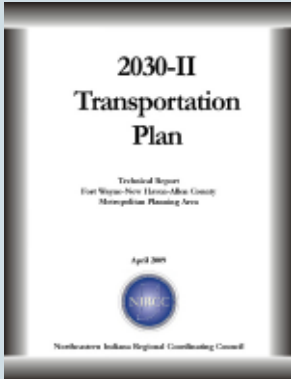




Transportation Times



2030-II Transportation Plan

Every four years the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) updates the long-range transportation plan. The long-range plan is a comprehensive transportation plan that addresses the future needs of the transportation system for at least the next 20 years. As changes occur in the Fort Wayne-New Haven-Allen County Metropolitan Planning Area, the transportation system must be improved to respond to new and increas-

ing travel demands. As part of the plan we make recommendations on all modes of transportation. Recommendations included improvements to the Highway network, Transit system, and Bicycle/Pedestrian facilities. The policies and projects were selected.
(Continued on Pg. 6)



What is ARRA?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is a \$787 billion spending bill enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. The Act includes federal tax cuts, expansion of unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions, and domestic spending in education, health care, and infrastructure, including the energy sector.

Community Development Updates

NIRCC is currently providing grant administration services for Community Focus Fund (CFF) Grants awarded in June of 2008 to the Town of Monroeville and the Allen County Commissioners on behalf of the Community of Riverhaven for sanitary sewer and storm water projects. The funding is federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money that is allocated from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA).

(Continued on Pg. 5)

Of the \$787 billion, infrastructure investment will receive \$80.9 billion. Nearly two-thirds of the \$80.9 billion will be used

(Continued on Pg. 3)

**Northeastern
Indiana Regional
Coordinating
Council**

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Chairperson,
City of Auburn
DeKalb County

J. Phillip Burt
Vice Chairperson,
Allen County

Donald Grogg
Dekalb County

Gene Donaghy
Governor's
Appointee

Tom Henry
City of Fort Wayne
Allen County

Janet Ordway
DeKalb County

Kevin Woodward
Wells County

Roy Buskirk
Allen County

Ted Ellis
City of Bluffton
Wells County

Terry McDonald
Allen County

William Hartman
Allen County

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INDOT

Roy Buskirk
Allen County Council

Susan Hoot
Allen County
Planning Commission
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Tom Smith
Fort Wayne Planning
Commission

Tory Richardson
Fort Wayne/Allen County
Airport Authority

William Hartman
Allen County
Highway Director

Dave Holtz
Jerry Halperin
INDOT (Non-voting
member)

Joyce Newland
Federal Highway
Administration
(Non-voting members)

Transportation Times

Spring 2009

Transportation Updates



ALLEN COUNTY AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE

The Allen County Air Quality Task Force is beginning to prepare for the upcoming 2009 Ozone season. This year the task force will continue to promote air quality improvement efforts in Allen County. A large portion of the funding will be allocated toward the "Clean Air Force" public service announcements that will continue to be aired on local television stations. Task force members will also distribute educational materials and give away items at local events. This year the task force will be attending a Tin Cap's baseball game in June and the 3 River's Festival "Children's Festival" at IPFW in July.

A new component to the marketing and educational efforts in 2009 will be coloring books that will feature cartoon characters created to re-enact the current television public service announcements the task force has developed over the past few years. The coloring books will be accompanied by crayons purchased by that task force that have the Clean Air Force logo and action step printed on the container. The task force is considering options for future animated public service announcements with the new characters for future airing.

The task force is also working with the Allen County School Safety Commission to expand the "No Idling" sign program that was implemented last school year. The response to the program has been very positive. Local

businesses are also being considered for inclusion into the program. The task force spoke to local businesses at the Fort Wayne Green Business Outreach/Certification in February where a number of businesses indicated an interest in posting the signs on their property to eliminate unnecessary idling.

CENSUS 2010 UPDATE



In early 2009, NIRCC began the process of assisting the U.S. Census Bureau with the 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). This program was designed to provide the census bureau with improved accuracy of the statistical areas that will be updated during the 2010 census. The U.S. Census Bureau requested that NIRCC facilitate the program for Adams, Allen, Dekalb, and Wells Counties.

The statistical areas involved with this program included Census Tracts, Block Groups, and Census Designated Places. Data tabulated to these statistical areas are used for planning and funding purposes by various local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, as well as the private sector, academia, and the public. In order to provide data that is accurate and statistically more useful, the census bureau asked NIRCC to adjust or update the boundaries of these statistical boundaries to illustrate the data within them as close to the areas they represent as possible.

NIRCC met with representatives from each county as well as some of the

(Continued on Pg. 4)

ARRA continued...



for core investments (roads, bridges, railways, sewers, other transportation). The remaining money will be invested into government facilities and vehicle fleets.



Highway and bridge construction is the biggest single line infrastructure item in the final bill, accounting for \$27.5 billion. Public transportation will receive over \$7 billion for new equipment and maintenance of existing systems.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 includes significant funding for transportation infrastructure improvement projects in Indiana. The [Indiana Department of Transportation](#) (INDOT) will oversee formula driven funds dedicated to transportation projects including highways, bridges and transit capital such as rail and airport projects. Of the \$27.5 billion that will be spent nationally on highway and bridge construction, Indiana will receive \$658 million. According to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the stimulus funds for Indiana will be distributed in this way:

| Amount | Recipient |
|---------------|--|
| \$440 million | INDOT |
| \$198 million | Local Agencies |
| \$20 million | Transportation Enhancements (sidewalks and trails) |

The \$198 million local agency distribution will be divided among the 14 Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Indiana (this includes NIRCC), Group III cities (populations between 5,000 and 50,000), Group IV cities (populations under 5,000), and local bridge projects. NIRCC will be receiving \$9.34 million of the local agency distribution.

To date, INDOT has identified and released three lists of state projects for bid that will use federal stimulus dollars. Together, the lists include 77 projects valued at approximately \$136.6 million. These projects can be viewed at www.in.gov/indot.

The state projects have a June 30, 2009 deadline for obligating \$220 million; the remaining \$220 million of INDOT funds must be obligated by March 2, 2010 for state projects. The local agencies must obligate the \$198 million by March 2, 2010. All projects, state and local, must be completed by February 17, 2012.

The Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council is currently working with INDOT and local agencies to determine and select projects that qualify for stimulus funds. When the projects are determined they will be posted on the NIRCC website, www.NIRCC.com.



Check out NIRCC's new and improved website!

Our website now includes a listing of our TIP projects with descriptions and aerial maps!



Transportation Updates... Census

2010 continued...

larger cities and towns to review areas of development and population increases that may have occurred since the 2000 census. Using existing census data and development records the current statistical areas were reviewed to see if adjustments were needed. If significant development had occurred in an area or development patterns changed in such a way that warranted an adjustment of the statistical boundary NIRCC, along with representatives from those areas, made the appropriate changes. These changes have been submitted to the U.S. Census Bureau and are still in the review process. We hope to hear back soon as to whether or not these changes have all been accepted.

2008 VEHICLE MILES OF TRAVEL (VMT)

The Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC) has completed the Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) report for 2008. In 2008 there were 7,336,516 vehicle miles. This is 1.1% lower than in 2007 (7,418,167 vehicles).

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) reported that the 2008 traffic volumes for the State of Indiana have dropped approximately 3.9% from 2007.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) reported that travel on all roads and streets in the United States have been reduced by 5.3% from No-

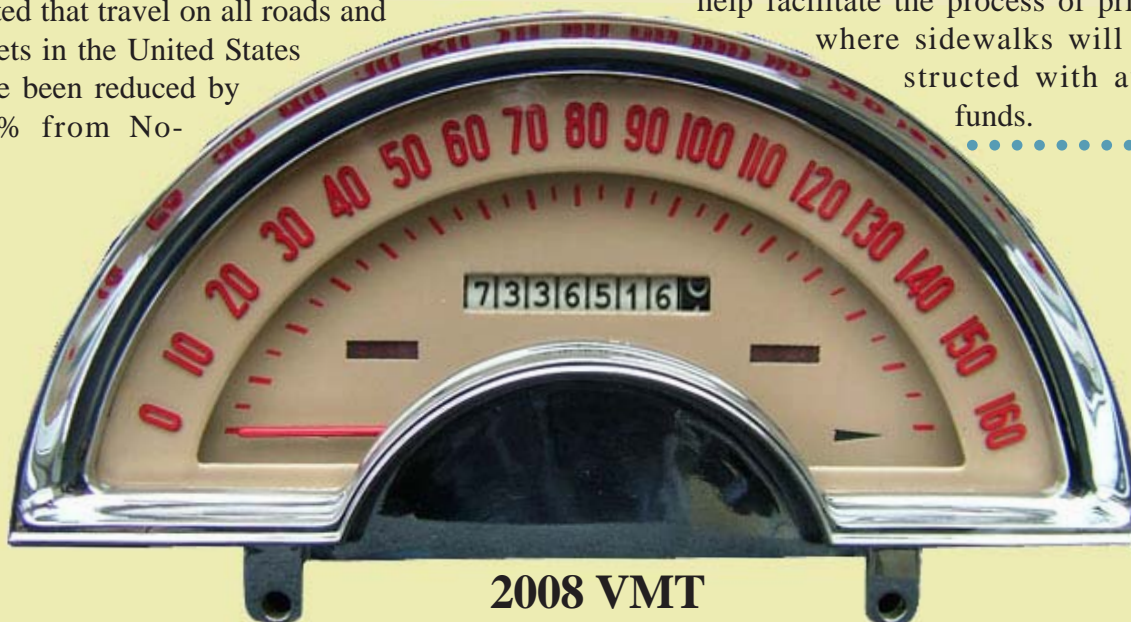
vember 2008 compared to November 2007.

These changes may be the result of the economy and high gas prices in the last year.

SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY

Last year NIRCC announced the completion of a sidewalk dataset for GIS mapping applications in the "Transportation Times - Spring/Summer 2008" edition of the newsletter. Using aerial photography from 2006, sidewalks throughout the entire county of Allen were mapped. A map displaying all the sidewalks in Allen County is available on our website at www.nircc.com. NIRCC plans to update the sidewalk map sometime in 2009 or 2010 once new aerials are taken and made available.

As you may already know, throughout Fort Wayne and Allen County there is a significant amount of streets that either lack sidewalks completely or have existing sidewalks that don't go anywhere. This past year the City of Fort Wayne's planning department used NIRCC's sidewalk dataset and provided staff to initiate a process that would identify all the functionally classified streets within the urban boundary that do not have sidewalks or have gaps in their sidewalk network. This means that any street classified as an arterial or collector was identified if they lacked sidewalks or sidewalk connectivity. The City's planning department is beginning the next step which is to use this data to help facilitate the process of prioritizing where sidewalks will be constructed with available funds.



2008 VMT



ALLEN COUNTY CRASH DATA SUMMARY - 2008

The Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council has completed the review of the 2008 crash data for Allen County. In 2008 there were 12,139 crashes in Allen County which was 120 lower than 2007. Of the 12,139 crashes, 20 resulted in fatal crashes, the same number that was experience in Allen County in 2007. Nationally the number of fatalities was 9.1 percent lower than in 2007 according to the Associated Press. Alcohol related crashes in Allen County were lower than in the past year. Only two fatal crashes occurred where an involved individual was over the legal blood alcohol content level of 0.08%.

2008 - Crash Data Summary

| | Countywide | Fort Wayne | Allen County (outside Fort Wayne & New Haven City Limits) |
|---|------------|------------|--|
| Total Number of Crashes | 12,139 | 9,478 | 2,367 |
| Total Number of Crashes Resulting in Injury | 2,177 | 1,630 | 500 |
| Total Number of Crashes Resulting in Fatality | 20 | 14 | 6 |
| Alcohol Related Crashes | 358 | 270 | 79 |

project is approximately \$1,500,000, with the Town providing a local match of approximately \$1,000,000 (\$700,000 from a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan and \$300,000 from the Town's funds). The project was split into two parts: Part A – Washington Street Storm Sewer Improvements and Part B – Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. Construction on Part A began in March of 2009 and will be completed in May of 2009. Construction on Part B began in April of 2009 and will be completed in October of 2009.

The Allen County Commissioners on behalf of the Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District (ACRWS) obtained a \$400,000 CFF grant to assist in the financing of installation of sanitary sewers for the Community of Riverhaven. Sewers are being installed to replace failing septic systems in the community, however without grant funds, monthly sewer rates for the residents would have been more than \$110 per month. Obtaining the grant funds reduced the sewer rates for the residents to approximately \$70 per month. The total cost of the project is approximately \$900,000, with a local match of approximately \$500,000 (\$400,000 from a SRF loan obtained by the ACRWS and a \$100,000 grant from the Fort Wayne Community Foundation). Construction on the project began in April of 2009 and will be completed in August of 2009.

NIRCC also began working with the Town of Corunna and the City of Decatur on CFF grant applications. The Town of Corunna is applying for a \$150,000 CFF grant to assist in the purchase of a \$200,000 fire truck for the Corunna Volunteer Fire Department to replace a fire truck that has reached the end of its useful life. Corunna plans to submit their application in September of 2009. The City of Decatur is applying for a \$50,000 CFF planning grant to assist in funding a comprehensive plan for the City. The comprehensive plan will provide the City with policy and direction in terms of transportation, housing, public/environmental infrastructure, recreation, economic development, the central business district, land use, and quality of life. The City of Decatur anticipates submitting their planning grant application in August of 2009.

Community Development continued...

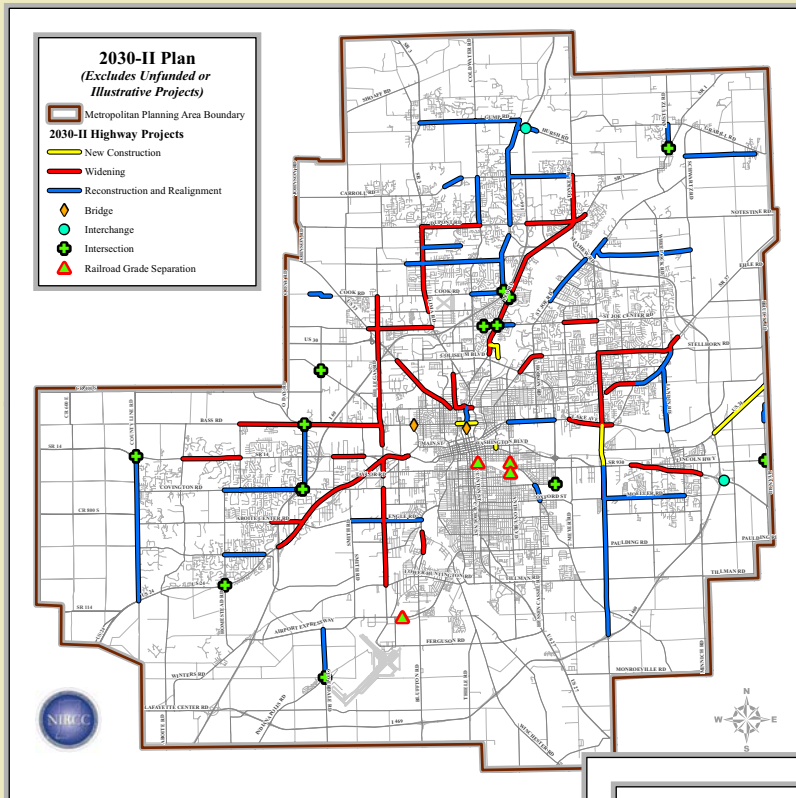
NIRCC staff is working closely with the grantees, the project engineers, and the contractors and sub-contractors to make sure that all of the federal requirements associated with the grant are followed and met.

The Town of Monroeville in Allen County, Indiana obtained a \$500,000 CFF grant to assist in the financing of a sanitary sewer and storm water utilities improvement project. The total cost of the

2030-II Transportation Plan continued...

lected on their potential for mitigating congestion and improving mobility throughout the metropolitan area. A safe and efficient transportation system is the primary goal of the recommended plan.

Highway Network



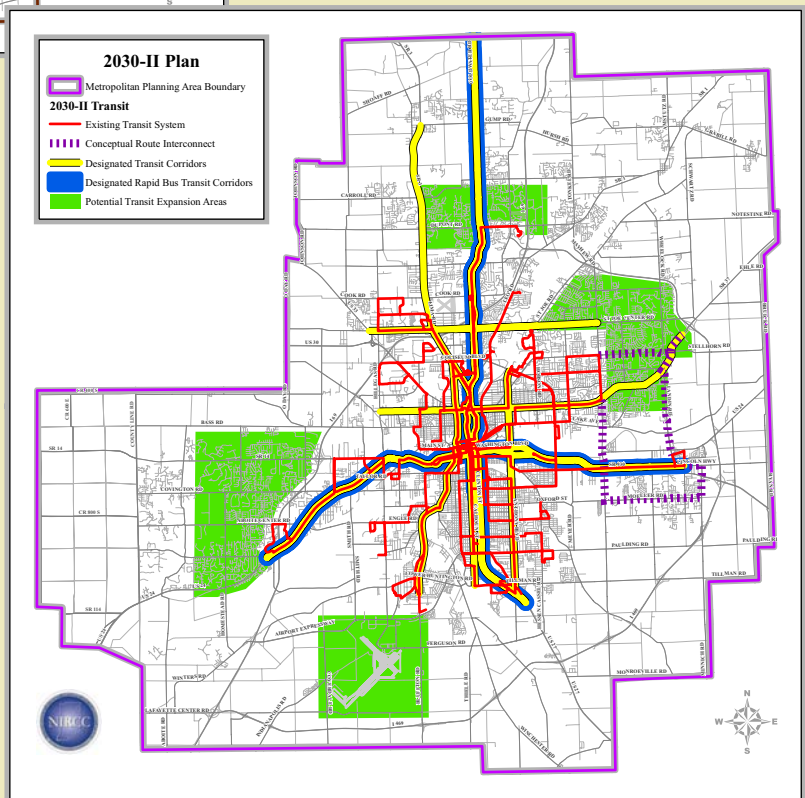
The highway network component of the plan is a comprehensive list of transportation projects and policies carefully developed to meet future travel demands. The projects fit into four categories; New Construction, Widening, Congestion Management, and Other Highway Improvements. New construction projects enhance the mobility of drivers in areas that become increasingly important as the community grows. Widening projects improve the accessibility of the area, add to street continuity and provide relief in congested areas. Congestion Management Strategies include improvements aimed at maximizing existing highway capacity. Other highway improvements includes the construction and reconstruction of railroad grade

separations, interchange construction and modifications, and the Congressional high priority corridor improvement for US 24 between Fort Wayne and Toledo (Fort to Port).

A more efficient system allows the traveler to take a quicker route reducing vehicle miles of travel, air pollution, energy consumption and travel delay. Relieving congestion also equates to a reduction in accident potential and improved air quality. The improvement projects will increase mobility and accessibility for transit, freight movement, and passenger vehicles. The projects will also establish a consistent roadway design reducing motorist confusion and improving traffic flow.

Transit System

The transit system component of the plan consists of public transit policies and transit improvements. All transit improvements have been derived from the public transit policies that guide future transit growth, methods of service de-

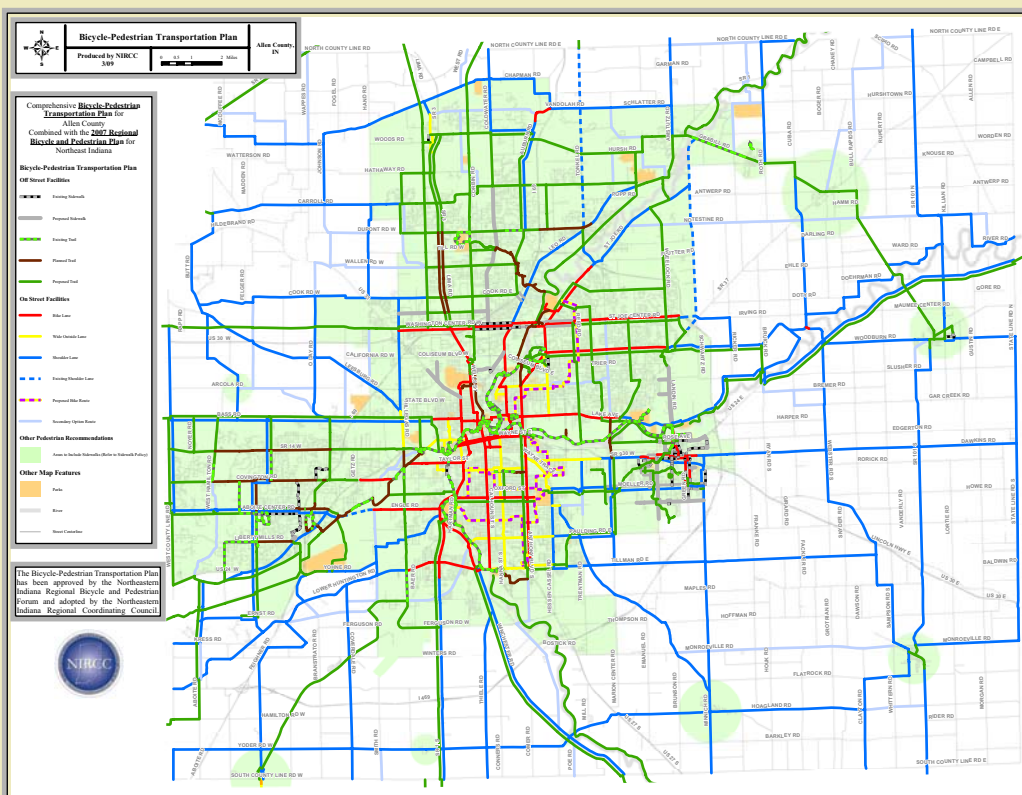


livery, and transit efficiency. The transit improvements include route modifications, capital projects, and service modifications designed to increase transit efficiency and improve transit service. The policies and improvements were developed with the input of the Transit Planning Committee and the area transit providers. Reducing headways, providing Sunday service, potential transit expansion areas, and developing a downtown intermodal transportation center are examples of the improvement projects. Specific improvements from the Citilink Transit Development Plan and the identified strategies from the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan for Allen County have also been included. The policies and improvements primarily affect the two public transit providers within the MPA: Citilink and the new rural transit provider, Countilink. However, the policies and improvements were designed to benefit all transit providers within the MPA: public, non-profit, and private; in order to create a coordinated and efficient transit system and to complement the overall transportation system.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan

The region has many individuals and organizations advocating improvements to the existing bicycle-pedestrian transportation system. To coordinate these efforts, NIRCC sponsored the Northeastern Indiana Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Forum which met from 2002 to 2007. This forum was made up of governmental parks, planning and highway agencies, advocacy groups, and special project organizations. The goal of this forum was to create a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the region that would provide a planning tool for planners and highway officials by identifying a prioritized set of routes based on an analysis of significant destinations within the region. Once these routes were identified NIRCC, along with the forum, recommended them for enhancement and protection. A combination of these identified routes and plans completed by other local groups and governmental agencies are what make up the comprehensive Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan and are included as a subset of the 2030-II Transportation Plan.

The Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan is referred to as comprehensive as it includes a broad range of existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The plan includes trails, some sidewalks, bike lanes, wide outside curb lanes, shoulder lanes, and bike routes. Also, with the update to the 2030-II Transportation Plan, NIRCC has asked local groups and governmental agencies to prioritize their projects so that the plan can reflect what may actually be accomplished in the next 10 to 15 years. To see the Bicycle-Pedestrian Transportation Plan or any of our other bicycle and pedestrian documents go to our website at www.nircc.com and you will find a variety of documents and maps that are available for you to see or download.



NIRCC

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New Staff

NIRCC would like to welcome Stacey Gorsuch as their new Associate Transportation Planner. Stacey started in November but is not new to NIRCC, she previously worked for NIRCC from 1992-1997. After leaving NIRCC she then worked part-time for Donovan Engineering for 10 years. Stacey will be assisting in the following areas: the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Intermodal Management System, the Transportation Newsletter and the LPA Initiative.

Also new to the NIRCC staff is Adam Welch. Adam will be interning for NIRCC this summer. Adam will be graduating from Indiana University Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW) in May with a degree in Political Science. Adam has just returned from Washington D.C. where he had a joint internship with Senator Lugar's office and Baker & Daniels Consulting. Prior to the internship in Washington, Adam interned with the City of Fort Wayne in the Mayor's Office and the Department of Planning & Policy in the Community Development Division. Adam will be assisting in the following areas this summer: updating railroad inventory, inputting crash data, preparing maps and an intermodal/freight survey. Adam's internship with NIRCC will end in August as he will be enrolling in law school at Indiana University at Indianapolis.