

Small Urban and Rural Planning (SURP) Program

INDOT Technical Planning and Programming Section
2024

INDOT's SURP Program Purpose

- **Transportation planning technical assistance** for non-metropolitan areas in the state of Indiana
- Funded through the federal Statewide Planning and Research Program (23 USC 135) plus locally-derived match
- Seeks to enhance transportation planning capabilities of existing regional planning organizations (RPOs) through planning grants
 - Enhancing the capabilities of RPOs enables transportation decision makers to acquire the data and information to make well informed decisions regarding transportation infrastructure investments
- Federal transportation law has expanded over the last decade to call for states to **cooperate and engage** with non-metropolitan local officials when making transportation infrastructure decisions
 - [INDOT Non-Metropolitan Local Official Consultation Guidebook](#) outlines infrastructure planning and programming information, consultation opportunities for elected officials
 - This Guidebook is updated every 5 years (current Guidebook approved in February 2023)

What is a Regional Planning Organization?

- A governmental organization designed to address comprehensive, regional planning services to local governments across the state
- Existing planning agencies:
 - Known as regional planning commissions or councils formed under Indiana Code Title 36, Article 7 Planning and Development
 - Councils of Government
 - Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) that conduct transportation planning in non-metro areas they serve
 - Focused on regional economic development, transportation planning, land use planning
- Benefits of regional transportation planning:
 - Assists INDOT in conducting transportation planning activities
 - Provides forum for public participation and engagement
 - Improves coordination among the elected officials at a regional scale
 - Fosters coordination of local planning, land use, economic development plans with transportation plans at the local/regional levels of government

Indiana Association of Regional Councils (IARC)

- Key planning partner in INDOT's regional planning coordination and outreach efforts
- Statewide association of regional planning organizations that promotes regional strategies and solutions to address local issues
- Provides a forum for regional planning and development agencies to secure grants and financial aid for communities and municipalities throughout state
- Monthly Board Meetings include member regions and non-profit / government / education affiliates
 - State and federal agencies including INDOT, OCRA, IHCD, IEDA; Federal Highway Administration (FHWA Indiana Division), U.S. Economic Development Administration, USDA Rural Development; and others
 - Purdue Center for Regional Development
 - Indiana Communities Institute at Ball State University
 - Indiana University's Geological & Water Survey (IGWS)
- More information about IARC, its work, and its members is available on the [IARC Website](#)

IARC Member Regions:

- Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Evansville Regional Economic Partnership
- East Central Indiana Regional Planning District
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission
- Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Kankakee - Iroquois Regional Planning Commission
- Madison County Council of Governments
- Michiana Area Council of Governments
- North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council
- Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Region 3-A Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission
- River Hills Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission
- Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Southern Indiana Development Commission
- THRIVE West Central

SURP Program Activities:

- Continual transportation data collection
 - Traffic Count Program
 - Railroad Crossing Data
 - Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)
- Provide planning support to local governments, INDOT Districts and Central Office
- Public outreach to elected officials and transportation stakeholders in non-metropolitan areas of the state
- Assistance to local governments in applying for state and/or federal transportation funding dollars (Community Crossings Matching Grants, Federal Aid for transportation projects in non-metro areas)
- Assistance to local governments in transportation asset management planning
- Implementing performance-based planning and programming principals
- Planning studies (transportation)
- Tracking of project development/construction
- Assist INDOT's rural project consultation efforts
- Review of traffic crash data
- Develop agency planning technical capacity
- Training
- Equipment and Software purchases
- Does NOT include
 - costs related to specific project development activities
 - Lobbying of elected government officials
 - Planning activities not related to transportation planning
 - Vehicle purchases

2024 SURP Program Recipients:

- Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission (RPC)
- Kankakee-Iroquois RPC
- Madison County Council of Governments
- Michiana Area Council of Governments
- North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council
- Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council
- Region 3-A RPC and Economic Development District (EDD)
- River Hills RPC and EDD
- Southeastern Indiana RPC
- Southern Indiana Development Commission
- Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission
- Thrive West Central

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