

## **Benefits Of Transportation Planning**

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If you are an elected official , an engineer or a road supervisor I am sure you have run into a situation where you wished you had a plan that satisfies the needs of the citizens , an industry that is thinking of expanding, or a developer that wants to start a housing subdivision.

Not all the urban areas in Indiana are required by the federal governments to prepare transportation plans. Only the urbanized areas larger than 50,000 in population are required to prepare transportation plans that become part of the local government's comprehensive plans.

The majority of Indiana Counties and Cities have Plan Commissions, and may have updated comprehensive plans that would help the decision makers in that city or county to take the appropriate action when the need arises.

Along with the demands from zoning to water and sewer improvements, transportation improvements are in most cases requested from local or state governments. Therefore, the decision makers appreciate receiving good data and analysis that transportation planning can provide. Examples of what transportation planning can do for the decision makers:

- Transportation planning identifies weaknesses of the transportation system under both existing conditions and future demands.
- Transportation planning develops and tests alternative solutions to solve transportation problems.
- Provides information necessary on alternative strategies prior to selecting the most practical alternative or set of alternatives for the community.
- Allows the testing of various development scenarios and compliments a community-wide comprehensive/land-use master planning process.

- Transportation planning involves citizens in the development of the transportation plan. The result is a transportation plan which belongs to the people and community.
- A completed transportation plan communicates direction and desires to the State, developers, local businesses, and business prospects.
- A transportation plan and planning process establishes a base from which modifications can be made to meet new and changing community needs.
- The transportation plan can be modified to reflect new trends and desires.
- A transportation plan supports a set of projects from which decision-makers can prioritize and choose for implementation.

