

the Evansville MPO *Express*

Transportation Planning Updates for Henderson, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties

THE EVANSVILLE MPO HAS A NEW TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND TIP

In early 2018, the Evansville MPO began updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to a target year of 2045 to replace the MTP 2040. Public involvement and Local Public Agency (LPA) conversations played an integral part of the planning process. In April, a community survey was released to get a sense of residents' priorities. In all, 660 people participated in the survey from our three-county area. The Evansville MPO also began meeting with LPAs to discuss the status of projects from the 2040 plan and any new needs that have arisen in the last several years.



CAC Meeting

For every MTP update, the MPO brings together a group of individuals with diverse interests and backgrounds from the three-county area to form the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC gathers several times throughout the planning process to help guide and inform the plan. The first CAC meeting was held in March to gather initial thoughts and ideas on the current transportation network. By going through a

brainstorming session with the CAC, the MPO was able to collect information that helped form the Plan's Vision, Goals and Objectives. The second CAC meeting was held in June. After reviewing the Vision, Goals and Objectives, CAC members provided their ideas on how the MPO and local agencies could achieve these Goals and Objectives. Their input helped formulate the policies and programs set forth in the Plan, and resulted in specific projects being identified.

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Evansville MPO

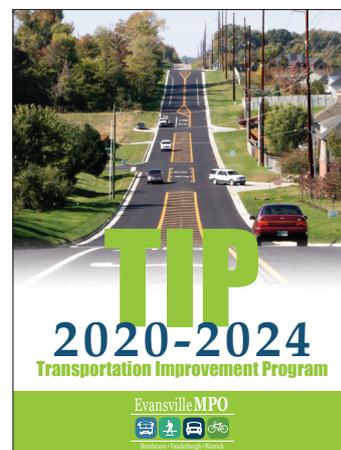
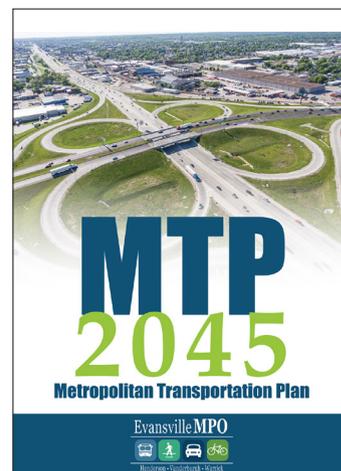


Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

With public input received and CAC participation, 44 projects estimated to be in the range of \$443-\$497 million were identified. When an agency is ready to move forward with financial commitment to a project under their jurisdiction, the project will be moved from the MTP 2045 to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Along with the MTP 2045 update, the TIP was updated to fiscal years 2020-2024. The TIP identifies funding for transportation projects over the immediate short-term of five years.

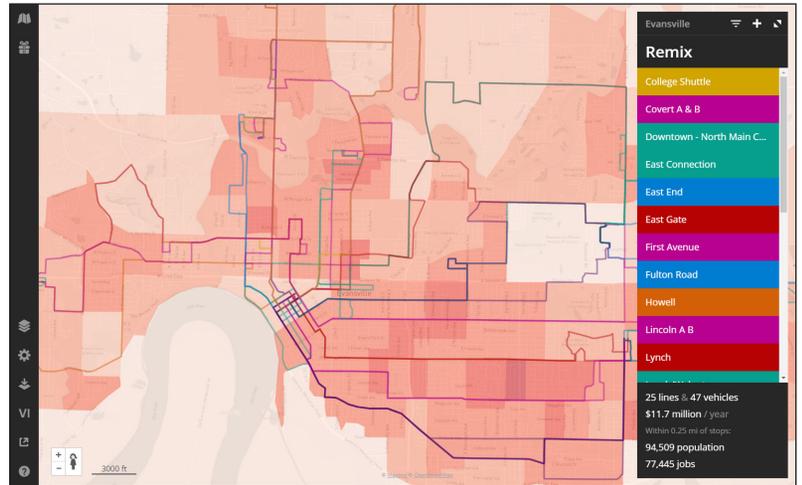
The Evansville MPO Policy Committee approved both the MTP 2045 and 2020-2024 TIP on March 14, 2019. The FHWA reviewed and determined that the MTP 2045 was in compliance for Conformity standards. The 2020-2024 TIP will take effect beginning July 1, 2019.



REMIX HELPS MPO, METS & HART WITH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The Evansville MPO has contracted with Remix to use their online-based transit planning software. Remix is an online transit planning application that allows for multiple users simultaneously. It quickly automates route and schedule planning, letting transit planners test and compare multiple scenarios in just a matter of minutes. When an existing route is modified or a new route is drawn in the application, the costs, schedule, and bus requirements for those routes are shown almost instantaneously.

Remix helps METS and HART better realize the time adjustments for temporary detours. It also helps them see the annual costs and Title VI implications of route modifications. The FTA requires transit agencies to provide Title VI information for route changes to ensure that no population group is disproportionately impacted by route changes. The MPO was able to use the demographic information in their most recent MTP and TIP updates to visualize the potential impacts of proposed projects on disadvantaged population groups.



Remix screenshot of METS

W.C.C.O.A. THANKFUL FOR GRANT TO PURCHASE NEW BUS

A Non-Profit Spotlight

The Warrick County Council on Aging had a very good beginning to 2019! The Council on Aging was awarded a Section 5310 Grant through the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization for a brand new small transit bus with a wheelchair lift. The other buses owned by the Warrick County Council on Aging have many miles on them and have had several maintenance issues. We are so proud of our new bus. The drivers are flipping coins to see who gets to drive it. We are looking forward to applying for another bus.



The Warrick County Council on Aging has been providing transportation to the elderly and disabled since 1973.

Respectfully appreciated,
Kathy Fark
 Executive Director
 W.C.C.O.A.

UPGRADE BIKESHARE EXPANDS

In September 2016, the Evansville Trails Coalition, in partnership with Welborn Baptist Foundation's Upgrade Initiative, launched the first bikeshare program in Evansville. This program has been a success with over 3,500 active members and 8,389 bike rides to date.* In October 2018, the program expanded to Henderson, KY, making 95 bikes available between the two counties. Stations are currently located at:

Evansville

- Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau (Pagoda)
- Downtown YMCA
- Haynie's Corner
- Franklin Street at West Library
- North Main Street area
- Deaconess Sports Park
- University of Evansville
- Ivy Tech Community College

Henderson

- Second St and Main St
- Audubon Kids Zone
- Along trails in Atkinson Park

For more information, visit: walkbikeevv.org/bike-share or bike.zagster.com/upgrade

*Numbers courtesy of Evansville Trails Coalition



KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET'S SHIFT 2020

In the past, Kentucky's Highway Plan had more projects than dollars to pay for them. In the 2016 Highway Plan, only 10 percent of the \$7.1 billion of state projects identified had state funds. As a result, Governor Matt Bevin directed KYTC to develop a more data-driven, objective approach to prioritizing projects. The response to the Governor's challenge was SHIFT: the Strategic Highway Investment Formula for Tomorrow. It was developed over a couple years and used to draft the recommended 2018 Highway Plan. The KYTC has begun SHIFT 2020.



This process starts with the sponsorship of projects. In cooperation and coordination with the City of Henderson and Henderson County, the following six projects were selected for advancement:

- Atkinson St (KY 812/Clay St to KY 136/Madison St)- reconstruction with minor widening possible
- KY 351 (Henderson city limits to Bishop Ln)- modernize roadway and add appropriate bike/ped facilities
- KY 416 (US 41A to US 41) - modernize roadway
- Elm St (Watson Ln to Hi-Y Dr) - modernize roadway and add appropriate bike/ped facilities
- KY 1539/Zion Larue Rd (KY 351 to Henderson city limits)-modernize roadway and add appropriate bike/ped facilities
- South Main St (Drury Ln to Yeaman Av)- modernize roadway and add appropriate bike/ped facilities

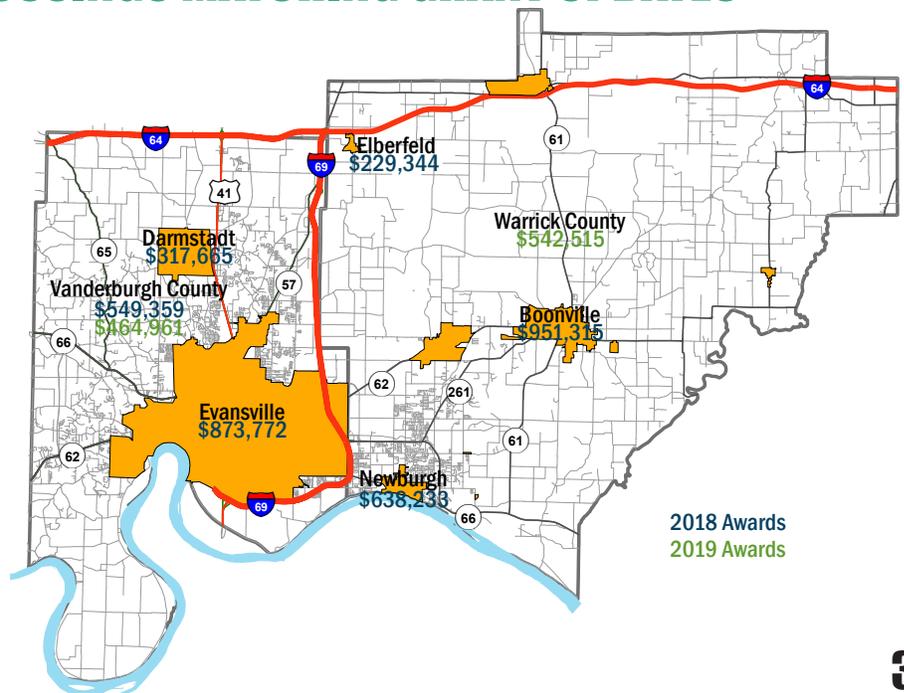
The KYTC District 2 has selected the following City of Henderson/Henderson County projects for advancement within the district:

- US 41 & US 60 Interchange
- US 41A/US 60/Green St Widening
- US 60 & KY 1078 Intersection Improvement - two different projects

These projects are currently being analyzed and scored by KYTC. Once this process is complete, the Evansville MPO will have the opportunity to review the score before it is included in the Recommended State Highway Plan. The Recommended State Highway Plan will be presented to the General Assembly once it is finalized.

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT UPDATES

For the 2018 and 2019 #1 Community Crossings Grant calls, the Evansville MPO worked with LPAs in the MPO area to update the pavement condition inventories in the Regional Pavement Management System (RPMS) to reflect pavement work completed between 2017 and 2018. The LPAs were able to utilize the updated pavement condition reports to complete their Next Level Roads: Community Crossings Initiative applications. In the Evansville MPO area, over \$4.6 million in state funding was awarded between seven jurisdictions/LPAs over two years. Going forward, the Evansville MPO will be assisting LPAs in Gibson and Posey counties with CCMG applications.

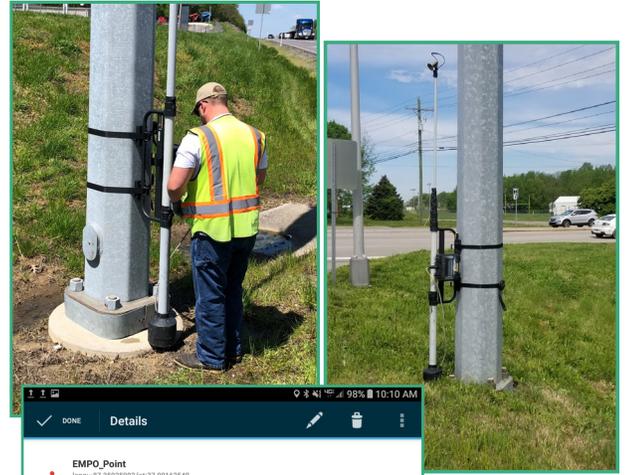


TRAFFIC COUNT PROGRAM

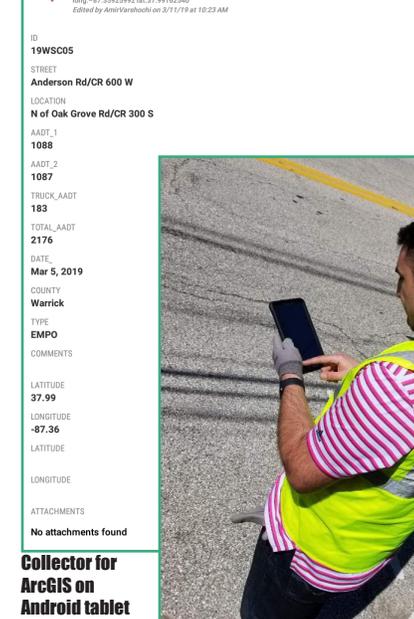
The Evansville MPO maintains a database of current and historical traffic counts for selected roads in Vanderburgh, Warrick, and Henderson counties.

Over the past two years, the Evansville MPO has worked with INDOT to identify more count locations to monitor in the region. This includes count locations on state facilities that were previously maintained by INDOT. Along with these counts, the Evansville MPO also maintains a Rural Traffic Count Program that focuses on collecting traffic data in small urban and rural areas in Gibson and Posey counties. Locations include rail crossings and significant routes in both counties. All these counts are shared with INDOT through the INDOT Traffic Count Database System (TCDS), <https://indot.ms2soft.com/tcds/>; where detailed data can be viewed by count location. Data includes AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic), directional volumes, vehicle classifications, and speed data. Having these locations on the TCDS site provides comprehensive data for our region.

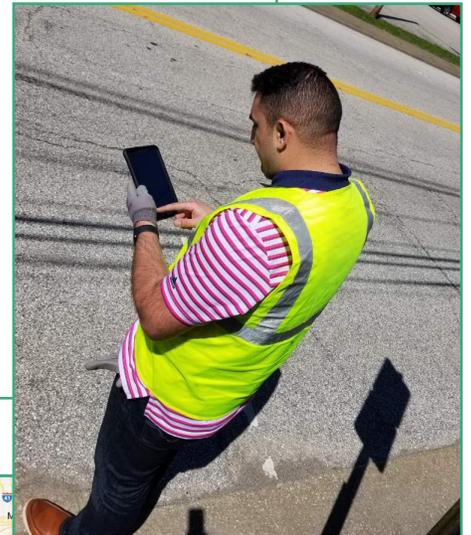
In an effort to utilize new technologies and improve accuracy of data collecting, the Evansville MPO started deploying Miovision camera traffic counters in 2017 and has continued to use them in the field to collect traffic count and turning movement data for INDOT. During the same time, the staff has been updating the way traffic counts are taken and reported, with a focus on streamlining our process with the use of technologies such as Collector for ArcGIS on a GPS/Cellular enabled tablet. These instruments allow for up-to-date information from the field and the ability to share this data with the public through the Evansville MPO GIS page more quickly. In the coming months look for the roll out of an updated interactive GIS maps on our website. The maps will include the counts reported to the TCDS, as well as local count locations used for planning and programming in the region.



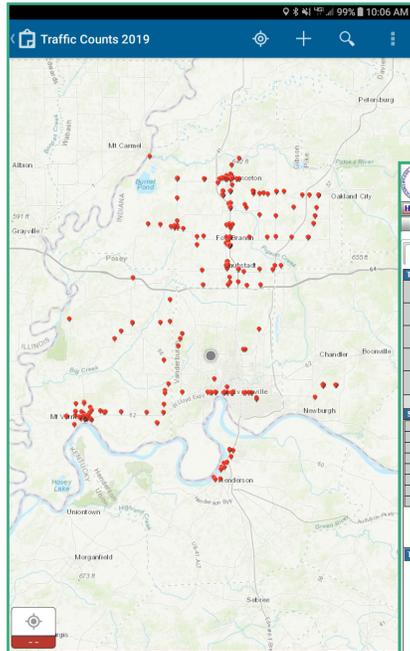
Miovision traffic setup



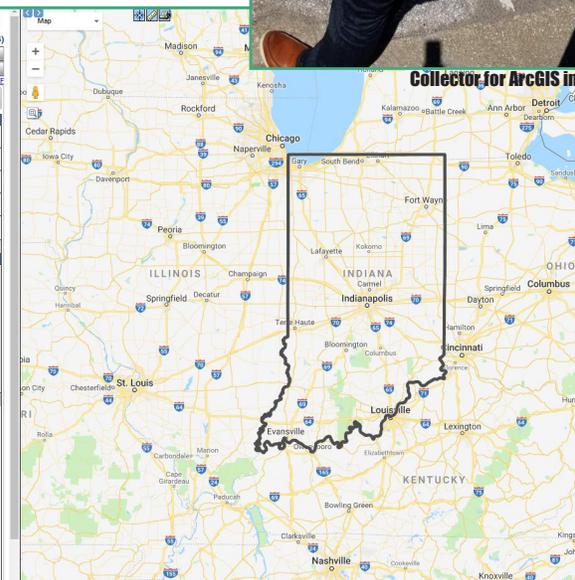
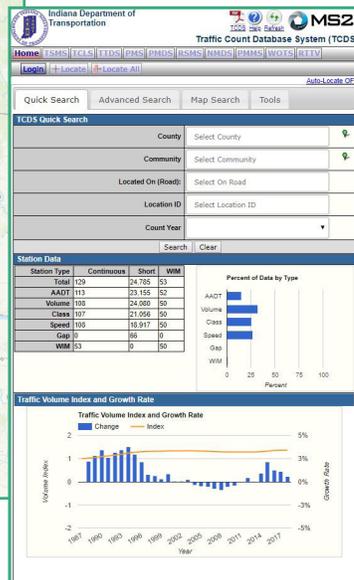
Collector for ArcGIS on Android tablet



Collector for ArcGIS in use in the field



Collector for ArcGIS on Android tablet



INDOT TCDS by MS2

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION GUIDE AND RTAC

The Evansville-Henderson urban area has multiple public transportation services, paratransit and on-demand services, numerous non-profits providing transportation to clients and/or the general public, and several taxi and out-of-town transportation options. Residents and visitors have had to know what was available and look up individual services as needed. The Evansville MPO decided a guide that listed all of the available transportation options would be a great benefit to people throughout the urban area.

In order to create a regional transportation guide, the MPO decided to bring together many of the regional transportation providers. Public, non-profit, and private transportation providers were asked to be members on a newly created Regional Transit Advisory Committee (RTAC). Approximately 20 organizations were invited to attend the first RTAC meeting in October 2018, with a follow up in January 2019. Most of those invited were able to attend both meetings and helped develop the Evansville-Henderson Regional Transportation Guide. The guide can be found on the MPO website here: http://bit.ly/transportation_guide.

Moving forward, the RTAC will continue to meet quarterly to share ideas among providers, update the regional transportation guide as needed, and hear from local organizations who could benefit from their coordination. The MPO has been required to develop a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan that summarizes the Section 5310: Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program recipients, but in-person coordination among providers has been minimal until the development of the RTAC.



**Evansville-Henderson
Regional Transportation
Guide**

A Guide for:
Vanderburgh County 
Henderson County 
Warrick County 
Gibson County 
Posey County 



Transportation services listed in this guide are color coded by county. To find service for your county, look for the dots as shown above.

This guide was developed as a resource for residents throughout the Evansville region and is not an endorsement of providers or an all-inclusive list of available transportation options. If you are a provider of transportation and wish to be included in this guide, please contact the Evansville MPO at 812-436-7833.

This guide was partially funded by a Federal Transit Administration Planning Grant.

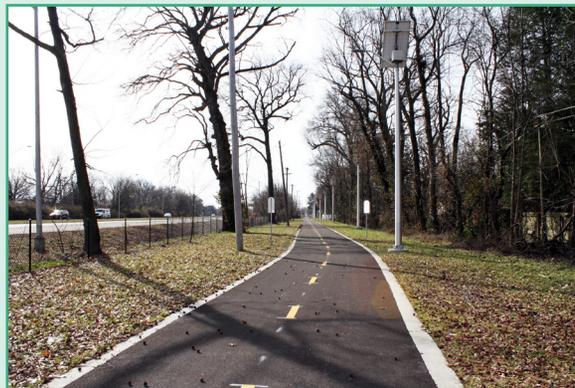
United Way 2-1-1: If you need other resources, dial 2-1-1 from anywhere in Indiana, Kentucky, or Illinois. The toll free call will help connect you to a community resource specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local social service organizations. The confidential call can help you find local resources for shelter, food, legal aid, clothing, education, counseling, utility assistance, health care, and other services.

A PDF of this guide is available on the MPO website: evansvillempo.com

May 2019

HI-RAIL CORRIDOR OPENS IN EVANSVILLE

The Hi-Rail Corridor is now open! A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 8, 2018 to celebrate the completion of the greenway that was constructed along an abandoned rail bed. The Hi-Rail is parallel with U.S. 41 and stretches just over 1.5 miles between Walnut Street and Riverside Drive. This Corridor connects with the Hi-Rail Connector that was completed in 2015 as part of the U.S. 41/Lloyd Expressway cloverleaf interchange project that included a pedestrian bridge over the Lloyd Expressway. Future connections include the Covert Avenue road diet and Walnut Street reconstruction, both of which are currently being designed. Amenities include solar lighting, benches and bike racks. The Hi-Rail Corridor cost just over \$2 million to construct using State/EMPO TAP funds and CMAQ funds.



Photos courtesy of Lorie Van Hook, Evansville Trails Coalition