



## BUS TRANSIT

Buses currently serve as the only public transit option in Central Indiana. Because they travel on roads, they can be provided at a lower cost than other public transportation options and offer a great deal of flexibility to connect you to most places that a personal vehicle can.

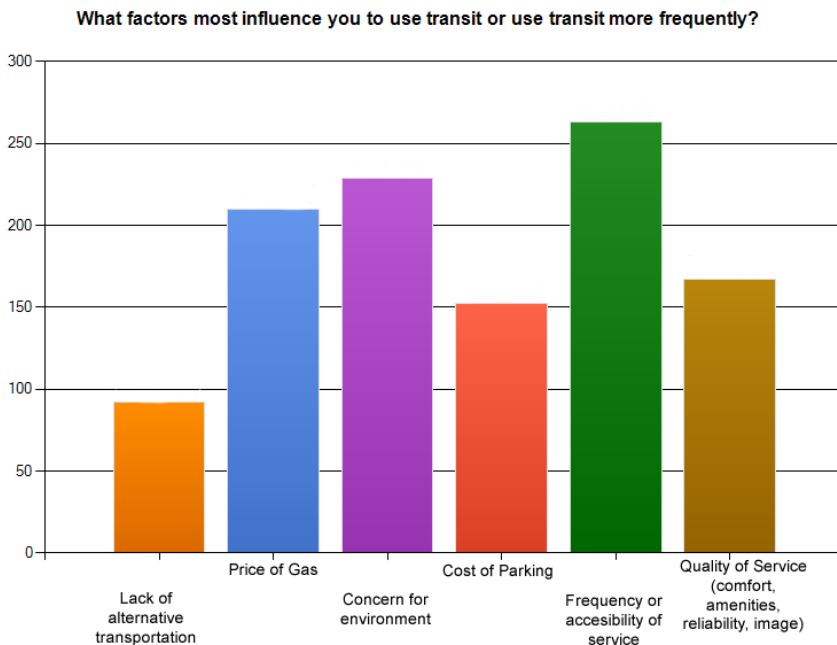
Buses can provide these basic types of service:

- Fixed Route Bus Service- the most basic form of service where the bus travels in traffic, with stops spaced frequently and evenly along the route.
- Express Bus- This service links two or more primary destinations and has stops at or near those locations but not in between, allowing it to travel along faster corridors like interstates where it doesn't pick up passengers.
- Bus Rapid Transit- This is an enhanced form of fixed route bus service, with fewer stops along the route to allow for faster travel times. Speed can further be increased through traffic signal prioritization or exclusive lanes. (For more information on this technology see the Bus Rapid Transit factsheet)

### What we heard

Some of the most common and repeated comments that we received about bus were:

- Increase frequency to make the buses come more often
- More cross-town routes and inter-county connections
- Longer service hours during the evening and more service on weekends
- More covered shelters with benches and more sidewalks for easier access to stops
- Real-time information to announce when the next bus will arrive
- Modern fare collection (multi-mode pass)



Since the first round of public meetings began, twice as many people responded that increased bus transportation was most appealing as a transportation option as opposed to new roadway improvements. We also learned that 60 percent of the people were willing to ride a bus between 30 and 45 minutes to commute to work and that frequency, concern for the environment and the price of gas influence the decision to use transit.

## This plan

Bus service is critical to the success of transit in Central Indiana because it serves as the backbone of a connected transportation system – linking to rail, roadways and bike and pedestrian walkways. It could be the first type of transit implemented in the long-range transportation plan since the vehicles can run on existing streets and up-front costs for bus transit are less than for rail transit. Upgraded shelters, real-time information and other amenities that people requested are addressed where possible.

**Frequency:** Boosting the number of buses on existing routes so that they arrive at stops more frequently is one of the first things that will happen under the new plan. Under this plan, 50 percent of routes would run at fifteen minutes or less between buses and 83 percent of the system would run 30 minutes or less between buses by 2035.

## Cross-town Routes:

There are ten new cross-town routes proposed.

- 38<sup>th</sup> Street
- 56<sup>th</sup> Street
- 71<sup>st</sup> Street
- 86<sup>th</sup> Street
- 116<sup>th</sup> Street
- Raymond Street
- Westside (Georgetown)
- Emerson Avenue
- Arlington Avenue
- Shadeland Avenue
- 30<sup>th</sup> Street (expanded)

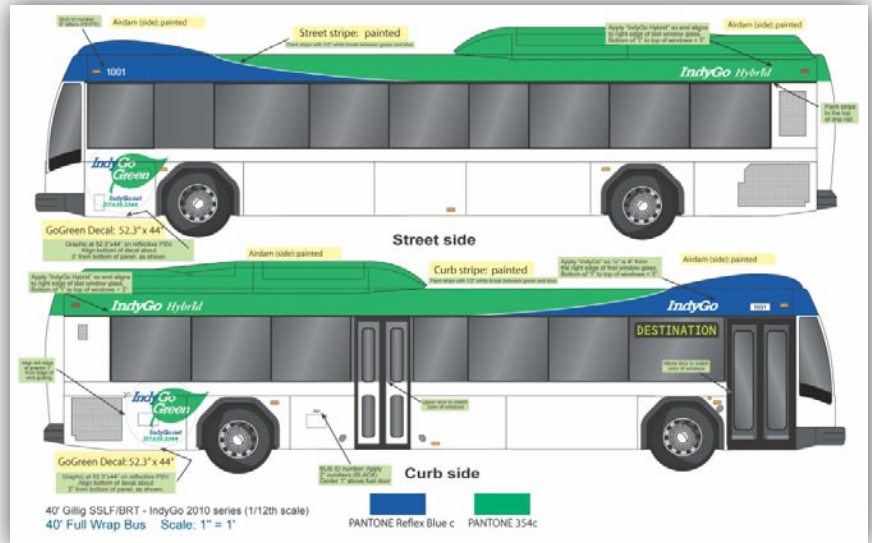


Figure 1 New Hybrid Bus Diagram- IndyGo recently purchased 11 new hybrid vehicles

**Express routes:** Under this plan, there would be fifteen express routes for faster connections between counties and within Marion County. Commuter express routes between Marion and the surrounding counties will be implemented first.

**Days and Hours of Service:** On weekdays, the plan calls for buses to run later, in many cases until midnight. On weekends, the plan dramatically increases hours so that the difference in service between weekdays and weekends is less noticeable and you can still get where you need to go conveniently.

**Bus Rapid Transit:** Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Lines will bring a whole new appeal to our transit system. These services run faster, through signal prioritization and less frequent stops, along high-demand travel routes. The Washington Street BRT line may be converted to light rail, when demand and funding permits.

