

# Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Indiana County Commissioners Announce the Creation of a County TIM Team**

**INDIANA, PA (April 9)** –The Indiana County Commissioners have announced the creation of Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Team in Indiana County. The Indiana County TIM Team is composed of emergency responders from across the County and represents a multi-disciplinary effort to improve responses to incidents that impact traffic flow on regional roadways.

Traffic incidents are the leading cause of death for emergency responders and are a key cause of unexpected congestion. Americans burn more than 2.8 billion gallons of gasoline each year as a result of being stuck in incident-related traffic congestion. And for every minute that a primary crash continues to be a hazard, the risk of secondary crashes increases by almost 3%.

The primary goals of the Indiana County TIM Team include ensuring the safety of first responders, clearing the roadways quickly in order to reduce traffic congestion and minimize the potential for secondary crashes, and having reliable interoperable communications between responding agencies. The organizing ideas of the Team are to facilitate first responder communication, enable collaboration, and provide training in ways that build relationships outside of an actual incident.

The Indiana County TIM Team is being led by transportation planner Doug Smith, PE from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. However, the creation of the local TIM Team by the Commissioners represents broad-based, working partnerships with transportation planners and emergency response professionals from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the IUP Highway Safety Center, Indiana County Emergency Management, and Indiana County Office of Planning & Development.

The first official meeting of the Indiana County TIM Team will be held on Thursday, April 10 at the Armagh Fire Department from 7:00-8:30PM. Agenda items include upcoming TIM training events, highway construction updates, and follow-up on priority issues identified in the initial organizational meeting. Other meetings and trainings are planned later this year. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jeff Raykes Chief Planner at Indiana County Office of Planning and Development, (724) 465-3870 or email [jraykes@ceo.co.indiana.pa.us](mailto:jraykes@ceo.co.indiana.pa.us) .

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