March 2024

What is ITT Working on in 2024?

Crawfordsville LaPorte **Fort Wayne** DOCUMENT **CHANGE WORKFORCE CONSISTENCY ORDERS DEVELOPMENT** & RETENTION <u>Central</u> COMMUNICATION **PLANS** Seymour Greenfield WORKZONE **LETTING** CONSISTENCY Q&A <u>Vincennes</u>

Committee Kickoff Event Held



ITT kicked off its 2024 season with a March 5 meeting of the eight statewide ITT committees.

INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith joined ITT leadership in emphasizing continued progress toward assuring that effective partnerships remain at the forefront of the initiative.

This group continues to lead the effort in assuring we drive the value of getting together to work though some of the transportation industry's biggest pain points, while assuring the journey to get there is just as fruitful as arriving at the destination.

Upcoming Events for INDOT, ACEC, and ICI Partners

- Fort Wayne District TinCaps Game June 25, 2024
- Check the ITT website for upcoming Spring and Summer district events
- Statewide ITT Partnering Conference Dec. 19, 2024

What is ITT?

Established in 2019, the Indiana Transportation Team (ITT) is a collaboration between INDOT, ACEC Indiana, and Indiana Constructors Inc. that aims to improve trust, communication, collaboration, and service to Hoosier taxpayers as we deliver the best roads possible.

Who Leads ITT?

ITT has leadership in each of INDOT's 6 Districts, as well as the Central Office and a Statewide Steering Committee. <u>Click here</u> to see the leaders in each area and their contact information if you wish to reach out and get involved!

Team-First ITT Attitude Delivers Victories

Just like an expansion team in professional sports, the Indiana Transportation Team took small, incremental steps after it was formed in 2019. New organizations can be disjointed at first, especially when team members come from different organizations. Early ITT wins were relatively limited.

But, with each passing year, the team became more cohesive, the vision became clearer, and the wins became bigger. With several years under its belt, the ITT now is a well-oiled machine with big victories and a cooperative attitude to improve transportation in Indiana. If the ITT were a sports team, it would now be considered championship level.

The ITT is a collaboration between INDOT, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Indiana, and the Indiana Constructors Inc. (ICI) to identify opportunities and collectively improve how they serve the citizens of Indiana.

Six hundred attendees gathered to become better partners during the third annual ITT Partnering Conference, held Dec. 21, 2023, at the Indiana Convention Center.

"The ITT has gone way beyond what I thought was possible," INDOT Deputy Commissioner of Construction Roland Fegan told the audience.

Said INDOT Asset Management Director Jeremy Hunter: "What we are is defined by what happens on our most challenging days. We have shined on these hard days by using techniques and tools developed through the ITT. More importantly, we have leveraged the relationships that were forged through the ITT to come out ahead — together."

The ITT is composed of seven regional steering committees; if a contractor, consultant, or INDOT employee typically works in a certain part of the state, then they belong to the team that corresponds to that region's INDOT district or Central Office. Each regional committee is tasked with a focus deliverable for the year.

At the conference, ICI President Richard Hedgecock led an interactive session in which the groups reflected on progress made from the original 2022 deliverables and presented the



ICI President Richard Hedgecock (from left) and INDOT Deputy Commissioner of Construction Roland Fegan.

results from each of the 2023 focuses. Each of the seven groups met then for nearly two hours to brainstorm 2024 goals.

Near the end of the conference, all attendees engaged in an insta-poll and voted for their top six initiatives from the overall list. The top six, in no particular order, were:

- Work-zone safety
- Process consistency through districts
- Document consistency
- Utility coordination meetings
- Utilities as a fourth leg of the ITT stool
- Keeping current with technology

These priorities were refined and assigned to the districts. (See chart on Page 1.) Additionally, a seventh deliverable of communication plans was assigned to the Central Office steering committee.

Conference networking and icebreaker activities helped strengthen personal connections between attendees. Commissioner Mike Smith kicked off the conference with a safety-themed message before introducing Gov. Eric Holcomb, who Smith called the "infrastructure governor." Holcomb thanked the ITT for being a team in name and in spirit, noting that projects are now delivered in unison.



Gov. Eric Holcomb thanks conference attendees.

"I really care about what happens when I'm gone and no longer governor," Holcomb said. "I can't thank you enough for what you're doing. Your expertise will show up not only immediately, but also 15 years from now when these roads and bridges are still there and functioning properly thanks to your teamwork."