



Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Marc Lotter
Communications Director
Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis
Marc.Lotter@indy.gov C: (317) 726-6589
www.indy.gov - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Flickr](#)

Design to Begin on “The Red Line” – America’s First E-Bus Rapid Transit Route

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard and other Central Indiana Mayors, transit and community leaders today announced that planning and design will commence next year on “The Red Line” – the first full electric bus rapid transit in the nation. Last week Rep. André Carson (IN – 7) and the US Department of Transportation announced IndyGo received a \$2 million TIGER grant for environmental and design work on the 28-mile route that would run from Hamilton County through Indianapolis to Greenwood in Johnson County.

“This federal grant is an enormous win for Central Indiana,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “After decades of study and debate we can now get to work on a regional rapid transit system that will better connect people to where they work, live, learn and play.”

The \$2 million TIGER grant will be matched by \$1 million in local contributions by the City of Indianapolis (\$687,636), City of Carmel (\$196,592), City of Westfield (\$146,206), and the City of Greenwood (\$64,366).

“The city of Carmel, its residents and especially its business community support public transportation on a number of levels. It’s good for the environment, it helps attract employers and it helps connect employees to their jobs,” said Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard. “It is important to note, too, that rapid transit lines run in both directions and will benefit both of our communities, as well as the economy of all of central Indiana.”

“As the City of Westfield continues to grow, important projects such as The Red Line will provide our residents with increased access to transportation, and allow our community to engage in regional economic development in ways we have not yet realized,” said Westfield Mayor Andy Cook. “We are excited to be partners in this transit initiative.”

“Connecting our people to where they work, learn and play is a competitive advantage to our region. Our younger generations want to create a greener environment, and are looking for the option of leaving their car at home. The Red Line will give the Greenwood Community just that opportunity and will further strengthen our connection to the Indianapolis market,” said Greenwood Mayor Mark W. Myers.

-MORE-

The Red Line System

Central Indiana is proposing to make The Red Line America's First Electric Bus Rapid Transit route. The project will explore the use of Electric technology based on systems already successfully being used in parts of Europe. The system would utilize existing traffic lanes as well as dedicated lanes built in high traffic areas. The line would feature approximately 40 stations. According to The Red Line operating plan, busses would run every 10 minutes during peak times and 15 minutes during off-peak Monday through Friday, and every 20 minutes during the day and 30 minutes in the evenings on weekends.

"Indianapolis is ready for rapid transit," said Mike Terry, president and CEO of IndyGo. "The current IndyGo bus network would be transformed by a new fast, frequent service that runs most hours of the day."

The Red Line Route

The 28-mile long Red Line will make its way from Hamilton County and Carmel to Indianapolis on City Center Drive and Pennsylvania Street. At the Marion County line it will shift to College Avenue, running through Broad Ripple and past the Indiana State Fairgrounds. From 38th Street, the line will use either Meridian Street or a combination of Capitol Avenue and Illinois Street to downtown Indianapolis. The line will exit downtown along Virginia Avenue through Fountain Square, pick up Shelby Street past the UIndy campus, and then take Madison Avenue through Southern Marion County, to the Greenwood Park Mall and beyond.

"Moving forward on The Red Line is the right step for the region," said Anna Gremling, executive director of the Indianapolis MPO. "This corridor houses 4 major universities, more than 160,000 jobs, and nearly 6% of the region's residents—connecting these community assets with an investment like The Red Line just makes sense."

The Timeline

Following approval of local funding matches by local officials, study and design work will begin early 2015. At the conclusion of this study and design work, the City and its transit partners will request federal funding to begin construction of The Red Line. If that funding is approved, construction could begin in 2016 with The Red Line opening 2-3 years later.

[Click here](#) to see a presentation on The Red Line

[Click here](#) for a fact sheet about The Red Line

[Click here](#) to see the TIGER grant application and approximately 50 letters of support from civic and community leaders

###