

## **ABSTRACT**

**RESEARCH PAPER:** Assessing the INDY Connect Legislative Process: Theory and Practice

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Planning, transportation, and politics are a messy combination. Mass transit in central Indiana has had a long process to get where it sits today. House Bill 1011 created a study committee to establish the feasibility of mass transit in central Indiana and resulted in what would become the skeletal structure of Senate Bill 176. Senate Bill 176 created the opportunity for a local public question to be placed on a ballot as early as November 2016 asking whether or not people within eligible counties would approve a higher tax rate to fund mass transit. House Bill 1011 and Senate Bill 176 were preceded by a bill in 2012 that had nearly the same outcome, but did not make it through the legislative process. This led to the suspicion of the importance in packaging (showcasing select benefits) projects to elected officials.