City and MPO promote cycling throughout metro area with new regional bike map

INDIANAPOLIS – Department of Metropolitan Development Director Maury Plambeck today joined representatives of Indy Parks and Recreation, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and cycling enthusiasts in unveiling a new, updated Indianapolis area bike route map, which illustrates more than 380 miles of streets and trails for cycling.

The new map includes routes throughout the Indianapolis metro area, marking the first time bike routes extending north into Fishers, Carmel and Zionsville, and south into Greenwood have been outlined on the map.

“Cycling is a wonderful way to stay in shape, but it also can be an efficient mode of transportation in the Indianapolis area,” said Plambeck. “We are fortunate to have a well-planned, well-maintained bike route system, and this new map highlights that fact. Hopefully, it can encourage residents to get out of their cars on and onto their bikes.”

Plambeck also stressed the importance of including routes extending past Marion County, stating that improving transportation of all types requires a regional approach.

The map illustrates three different types of routes: primary bike routes; Indy Parks Greenways and other trails; and proposed future bike routes.

Primary bike routes provide access between neighborhoods on a continuous, cross-county system. Currently, some of these routes are marked by clear signage with various segments featuring other added enhancements. Greenways provide off-road cycling options and can be used as primary routes.

The MPO will work with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works to complete the signage of primary routes in Marion County by the end of this year.

The MPO has worked in cooperation with planners in Fishers, Carmel, Zionsville and Greenwood to update the bike map and add routes north and south of Marion County. Other partners in creating the new bike map include Indy Parks Greenways, the Central Indiana Bicycling Association, the Indiana Bicycle Coalition, the Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, IndyGo, the Marion County Health Department and WISH-TV.

The release of the new bike route map is the latest effort by the city to promote bicycling as a positive alternative form of transportation. Other initiatives include:

- a Multi-Modal Task Force sponsored by the MPO, which has successfully worked with IndyGo to place bike racks on most buses;
- an ongoing effort to install bike racks around the City-County Building; and
- Indy in Motion, a fitness initiative launched by Mayor Bart Peterson that includes promoting cycling on our trails and greenways.

The MPO is responsible for regional transportation planning. It works cooperatively with the region’s elected officials and implementing agencies in developing a Regional Transportation Plan that includes road, transit, bicycle and pedestrian recommendations.

During the next month, the MPO and Indy Parks will distribute maps to bicycling organizations, local businesses, libraries and parks. People also can get a copy of the map by e-mailing or calling Catherine Kostyn, kostyn@indygov.org or (317) 327-5142. The map is available online at the MPO website, www.indygov.org/indympo.

Among the cycling enthusiasts attending today’s release of the new bike were representatives of National Bicycle Greenway (NBG), an organization focused on promoting designated bicycling routes throughout the country.

Members of the NBG are traveling through Indianapolis by bike en route to Chicago as part of their third annual Mayor’s Ride, which will include 42 cities across the country.

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