

# Creating a Multi-Modal Region



The Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization invites you to review a new initiative to support our shared vision for balanced transportation in Central Indiana. Please review the **Multi-Modal Corridor and Public Space Design Guidelines** that address the integration of bicycle, pedestrian and transit modes into the regional transportation system. The guidelines are available for review on the web site listed below.

## QUESTIONS

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Although transportation congestion is still moderate in the Indianapolis region compared to other metropolitan areas, continuing suburbanization of undeveloped areas as well as traffic projections suggest that, without comprehensive development of balanced transportation and a related smart growth land use approach, the cycle of highway expansion that fosters increased demand will accelerate, as will sprawl, congestion, and air quality issues. While the Regional Center's urban core is compact and still quite walkable, its commuter route congestion is beginning to impact walkability and limit choices for reallocation of limited right-of-way resources for alternative transportation.

While the region is developing a notable greenway system, and is making progress on threading greenways into the urban core, the overall transportation system is still not considered "bicycle friendly." Bicycle connectivity necessary to achieve well-distributed bicycle lanes is constrained by peak hour traffic levels that burden available right-of-way. And, public transit has not been able to achieve funding levels sufficient to develop as a true alternative to the automobile.

There is growing belief that the region must develop a community-integrated, balanced, and accessible multi-modal transportation system to sustain its competitive stance and to enhance its quality of life standard. There is growing recognition that adding highway capacity for conventional transportation is a short-term remedy that leads to long term congestion and sprawl impacts. Just as there are models of successful systems contributing to vibrant cities, there are equally persuasive models of out-of-control growth and congestion related to unbalanced and incomplete transportation systems.

The MPO vision for the region is that the Metropolitan Planning Area will be a regional network of diverse, walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly communities linked by a comprehensive multi-modal system that provides access to home, work, education, commerce and recreation.

This vision recognizes the importance of balance among all transportation modes, connects transportation and land use, and understands that economic and community development is sustained by the region's quality of life and environmental health.

## INDIANAPOLIS REGIONAL CENTER & METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR AND PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN GUIDELINES

For more information visit, [www.indympo.org](http://www.indympo.org) > Regional Pedestrian Plan > Multi-Modal Design Guidelines