



Transportation Times

Adams-Allen-DeKalb-Wells

N Northeastern
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Coordinating
Council

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City of Auburn
DeKalb County

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Allen County

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DeKalb County

Kenneth Fries
Allen County

Donald Grogg
DeKalb County

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Governor's
Appointee

R **Ken Meyer**
City of Decatur
Adams County

Kevin Woodward
Wells County

Larry Macklin
Adams County

Dennis Bluhm
Adams County

C **Paul Spoelhof**
City of Fort Wayne
Representative
Allen County

Ted Ellis
City of Bluffton
Wells County

Terry McDonald
Allen County

C **William Hartman**
Allen County

Todd Mahnensmith
Wells County



2019 Community Crossings Grant

On March 26th Governor Holcomb and INDOT Commissioner McGuinness announced that 189 Indiana cities, towns and counties received a combined \$115 million in state-matching funds for local road projects through the Next Level Roads: Community Crossings Initiative. Congratulations to the following grant recipients in our area:



- Adams County
- Allen County
- City of Auburn
- City of Bluffton
- City of Fort Wayne
- City of Garrett
- Town of Leo-Cedarville
- City of New Haven
- Wells County

Launched in 2016, the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program provides funding to cities, towns, and counties across Indiana to make improvements to local roads and bridges. Community Crossings is a partnership between INDOT and Hoosier communities, both urban and rural, to invest in infrastructure projects that catalyze economic development, create jobs, and strengthen local

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Urban Transportation Advisory Board

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Allen County Council

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Fort Wayne Traffic Engineering

Shan Gunawardena
Fort Wayne Board of Public Works

Renee Fishering
Allen County Plan Commission

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Fort Wayne Public Transportation Corp. (Citilink)

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Paul Spoelhof
Fort Wayne Representative

Scott Hinderman
Fort Wayne/Allen County Airport Authority

Mayor Terry McDonald
New Haven

William Hartman
Allen County Highway Director

Jay Mitchell
INDOT (Non-voting members)

B

Joyce Newland
Federal Highway Administration (Non-voting member)

Community Development Updates



Did you know that NIRCC is available to assist communities within Adams, Allen, DeKalb, and Wells Counties with community and economic development activities? We can assist communities with projects receiving funding through a myriad of sources such as grants and loans from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), the State Revolving Fund (SRF), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other State, Federal, and private programs. The NIRCC community development team has the capabilities to assist with project development and to provide grant writing, grant administration, and labor standards administration services. Information regarding available funding opportunities and the community development services provided by the NIRCC community development team is available by contacting Matt Vondran at Matt.Vondran@co.allen.in.us, Kristine Christlieb at Kristine.Christlieb@co.allen.in.us, Kyle Quandt at kyle.quandt@co.allen.in.us, or calling (260) 449-7309.

Current/Completed Projects

Grabill Park Master Plan

Grabill IN - NIRCC assisted the Town of Grabill's Parks and Recreation Department with the development of a five-year master plan which was approved by the DNR April 17, 2019. This park master plan provides an outline of proposed actions and goals of the Grabill Parks and Recreation Department for the next five years. It is a collaborative effort using independent research, public input from town residents; special interest groups; local business owners, and the interests and goals of the Grabill Park Board to clearly identify the needs of the community and to develop a practical plan of action.

The master plan has created the following goals:

- Investigate and identify potential resources and funding opportunities;
- Create a list goals and formulate a written framework for future park activities;
- Provide opportunities to share information about the existing park

inventory and survey the desired needs and wants of the community;

- Articulate and prioritize the needs and wants of the community and Park Board to use as a guide for development and programming activities and use funds to achieve the greatest impact.
- Provide clear direction for Grabill Park development to potential funders.

Waterloo Park Master Plan

WATERLOO IN - NIRCC assisted the Town of Waterloo's Parks and Recreation Department with the development of a five-year master plan.

A park master plan is required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to apply for federal grants such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant funded through the Division of Outdoor Recreation. The Waterloo Park Board received notice of IDNR approval of the park plan on April 13, 2019, thus making the Board eligible to apply for a LWCF grant to build a proposed Veterans Memorial Park. One of the key goals identified in the Board's resulting Action Plan was to develop a Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) to commemorate Veterans and double the level of service of park area in town: Currently, there is 3.6 acres of developed park area in town; Veterans Park will provide a cumulative total of 7.7 acres of park area.

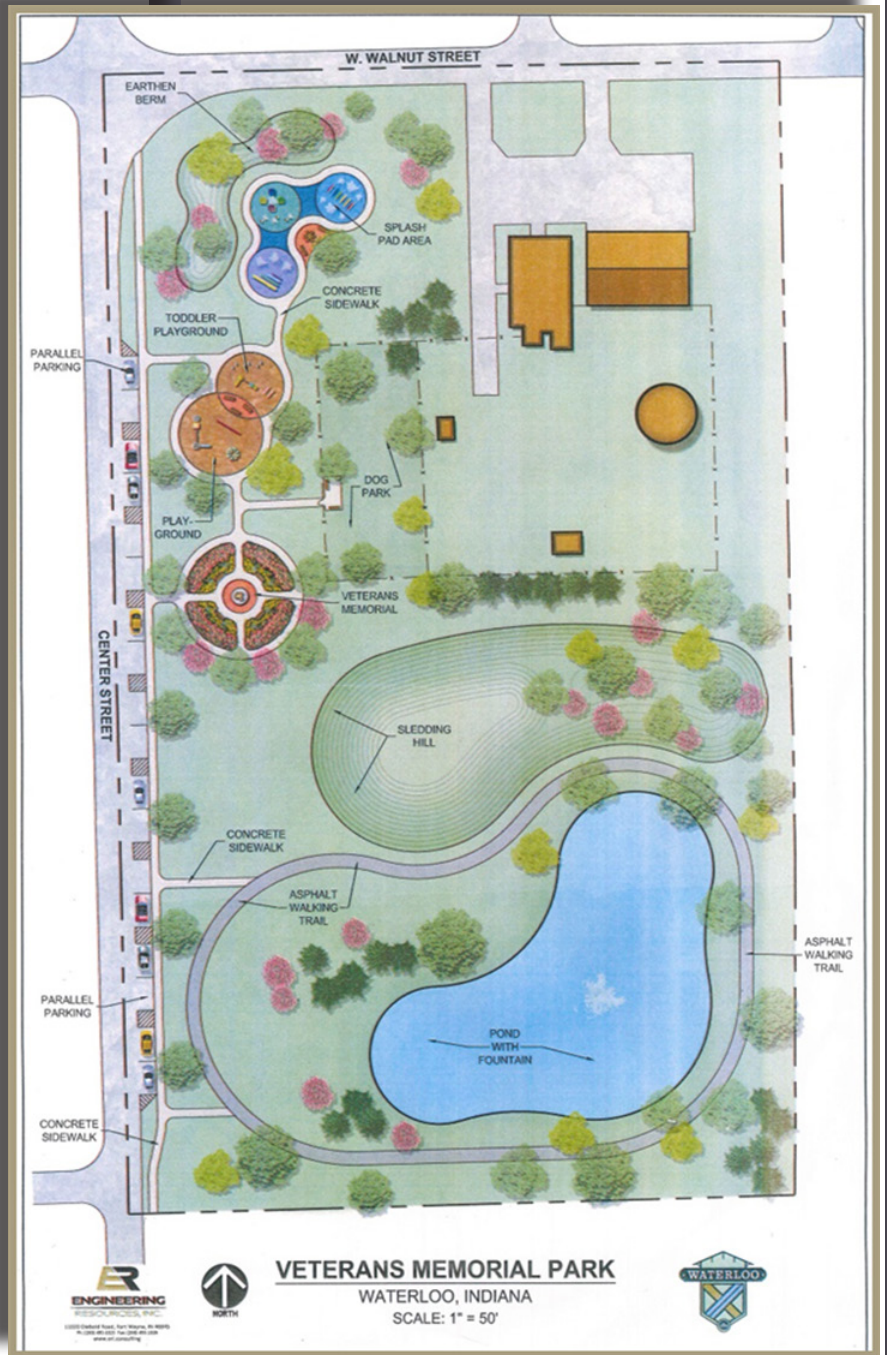
The future Veterans Memorial Park will be located at the corner of W. Walnut Street and Center Street on a 4.1 acre lot owned by the town. The site is adjacent to the Water Department and water tower and within one-half mile proximity of every household in the corporate boundaries of Waterloo.

The proposed park amenities include the following:

1. Trails
2. Fenced dog park
3. Veterans Memorial

4. Splash pad
5. Fishing pond
6. Sledding hill
7. Parking area
8. Trees/plantings
9. Playground areas
10. Water fountain

The estimated cost of the proposed Veterans Memorial Park is \$388,500. Due to these costs, the Board will develop the park in two phases:



Phase 1:

The first phase of the proposed VMP project is to build a dog park, dig the pond and sledding hill, conduct preliminary trail preparations, and install a map/design board to inform and promote the VMP project to the public. To help generate funding, the town initiated a Crowdfunding Campaign to inform the public of the ongoing efforts and encourage donations. The Crowdfunding Campaign works in conjunction with “Patronicity.com”, a website program that includes a 50/50 matching grant initiative through Indiana’s Housing & Community Development Authority’s (IHCDA) CreatINg Places program.

The fundraising campaign launched March 2019 and ended May 2019 surpassing its goal of \$48,750 and raising \$62,686 total! Also, since the goal was reached by its May 1 deadline IHCDA’s CreatINg Places program will match the \$48,750 goal! Despite reaching the needed funds though, Waterloo hopes to continue to raise more money to complete phase 1 and phase 2 of the project.

Phase 2:

The second phase will require additional funding and the town intends to pursue a DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to assist with asphaltting the trail and parking lot, building a Veterans Memorial, and installing a water fountain, playground and splash pad amenities.

Future Auburn Waterloo Trail Connection

NIRCC assisted the Town of Waterloo with a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant submission to IDNR to construct a connecting trail to the existing Auburn-Waterloo Bikeway. Waterloo recently received federal approval in March 2019 for \$200,000 in grant funding to complete the trail extension. The total project budget for the Auburn-Waterloo Bikeway connection is \$250,000.

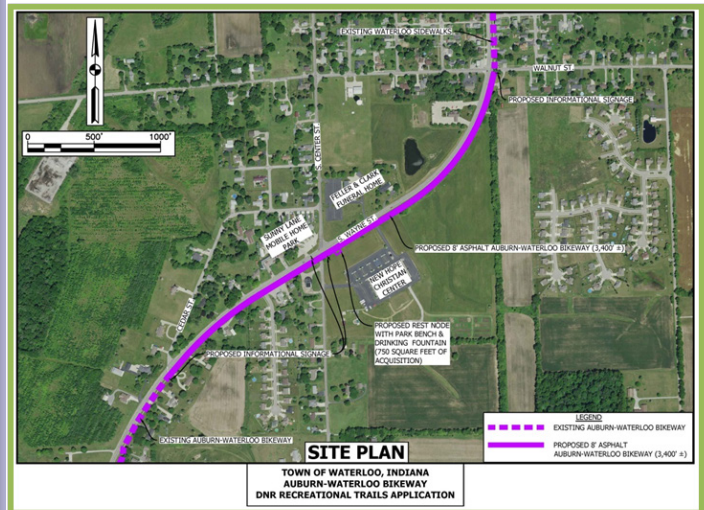
The trail extension is scheduled to be completed in 2020. The connecting trail will be approximately 3,400’ along County Road (CR) 427 (Wayne Street) north of the existing bikeway trailhead. The trail extension will provide a safer and more efficient link between the two communities. The Auburn-Waterloo Bikeway is a segment of the Poka-Bache Connector, the Indiana

State Visionary Trail.

The proposed project will include the following:

1. 3,400’ asphalt trail which is 8’ wide connecting an existing 8’ trail (part of the State
2. Visionary Trail) and a 5’ wide sidewalk through the Town of Waterloo;
3. Acquisition of approximately 750 sq. ft. of land currently owned by New Hope Christian
4. Center, which will be utilized as a resting node
5. One ADA compliant park bench
6. One ADA compliant drinking fountain
7. One informational sign at the trailhead which will be approximately 4’ x 4’
8. Trail guide provided via the Town of Waterloo website

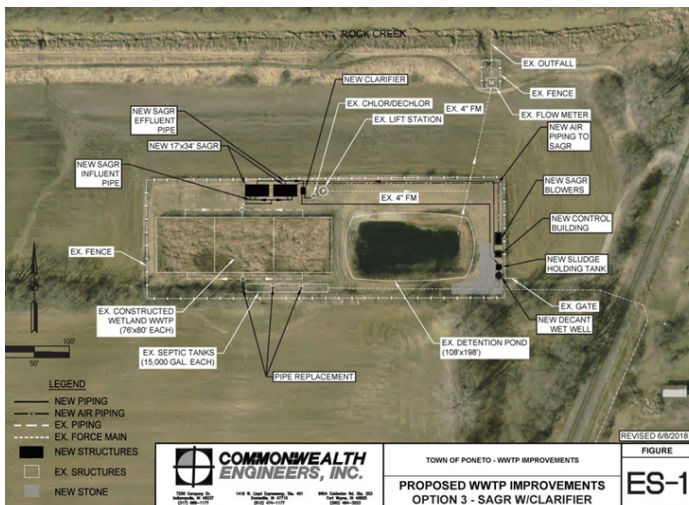
This project will connect the sidewalk network within the Town of Waterloo to the existing Auburn-Waterloo Bikeway.



Poneto Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project

NIRCC assisted the Town of Poneto with a CDBG application through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA) and conducted the environmental review for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project (WWTP) in 2018. Poneto received notice of an award of \$600,000 to make improvements through IOCRA’s Wastewater Drinking Water Program in August 2018. These improvements were necessary to meet new ammonia-nitrogen concentration levels in the town’s current National Pollutant Discharge Elimina-

tion System (NPDES) permit to allow discharge into the nearby Rock Creek - or risk incurring financial penalties from IDEM for non-compliance.



The project includes the installation of a new ammonia-nitrogen removal system, sanitary sewer structures, piping, a control building, electrical, and site work. The total project will cost \$1.2 million including a State Revolving Loan (SRF) funds to cover the balance.



With a combination of the \$600,000 CDBG grant and the SRF forgivable loan, Poneto utility users will save over \$50 a month on their sewer bills, as well as mitigate environmental impact to local waterways. This is an annual savings of over \$600 a year per household!

Construction is scheduled to begin July 2019 and to be completed in October 2019. NIRCC will continue to work with the Town of Poneto to conduct grant administrative duties throughout the final closeout of the project.

Community Crossings Continued...

transportation networks. State lawmakers identified long-term funding for Community Crossings as part of House Enrolled Act 1002, passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Holcomb in April 2017.

Since 2016, the state has awarded \$500 million in state funds to support local road and bridge projects around the state. The latest round garnered 229 applications—making the call for projects highly competitive. In response to local requests to help manage project flow, INDOT now accepts applications in both January and July, with a \$1 million cap annually per community. An estimated \$100 million will be available for communities opting to apply during the 2019 summer call for projects.

Projects that are eligible for funding through Community Crossings include road resurfacing and preservation, bridge rehabilitation or replacement, road reconstruction with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in connection with a road project. Material costs for chip sealing and crack filing operations are also eligible for funding.

Projects submitted to INDOT for funding will be evaluated based on need, traffic volume, local support, impact on connectivity and mobility within the community and regional economic significance. Community Crossings is open to all local government units in the State of Indiana.

- Cities and towns with a population of fewer than 10,000 will receive funds using a 75/25% match
- Cities and towns with a population of greater than 10,000 will receive funds using a 50/50% match
- Counties with a population of fewer than 50,000 people will receive funds using a 75/25% match
- Counties with a population of greater than 50,000 people will receive funds using a 50/50% match

The following information includes details of each project awarded to the nine communities listed above:

Adams County was awarded \$976,148.62 and will use this money to resurface the following roadways:

- CR 500 East from US 224 to CR 900 North
- CR 300 West from CR 950 South to SR 116
- CR 750 North from Winchester Road to CR 600 West

Allen County was awarded \$1,000,000 to resurface 17.8 miles of the following county roads:

- Schwartz Road from St Joe Center Road to Flutter Road
- St Joe Road from approximately Flutter Road to Schwartz Road
- Wheelock Road from approximately Flutter Road to St Joe Road
- Winchester Road from South County Line Road to Kinnerk Road
- Dunkelberg Road from Bluffton Road to Winchester Road

The City of Auburn was awarded \$630,064 for work on the following roadways:

- South Wayne Street & Auburn Drive, intersection improvements include street widening, realignment of turning lanes, signal replacement and drainage improvements
- Touring Drive from SR 8 to 15th Street, reconstruction of road along with curb replacement, new ADA ramp and drainage improvements
- North Street from Grandstaff Drive to Indiana Avenue, milling and resurfacing of roadway along with ADA ramps, sidewalks and drive approaches replacement

The City of Bluffton received \$231,000 in Community Crossing funds for the following project:

- W Lancaster Street, replacement of a box culvert

The City of Fort Wayne received \$1,000,0000 for the following road project:

- Goshen Road Phase 1 from State Boulevard to Cambridge Boulevard, improvements include reconstruction of roadway, a roundabout and sidewalks

The City of Garrett was awarded \$51,465.00 for pavement replacement on the following project:

- S Peters Street from W 4th Street to W 5th Street

The Town of Leo-Cedarville received \$298,935.00 for the following projects:

- Stuckey Lane will be milled, widened, and re-surfaced
- Baroness Place will be patched and rehab with bituminous pavement
- Wild Horse Court will be patched and rehab with bituminous pavement
- Black Wolf Pass will be patched and rehab with bituminous pavement
- White Tail Run will be patched and rehab with bituminous pavement
- Markham Court will be patched and rehab with PCC pavement
- Hosler Road from Halter Road to Amstutz Road will be crack sealed

The City of New Haven was awarded \$995,908.50 for the following project:

- Green Road Phase 1 from Moeller Road to Park Boulevard, improvements include rehabilitating the asphalt, curb and gutter, sidewalk reconstruction, ADA curb ramps, new storm sewer system and traffic signs

Wells County received \$956,534.89 for work on the following bridges:

- CR 700 South over Rock Creek, Bridge #90-00006, replacement of bridge
- CR 600 West over Shadle Drain, Bridge #90-00056, replacement of bridge
- CR 950N (Mill St) over Eight Mile Creek, Bridge #90-00300, rehab bridge
- Lafever St over Eight Mile Creek, Bridge #90-00301, rehab bridge
- CR 1000 South over Scuffle Creek, Bridge #90-00303, replacement of bridge

Pedestrian Safety During Construction

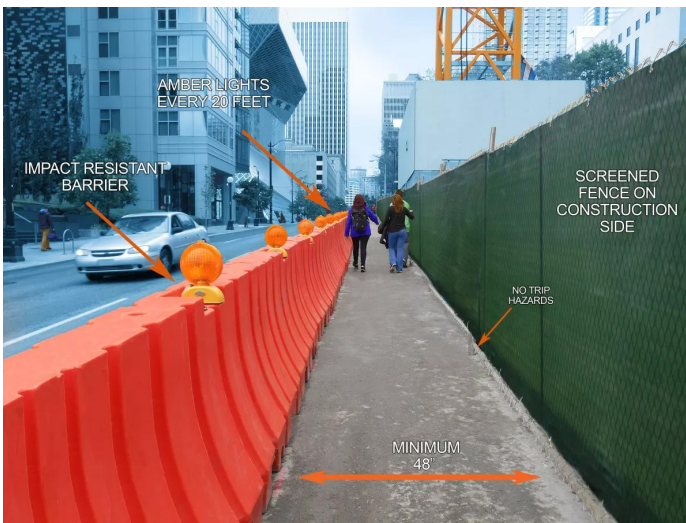


Any construction work on or near a sidewalk or walking path as part of a temporary traffic control (TTC) zone, must provide accommodations to pedestrians who use that sidewalk or path,

including individuals with disabilities. This is a federal standard defined in [Section 6D.02 \(03\) of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices \(MUTCD\)](#):

When existing pedestrian facilities are disrupted, closed, or relocated in a TTC zone, the temporary facilities shall be detectable and include accessibility features consistent with the features present in the existing pedestrian facility. Where pedestrians with visual disabilities normally use the closed sidewalk, a barrier that is detectable by a person with a visual disability traveling with the aid of a long cane shall be placed across the full width of the closed sidewalk.

The removal, even for only a short time, of a pedestrian access route, curb ramp, or pedestrian street crossing may severely limit or totally prohibit a person with a disability from navigating in the public right of way. It may also prevent access to buildings, facilities, or sites on adjacent properties.



Consider the following when laying out construction sites:

- Advanced warning and guidance signs
- Adequate illumination and reflectors
- Use of temporary walkways
- Channeling and barricading to separate pedestrians from traffic
- Adequate barricading to prevent visually impaired pedestrians from entering work zones
- Wheelchair accessible alternate pedestrian circulation routes with appropriate signage



This requirement applies to all TTC zones by state and local transportation agencies, construction and maintenance contractors (both road and vertical construction), utility companies, landscaping companies, as well as any sidewalk, lane, or road closures for vertical construction activities.

Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) and the Traffic Count Program

2018 Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)



NIRCC has completed the Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) report for 2018. In 2018 there was 7,877,195 vehicle miles traveled. This is 2.94% higher than in 2017 (7,652,446 Vehicle Miles of Travel).

To calculate VMT statistics NIRCC utilizes traffic count data collected throughout the year. In 2018, approximately 1,142 locations were counted throughout Allen County. NIRCC also collects count data for other counties. NIRCC plans on working in Allen County, Adams County, and Wells County for the 2019 traffic counting program.

Northeast Indiana Water Trails



The Northeast Indiana Water Trails will be hosting the 4th annual Pedal, Paddle, and Play presented by Three Rivers Federal Credit Union on July 20, 2019. Changes this year include being a part of the second largest festival in Indiana, Three Rivers Festival, and hosting the event in the newly constructed Promenade Park on Superior Street in downtown Fort Wayne. The Pedal, Paddle, and Play is a way to encourage people to engage with our water resources in NE Indiana while learning about the rivers and the ecological services they provide while making new friends on a two hour scavenger hunt on, or adjacent to the rivers in downtown Fort Wayne. Participants can choose to paddle or bike on the scavenger hunt and will earn chances to win \$1000s in prizes including a complete kayak package.



To date, the proceeds from the Pedal, Paddle, and Play have been used to fund the production of water

proof water trail maps, the development of www.nei-watertrails.com which is a one stop shop for all things paddling in NE Indiana, and the pilot project for trail head signs for boat access sites. The proceeds from the fourth annual Pedal, Paddle, and Play will be used to continue the trail head sign program and offer assistance to communities in NE Indiana to print and install signs at access sites within their jurisdiction.

The Northeast Indiana Water Trails is a regional partnership working to increase recreation opportunities on our waterways by promoting boat access, water safety and stewardship, and the development of regional water trails that will empower our citizens to become more active and unified. The Pedal, Paddle, and Play is the NEI Water Trails' only fundraiser and sole source of funding and could not be possible without the support of the Fort Wayne community and businesses including, Three Rivers Federal Credit Union, Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, Fort Wayne Outfitters and Bike Depot, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Riverfront Fort Wayne, Sunny 103.9, WANE 15, and Sweetwater and Chuck and Lisa Surack.



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