



Long Range Transportation Plan Update & Public Meeting Schedule

The MPO staff is updating the 2030 Transportation Plan. Socioeconomic data has been updated for our study area. MPO staff will host public meetings in order to solicit public opinion in updating our regional transportation plan on the dates listed below. All interested parties are invited to attend these meetings to provide recommendations on proposed projects, point out areas of concern to the MPO staff, and complete a transportation questionnaire.

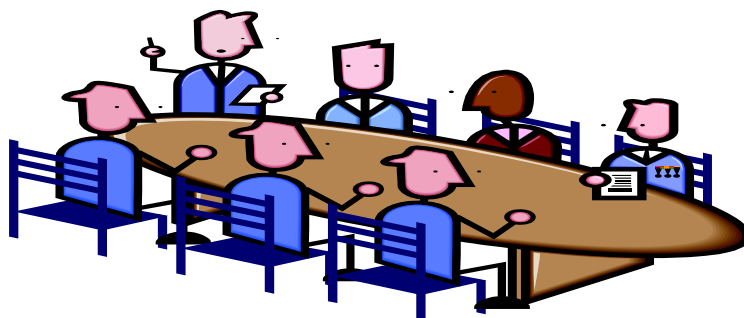
All public meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are schedule for the following times and locations:

August 15, 2006: Ohio Township Central Library - 4111 Lakeshore Dr. - Newburgh, IN

August 23, 2006: Evansville-Vanderburgh Central Library - 200 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. - Evansville, IN

August 24, 2006: Henderson County Library - 101 South Main Street - Henderson, KY

Those who are unable to attend a public meeting may visit the Evansville MPO's office or website to review and submit comments on proposed projects, as well as to complete a questionnaire. Comments and questionnaires must be received by 8 a.m. on September 21st. The Draft 2035 Plan will be presented to the MPO Policy Board for approval in November. The current Long Range Plan document is available on the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization's website at: www.evansvillempo.com



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METS Gets On-Board With Hybrid Buses

The City of Evansville recently purchased four diesel-electric hybrid buses for the Metropolitan Evansville Transit System (METS), Evansville's public transit provider. Compared to a conventional diesel-powered bus, the new hybrid vehicles are expected to reduce vehicle emissions by as much as 90 percent and fuel consumption by as much as 25 percent. This will help to improve our regions air quality and assist METS in reducing its fuel costs. In addition, the new hybrid buses will provide passengers with a more comfortable ride and greater reliability. All four vehicles are equipped with air conditioning and will replace buses that have exceeded their useful service life. So get on-board with METS and experience the future of public transportation.

STAFF NEWS

Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization has hired two new planners with visions of enhancing the transportation system in our study area and to help the Evansville MPO achieve it's goals in transportation planning. We welcome Dave Stensaas and Vishu Lingala.

On February 6th Dave Stensaas joined the Evansville MPO staff as a transportation planner. Dave relocated from Spokane, Washington, where he recently completed a master's degree program in Urban and Regional Planning. Both Dave and his wife Teri worked for the US Forest Service in the Northwest for several years previously. The couple has a spirited two-year-old son named Liam. Dave will be working on pedestrian and bicycle planning and the Congestion Management Process, among other things.



Vishu Lingala joined the Evansville MPO staff as a Transportation Planner on March 9th, 2006. Vishu received a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, he also has an Architecture Degree from JNTU, Hyderabad India. Vishu will be working on updating the Travel Demand Model, as well as numerous other projects.





Indiana Trails Plan – Hoosiers on the Move

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels announced in April a plan to use existing trails, abandoned railroad corridors, and some roadways to create a state-wide network of major trails. The “backbone” system of trails would provide opportunities for local trails, like the Pigeon Creek Greenway, to link up with other communities.

The intent of this visionary plan is to improve the quality of life across the state by providing linear parks that make communities more enjoyable and attractive; provide more options for Hoosiers to get exercise; and to encourage economic development. Well developed trails have a solid track record of boosting adjoining property values and attracting development. But the Governor also sees the opportunity to use the trail corridors for routing various infrastructure facilities through Indiana communities. By leasing space to private infrastructure providers, a revenue source could be created that would pay for trail operations and maintenance.

"The state will take the lead, but local communities and private organizations must play a large role if we're to take a real leap forward and create the kind of trails network that really sets Indiana apart," Daniels said. "We'll favor cooperative projects among communities that will link local trails into long continuous routes."

The DNR and INDOT will be partners in the trail operations. A draft plan called *Hoosiers on the Move* was completed in May. On May 31st about 300 trail planners and advocates convened in Indianapolis to assist with honing the plan. Coordination, funding, and trail maintenance were discussed in breakout sessions. Routes were prioritized regionally, by representatives from six established regions. At least five representatives from our study area took part in this summit, including MPO staffer Dave Stensaas. A great deal of input was collected by facilitators during these meetings.

The final plan will be put out for public comment in late June and the DNR will facilitate a series of public meetings to discuss its details. The designated meeting place for SW Indiana is the Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Area in Winslow (2310 E. SR 364). The meeting will be held on June 29th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

We Have a New Name!

We are delighted to inform everyone that we are now called the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Policy Committee approved this name change at their regular meeting on April 6, 2006.

Safe Routes to School— Better Bicycling and Walking for Kids

INDOT released their first Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project application on May 1st. The SRTS program provides 100 percent reimbursement for infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements, up to \$250,000 and \$75,000 respectively, per project.

This \$612million/5 year program was included in the SAFETEA-LU transportation act of 2005. The SRTS program “empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to schools a safe and routine activity.” Projects which encourage increased bicycle and pedestrian access to schools by children kindergarten through 8th grade, within two miles of a school, may be eligible for reimbursement funding.

Evansville MPO
Policy Committee Members

Jack Corn, Jr.
Chairperson
Evansville City Council/
Appointee

Lloyd Winnecke
Vanderburgh County Council

Stephen Melcher
Evansville City Council

Jonathan Weinzapfel
Mayor, City of Evansville

Cheryl Musgrave
Vanderburgh County
Commissioner

Carl J. Conner
Warrick County Commission

Cynthia Burger
Newburgh Town Board

John Stroud
Henderson Code
Administrator

William Hubiak
Henderson County Engineer

Greg Meyer
Vanderburgh County Commis-
sion Appointee

Samuel Sarvis
INDOT

Edward Merryman
KYTC

Edward Ziemer
Mayoral Appointment

EVANSVILLE MPO POLICY AND
TECHNICAL SCHEDULED MEETINGS

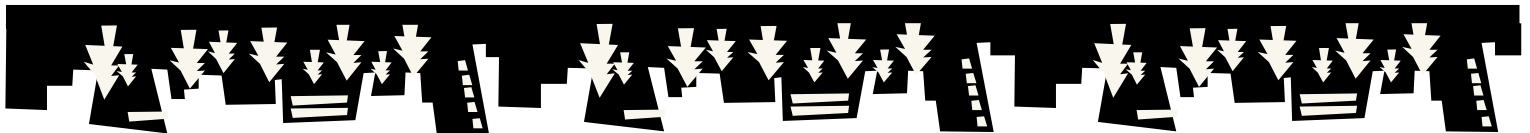
Technical Committee Meetings are held at 10:00 a.m. in Room 318 at the Civic Center Complex in Evansville, Indiana.

Policy Committee Meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. in Room 301 at the Civic Center Complex in Evansville, Indiana.

Below are scheduled dates for 2006 Technical & Policy Meet-ings.

January 5, 2006	May 4, 2006	September 7, 2006
February 2, 2006	June 1, 2005	October 5, 2006
March 2, 2006	July 6, 2006	November 2, 2006
April 6, 2006	August 3, 2006	December 7, 2006

Call the Evansville MPO office at (812) 436-7833 to confirm meet-
ing place and time.



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