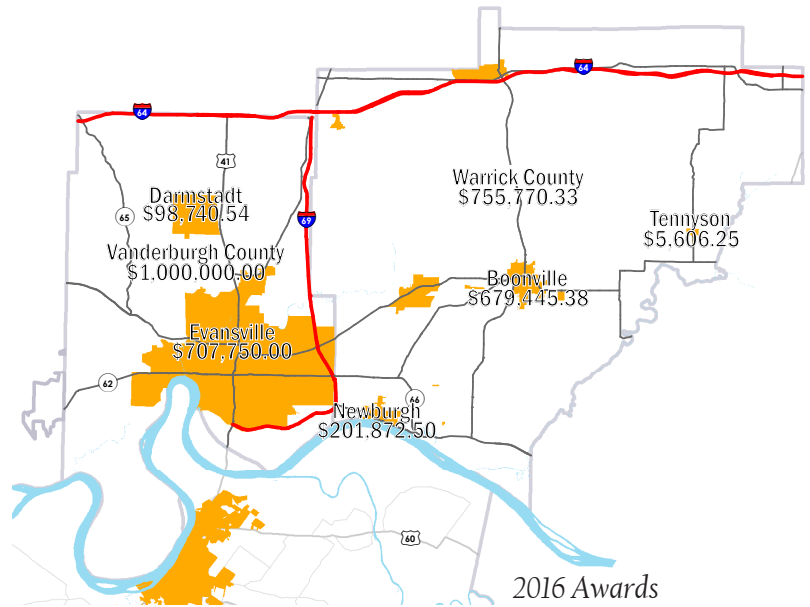
In 2016, the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Mike Pence enacted HEA 1001 which created the Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) program. This program provided \$150 million in funding to cities, towns and counties throughout Indiana for improvements to local roads and bridges. Applications for these funds were submitted to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Selected projects were funded with a 50/50 match – 50% Community Crossings funding and 50% local money. To be eligible for funds, communities were required to have an Asset Management Plan in place that demonstrated the existing pavement conditions and need for repair.

In 2015, the Evansville MPO completed a Regional Pavement Management System Plan (RPMS). The RPMS inventoried every roadway in Vanderburgh and Warrick counties (IN) and Henderson County (KY) to assess existing conditions. A 5-year plan was created using this data to prioritize road improvement projects.

This RPMS data was used to assist communities in developing their CCMG applications. In the Evansville MPO area, seven cities, towns and counties received Community Crossings funding totaling nearly \$3.5 million.

The CCMG program has been continued for 2017. This year, the match will be based on population. For counties with a population less than 50,000 and cities and towns with less than 10,000, the match will be 25% local and 75% state. For counties with a population of 50,000 or more and cities and towns with 10,000 or more, the match will remain 50% local and 50% state. Applications opened on June 5 and are due on July 14. Preliminary awards are expected to be announced at the end of August. Communities that received funding in 2016 are eligible to apply for funding again in 2017.

For more information, visit: <http://www.in.gov/indot/2390.htm>



Mark Your Calendar

The Evansville MPO Policy and Technical Committees meet on the 1st Thursday of every month.

July 6, 2017	November 2, 2017
August 3, 2017	December 7, 2017
September 7, 2017	January 4, 2018
October 5, 2017	February 1, 2018

Technical Committee meets at 10:00 am in Room 318 of the Civic Center Complex in Evansville.

Policy Committee meets at 4:00 pm in Room 301 of the Civic Center Complex in Evansville.