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Join journey to better transit

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In the four months since its launch, Indy Connect has been a catalyst for community conversations on public transportation. These conversations will be essential in shaping the future of transportation in Central Indiana. We have been flooded with suggestions on how to improve the region's bus system and implement commuter and light rail service to benefit the urban core -- all with an overarching concern that all forms of transportation work together for true regional connectivity.

Indy Connect has already received feedback from more citizens than any previous transportation planning effort, a sign that residents are ready to talk seriously about how they live and get around the region.

Early feedback has revealed several themes:

Most respondents agree that we need an expanded and enhanced bus service, which means more frequent, accessible and reliable service throughout Central Indiana. People want to see wait times significantly reduced, longer hours of operation and more direct cross-town routes. They want to be able to take the bus to and from areas outside Marion County to jobs, health care and other important locales. Bus stop improvements, such as sidewalk access, shelters and park-and-ride lots, also are priorities.

Rail transit has been high on the minds of many, who stressed that no matter where the rail lines go, they want to see multiple stops within Marion County. The proposed lines to Fishers and Greenwood should include more frequent stops within the urban core, while providing more direct express service outside Marion County.

Others expressed desire to see rail service to a greater number of communities than included in the draft plan. The proposed plan includes commuter rail from Downtown Indianapolis north to Fishers and south to Greenwood with many stops in Indianapolis and Marion County. Many respondents would like to see service along that line extended north to Noblesville and south to Franklin; others have expressed a desire for a north-south line through Broad Ripple to Carmel, and a northwest line through Pike Township to the Zionsville area.

Residents want to see light rail service offered from Downtown to the airport.

This feedback is the result of more than 70 public meetings and smaller briefings, many one-on-one conversations, and thousands of questionnaires collected at meetings, over the phone and through the initiative's website. Though we're encouraged by the level of conversation we've heard so far, our goal is to ensure the best possible transportation plan for all Central Indiana residents, and we can't do that without your input.

Indy Connect is continuing to collect comment, and we still need to hear from some communities. Representatives continue to hold smaller briefings and will participate in a number of community festivals in the coming weeks, so there are still plenty of opportunities to provide input. The feedback we receive will be central to our work this summer as we revise the transportation plan to best fit the needs of Central Indiana residents. A revised plan will be presented this fall, initiating another round of public input.

If you have not yet submitted your ideas on the proposed draft transportation plan, go to www.indyconnect.org to learn about the plan and submit feedback. You can also join our Facebook group or follow us on Twitter@IndyConnect. If you would like to invite an Indy Connect representative to speak at your next neighborhood or association meeting, please send an e-mail to request@indyconnect.org.
