



Petition, resolution drive pushes for transit referenda

Dump the Pump Day marks start of campaign; IndyGo offers free bus service

INDIANAPOLIS (June 14, 2011) – As the nation approaches Dump the Pump Day on June 16, Central Indiana residents have the opportunity not just to park their cars and ride the bus for free, but also to demonstrate their support for improved transit.

The Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA) and other transit groups are gathering names and resolutions in an effort to let Indiana lawmakers know that Hoosiers support referenda enabling local funding of transit. The groups plan to deliver the names and resolutions to lawmakers when the next legislative session opens in January 2012.

“We know that improved transit is a high priority for many Central Indiana residents. We want to make sure our lawmakers know it as well,” said CIRTA Executive Director Ehren Bingaman. “When the 2012 Indiana General Assembly convenes in January, lawmakers will be greeted by a tangible demonstration of voters’ interest in transit in Central Indiana and around the state.”

Indiana residents can go to www.CIRTA.us to sign a petition, and they can choose to let their legislators know immediately that they’ve signed on as a supporter of transit. They’ll also find opportunities to sign petitions at fairs and festivals all summer long.

In addition, businesses, nonprofits and organizations are being asked to submit resolutions supporting referenda addressing local transit funding, and call lawmakers to make such referenda possible. More information about submitting resolutions (and resolution templates) also can be found at www.cirta.us. Nearly 20 organizations already have submitted resolutions, including:

- AARP, Indiana
- Arc Rehab Services - Boone County
- Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation
- Bloomington Metropolitan Planning Organization
- CIRTA
- Eden Collaborative
- Gateway Services/Access Johnson County
- Greenstreet Ltd.
- Hamilton County Commissioners
- Health by Design

- Hoosier Environmental Council
- Indianapolis Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Indiana Citizens Alliance for Transit (ICAT)
- Indy Hub
- JTPR Inc.
- League of Women Voters of Indianapolis
- Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS®
- Self Advocates of Indiana, Inc.
- The Arc of Indiana
- Use What You've Got Prison Ministry Keeping Families Connected, Inc.
- Workforce, Inc.

Companies, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups are encouraged to submit resolutions. Samples can be found at www.CIRTA.us.

“For central Indiana to continue to grow and prosper, we need a better transit system,” said Steve Sullivan, CEO of MIBOR (the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS®). “Economic development and quality of life go hand-in-hand, and that’s why we’re encouraging our membership to get involved and learn more about the issue and how transit impacts everything from housing to job attraction.”

Public transportation also is vital for those who don’t drive or have access to private vehicles.

“The Arc of Indiana works to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state,” said John Dickerson, executive director of The Arc of Indiana. “Transit is one of the many ways individuals with disabilities can be more self-sufficient, and that’s why our board of directors submitted a resolution.”

In conjunction with the America Public Transportation Association’s annual Dump the Pump Day, IndyGo is joining transportation agencies across the U.S. to offer free rides on its Fixed Route and Open Door buses for the entire day. For more information, visit www.indygo.net.

ABOUT CIRTA

CIRTA is a quasi-governmental organization (IC 36-9-3) working to bring more transportation options that will better connect the urban core of Indianapolis with suburban and rural communities in Marion, Boone, Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Morgan and Shelby counties. More information is at www.CIRTA.us.

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