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## INDOT Collaborates with Local Communities for Future Planning

As it does on many projects in urban areas, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is working closely with local officials in Zionsville to plan the new 421 Forward corridor.

The project's goal is to help address driver and pedestrian mobility needs on US 421 between Greenfield/Templin Road and County Road 300 South. As part of standard practice, INDOT typically does not include trails as part of its work, but the project team works closely with local officials to plan where pedestrian facilities will be.

On projects like 421 Forward, INDOT has been working closely with Zionsville to plan and study the final design's details and where the town can build trail access for residents.

"By working with our local partners, we're saving taxpayer dollars in future construction costs," said INDOT West Central Spokesperson Blake Dollier. "When the project design is complete, Zionsville officials will be able to determine where and how best to build out their trail system. We appreciate collaborating with local officials to invest in our state's infrastructure."

The design team, led by American Structurepoint, will give local officials information about how wide the future roadway will be, existing utility information, and future utility relocations.

Zionsville officials touted the collaboration with INDOT and how the agency is in tune with the local needs.

"As our community evolves, our transportation system needs to evolve with it," said Zionsville Mayor John Stehr. "No one understands that more than INDOT, and I believe the agency has done a good job communicating to our community both the need and the potential solutions. I look forward to working with them toward a better, safer and more efficient future in that important part of our town."

Zionsville Public Works Director Lance Lantz appreciates INDOT partnering with the town on projects that benefit the town.

"We are always pleased when our INDOT partners take interest, invest in, and improve their roads within our community," Lantz said. "We are eager to support their efforts in the best interests of all our residents, particularly along this fast-growing and evolving corridor."

The 421 Forward project is in the early stages of design, which will be completed in 2026. Additional public engagement will take place in 2025, and a draft environmental document will be prepared in late 2025. For more information about the project, visit [www.421Forward.com](http://www.421Forward.com).

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### **About 421 Forward**

*The proposed 421 Forward project – located on US 421 between Greenfield/Templin Road up to County Road 300 South – is intended to address driver and pedestrian mobility needs. Various roadway improvements including pavement rehabilitation, added auxiliary lanes, intersection improvements, pedestrian facilities and storm drainage enhancements are anticipated. Design will begin in 2024 and is expected to last through the summer of 2026. 421 Forward is a state investment to improve infrastructure. Infrastructure that works is at the core of the Indiana Department of Transportation's mission and why Indiana was ranked in the top 10 for infrastructure by CNBC.*