

the Evansville MPO *Express*

Transportation Planning Updates for Vanderburgh, Warrick and Henderson counties

The MPO Teams Up with the Evansville Climate Collaborative

The Evansville Climate Collaborative (ECC) leads the city and the greater Evansville region in collective action to improve air quality and build climate resilience. Guided by the Evansville Climate Action Plan, developed in 2020, the ECC facilitates projects aimed at reducing air emissions and improving readiness for climate impacts. The ECC is a rebranding of the Evansville EPA office.

Given the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA’s) recent efforts and emphasis on tackling greenhouse gas emissions, a partnership between the Evansville MPO and ECC only makes sense. One of the highest sources of greenhouse



gas emissions in the Evansville region is transportation, according to the Evansville Climate Action Plan.

Since early 2024, the ECC and MPO have been working together on a variety of tasks. The MPO participates in meetings held by the ECC to discuss the most appropriate locations

for future EV charging stations. The MPO also provides GIS and other support to the ECC to help identify these locations.

Over the last few months, the ECC, MPO, METS, Welborn Baptist Foundation, City Engineers Office, and Evansville Trails Coalition have worked together on a collaborative application for the EPA’s Community Change Grant. Together, these partners hope to build a competitive application of projects that will change the transportation landscape in Evansville. Promoting and simplifying the use of electric vehicles, public transportation, and bicycle and pedestrian transportation within the city will be a big step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Stay tuned for more information about this and other grant opportunities the ECC and MPO partnership hope to pursue.

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Evansville MPO



Henderson • Vanderburgh • Warrick

Welcome to the Evansville MPO, Cory!

The Evansville MPO would like to welcome Cory Marshall as the new Transportation Technician. Cory spent the last 19 years working for Berry Global, ending his career there as a Team Leader Trainer. He has an Associates Degree in Business Administration.

Cory will be in the field collecting traffic count data, and working with the MPO staff on any special studies.

Please join us in welcoming Cory Marshall to the EMPO team!



Cory getting ready for traffic counts

Innovative Pavement Maintenance

Local Public Agencies (LPAs) continuously seek cost-effective and sustainable methods to maintain their pavement systems. Recently, the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County have adopted Maltene Replacement Technology (MRT) as a promising solution. Maltenes are essential components of asphalt that act as a "glue" to bind the pavement and maintain its flexibility and hydration. Over time, the binder deteriorates, leading to dry and brittle asphalt that is prone to cracking and other forms of deterioration.

To address this issue, a trial of MRT was conducted by Rejuvtec on select roads in Evansville and Vanderburgh County, including sections of Pollack Avenue, Broadway Avenue, and Boonville New Harmony Road. The process involves applying a rejuvenation spray treatment that penetrates the top half-inch of the pavement. This treatment chemically modifies the asphalt binder, effectively rehydrating and sealing the pavement.

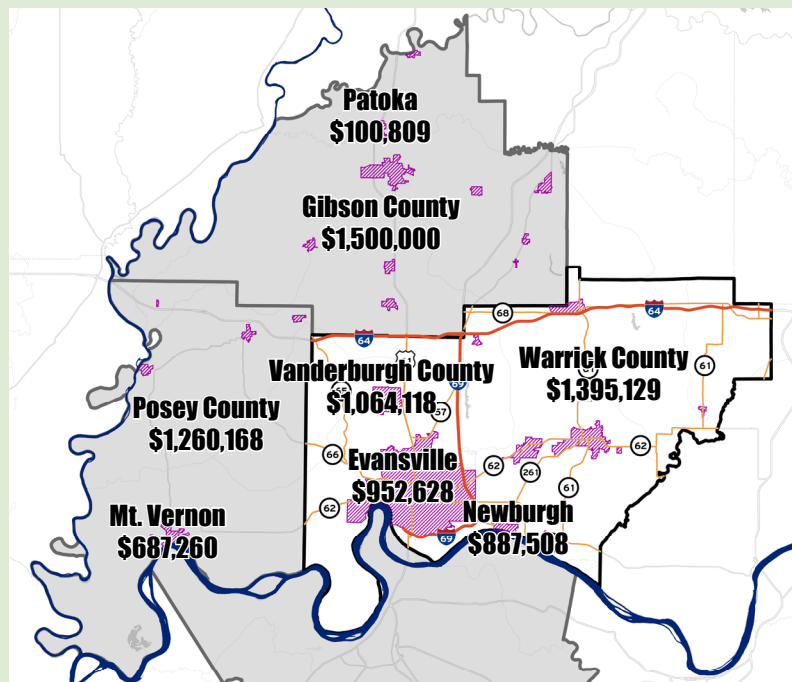
The spray creates a protective film on the road surface that wears off over several weeks, leaving the asphalt rehydrated and better sealed against water infiltration. This improved seal enhances the pavement's longevity by preventing further degradation. The MRT process can extend the lifespan of pavements by five to seven years, offering a medium-term maintenance solution at a fraction of the cost of traditional overlay methods.

With MRT treatments costing about one-tenth of an overlay, this technique provides LPAs with a budget-friendly option for preserving their pavement infrastructure. The successful implementation in Evansville and Vanderburgh County highlights the potential of Maltene Replacement Technology as a viable and economical choice for pavement maintenance.



Community Crossings

For the 2024 #1 Community Crossings Grant call, the Evansville MPO worked with LPAs in the MPO area (including Posey and Gibson counties) to update the pavement condition inventories in the Regional Pavement Management System (RPMS) to reflect pavement work completed over the past year. 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 \$7.8 million in state funding was awarded between 11 jurisdictions during this call.



METS Micro Expands



The Metropolitan Evansville Transit System (METS) launched METS Micro in late November 2023, with the help of the Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF), Energy Systems Network (ESN), and the Evansville MPO. METS Micro is an on-demand transportation service utilizing minivans for curb-to-curb or door-to-door service. The microtransit pilot program was borne from TMF's Together In Motion initiative, a program established in collaboration with ESN and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC).

METS, with the help of an FTA grant through the Evansville MPO, contracted with Via to operate the one-year pilot. Via has contracted with cities across the globe to provide on-demand microtransit service. In Evansville, the initial zone was established on the eastside of Evansville. At \$2 per ride, METS Micro has provided a convenient

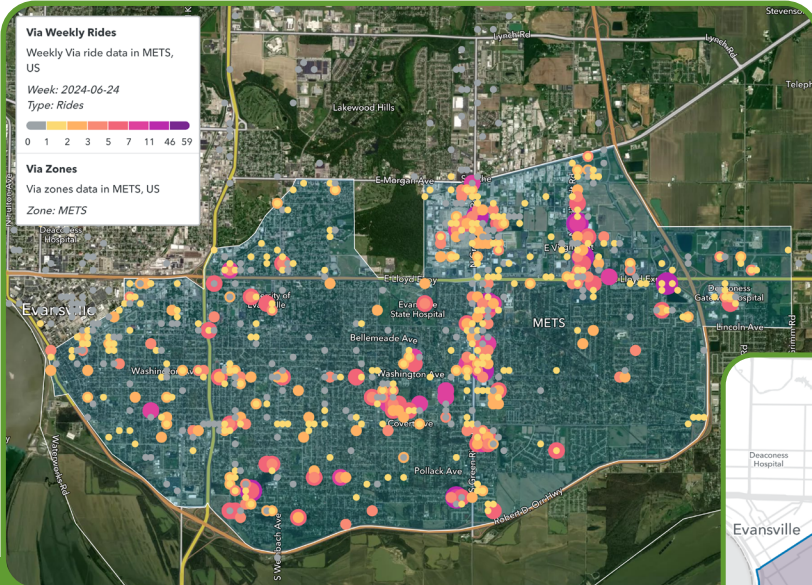
and affordable transportation option to the University of Evansville, Eastland Mall, Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, Deaconess Gateway Hospital, and numerous residents and businesses east of US 41.

Since its launch, METS Micro has become increasingly popular, not only for riders that live and work within the zone, but people that travel to the zone by METS bus or other means to use the service. Via has been excited to see the success and acceptance of the service. Therefore, through collaboration with all of the partner members, METS is excited to announce that the service zone was expanded toward downtown Evansville on June 10.

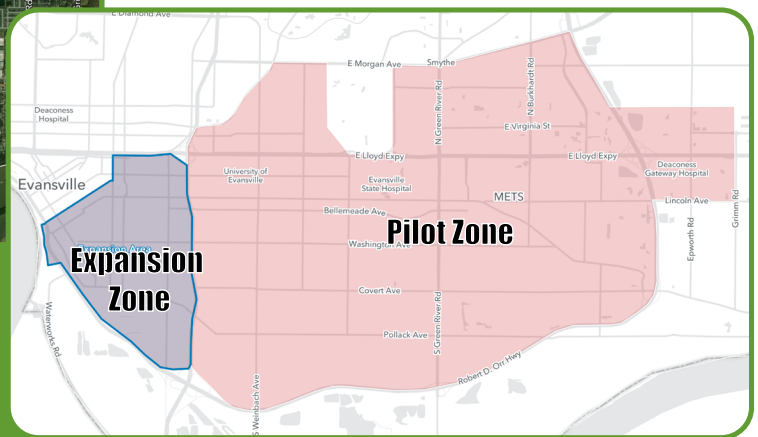
The expansion covers much of the 47713 zip code to the west of US 41. In addition to numerous Evansville neighborhoods, the expanded zone adds multiple points of interest that include the Vanderburgh County Health Department, METS Administration Building, Family and Social Services Administration, and ECHO Primary Care and Pediatric/Prenatal Clinic. METS and Via have already seen increases in app downloads, riders, and completed trips since the start of the expanded zone.

For more information about METS Micro, a zone map, and instructions to download the app, visit the website at city.ridewithvia.com/metsmicro/.

Weekly Rides (June 24 - June 30)



METS Micro Zones



Get your first 6 rides FREE.
No promo code needed.

Just download the app, book, and ride!

ETC Working on Regional Trails Plan

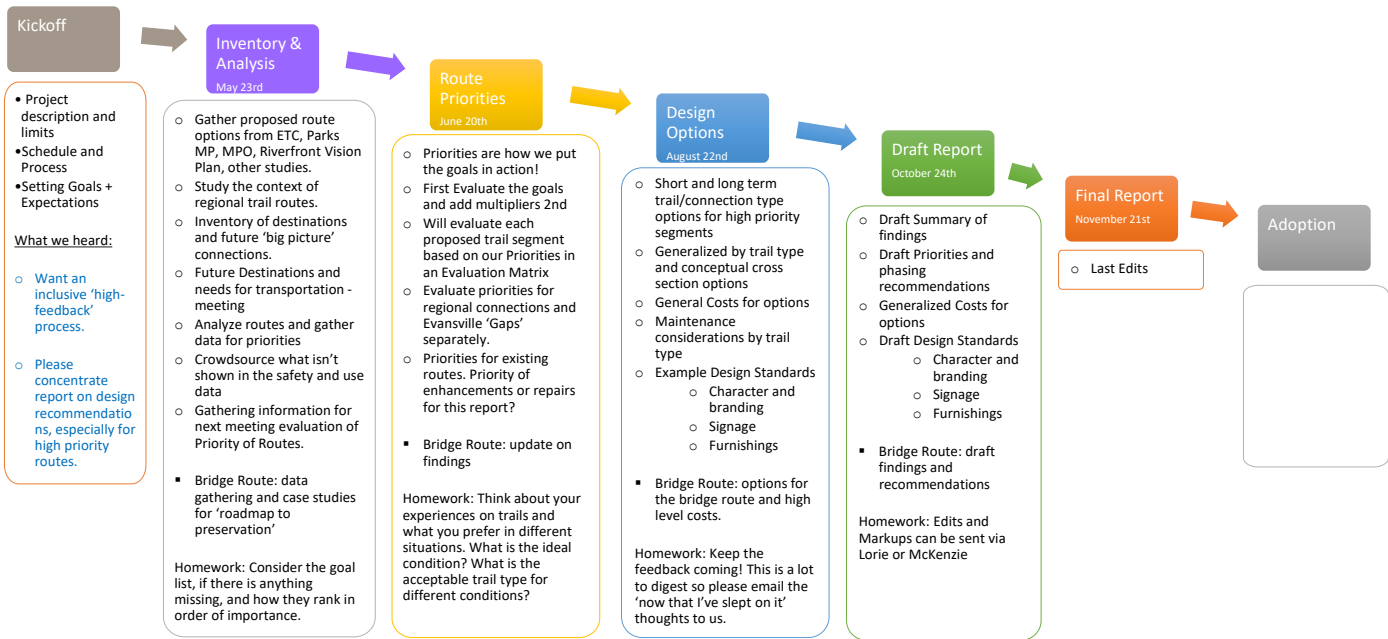
The Evansville Trails Coalition has hired Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BF&S) out of Indianapolis to develop an Evansville Region Trails Master Plan. Work got underway earlier this year. A steering committee of elected officials, area businesses and organizations, and

residents was put together to assist in decision-making throughout the development of the plan.

This summer, the team and committee are working through inventory and analysis and determining routes and priorities.

The final plan is expected to be finished and presented to the public this fall and is purposed to become an addendum to the Evansville Department of Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Parks Plan.

Stay tuned for ways to be involved in public meetings and workshops!



The Latest on the Lloyd

The Lloyd Expressway is currently one lane in each direction from just east of St. Phillips Road to Schutte Road. The inside lanes will be closed to allow construction of crossovers that will be used in a future phase of The Lloyd4U project. Crews will reinforce the outside shoulders with fresh pavement along S.R. 62 to accommodate future Lloyd4U traffic shifts.

Beginning on Thursday, July 25, and continuing through Monday, August 5, the eastbound and westbound inside lanes will be closed from

Rosenberger Avenue to St. Joseph Avenue. The lane closures will permit crews to construct a crossover and complete median shoulder strengthening. These activities are in preparation for future phases of construction. During this period, a temporary barrier wall will be installed for the safety of workers.



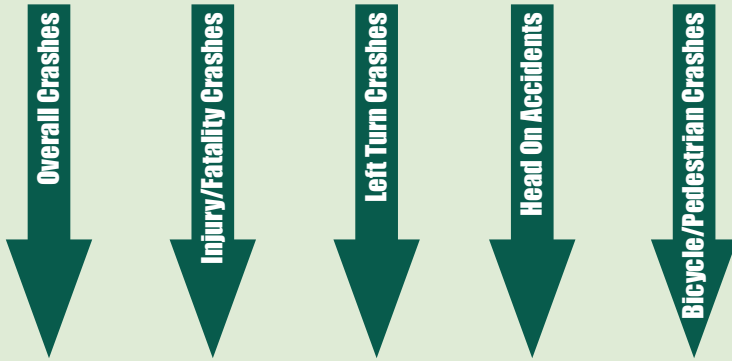
Don't forget to check out the project website for updates: <https://thelloyd4u.com/>

You can also follow the project on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheLloyd4U/>

??? Did You Know ???

Recent local road projects, like Main Street and Oak Hill Road in Evansville, have enhanced safety and reduced accidents. The Main Street Complete Street Project has achieved a 42% reduction in overall crashes and nearly a 50% decrease in injury and fatality crashes. On Oak Hill Road, the addition of a center two-way left-turn lane saw a 67% reduction in left-turn crashes and virtually eliminated head-on collisions. The inclusion of dedicated bike lanes and new sidewalks has enhanced the safety of vulnerable road users.

These projects have reduced:



Lane Restriction Needed on I-69 for ORX Section 3 Work

A long-term lane restriction is set to begin this month on a 1.5-mile section of I-69 North in Evansville for preconstruction activities related to Section 3 of the I-69 Ohio River Crossing (ORX). Starting on or after July 8, the left lane will be closed, later shifting to the right lane in early August. This is expected to continue through the end of November 2024.



Crews will widen and strengthen the inside shoulder to accommodate a temporary barrier wall, improving safety by separating construction and regular traffic during the main construction. Drivers are encouraged to slow down, stay alert, and follow reduced speed limits in the area. INDOT is overseeing the work, which is part of a project to build the future I-69 bridge, and is expected to continue through late 2026.

TIP 2026 - 2030 and CY 2024 Call for Projects

The Evansville MPO will begin working on the FY 2026 – 2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) this fall. 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 is 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 will be open starting on **Wednesday, July 10** for Indiana LPAs (Vanderburgh and Warrick counties) that are within the EMPO Urbanized Area. Any project, regardless of the anticipated FHWA funding source, is eligible for submission.

The application, Reference Guide, and budget table can be found on the MPO website starting on July 10.

<http://www.evansvillempo.com/CallForProjects2024.html>

The applications are due back to the Evansville MPO by **Friday, July 26**.