

## Football + Bowling = ITT Camaraderie

Maybe INDOT employees can't throw a football like Peyton Manning, but at least they tried.

**2023 AGENCY GOAL SPOTLIGHT**  
**Intentional Partnership**

Nine staffers tapped their inner Manning during a team-building exercise as part of the Indiana Transportation Team (ITT) in late August. The ITT Greenfield District summer social took place at the Fowling Warehouse, east of downtown Indianapolis. Fowling is a mashup of football and bowling.

At the event, the nine INDOT workers and 56 consultants and contractors mingled over appetizers before entering a large, netted area that featured eight fowling "lanes." Twosomes competed against other duos.



*Roland Fegan (from left) throws a football while teammate Rob Goldner watches during the fowling team-building event.*

In fowling, wooden platforms with 10 bowling pins are situated 32 feet downfield from the players. Each twosome throws a regulation-size football and attempts to knock down all 10 pins. Like bowling, each match is broken down into frames. In match play, one frame is completed when all pins are knocked down on either lane. The team that accomplishes this first wins the frame. The game is over when a team wins two of three frames.

Accuracy in getting the football to hit the pins was an issue for many of the "fowlers," especially when just three pins or less remained.

"Most of my coworkers know that I'm a big Green Bay Packers fan, and until this season, the Packers had been quarterbacked by Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers for the past 30 years," said Greenfield District Highway Engineer Supervisor Rob Goldner. "Let's just say that, after participating in this fowling event, I have a new respect for

the accuracy of Favre and Rodgers. In defense of my effort, though, Favre and Rodgers weren't throwing to 15-inch-tall receivers."

To watch a fun, NFL-themed video of the fowling event, click [here](#).

The ITT was collaboratively created in 2019 by INDOT, the American Council of Engineering Companies Indiana, and the Indiana Constructors Inc. to identify opportunities and collectively improve how they serve the citizens of Indiana. Besides an annual statewide partnering conference, there are seven regional steering committees that meet several times each year to monitor deliverables and create new tasks. In addition to these meetings, the ITT features social events for members to get to know their regional team in a friendly, relaxed setting. Social events support the final item on the ITT charter: Enjoying professional relationships and having fun.

Other social events in August were the Fort Wayne and LaPorte regional teams attending minor-league baseball games in Fort Wayne and South Bend, respectively. In November, the ITT Vincennes team will attend a minor-league hockey game in Evansville.



*Sarah Reese (from left) and teammate Patrick Patterson watch a football hit a pin.*

Participating in the fowling event were the Greenfield District's James Colonis, Kurt Courtney, Goldner, Sean Hendrickson, Cameron Maschino, Patrick Patterson, Sarah Reese, and Fielding Tipton, as well as Deputy Commissioner of Construction Roland Fegan.

"These events are just a great time to socialize and network with our industry partners when we are not directly discussing a problem," said Fegan. "Most of the time in my role, when I am involved in a project, it is to solve a large problem, meaning that we are not having much fun. I have had opportunities this year with these ITT events to enjoy our industry people more."

Among the contractor/consultant employees at the event were former INDOT employees Tom Carrow, Jim Earl, Kevin Hetrick, and Trevor Mills.



*The view from behind Roland Fegan throwing a football at the pins.*

Throughout the two-hour event, twosomes mixed and matched during their fowling competitions. INDOT's Fegan and Goldner teamed up early to take on Carrow and Mills, but later Goldner and Carrow formed a team.

E&B Paving Material Sales Representative Robb Melson started his position in July.

"Because I am new to the ITT, I found the fowling social event to be highly beneficial," he said. "I made industry contacts in a fun, informal

setting, which enabled me to get to know them as people, not just as job contacts. That is huge in this industry."

The ITT statewide partnering conference, attended by more than 600 members, has taken place in January at the Indiana Convention Center the past two years. This year, the event will take place Dec. 21 at the Indiana Convention Center. Registration for that event is likely to open in early October.