



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indy DMD is bringing updates to the Regional Center Design Guidelines and Application

November 4, 2025

Indianapolis, IN – The Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) officially opened the public comment period for updates to the Regional Center Design Guidelines, the primary framework guiding new development in and around downtown Indianapolis.

Last updated in 2008, the Regional Center Design Guidelines have helped shape the built environment of the Regional Center—the area encompassing downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. With billions of dollars in development projects underway, DMD is leading the effort to modernize the guidelines for future development of our growing and evolving downtown.

"After over a decade of implementation, and in light of substantial changes to our economy, built environment, and the communities within the Regional Center boundaries, now is the time to revisit and refine these guidelines," said Carmen Lethig, Deputy Director of Planning, Preservation and Design for DMD. "Our goal is to ensure the Regional Center Design Guidelines continue to reflect our city's vision for a vibrant downtown."

The updated Regional Center Design Guidelines and Application will:

- Modernize design standards and provide more detailed and clear guidance to support development efforts.
- Create area-specific guidelines for iconic spaces like the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Canal Walk, and White River.
- Revise the Regional Center boundary to better align with today's development patterns in the urban core.
- Update the graphics, formatting, and design of the document.

Single-family and duplex homes within the Regional Center will continue to be reviewed using the [Infill Housing Guidelines](#), most recently updated in 2021. Homeowners can expect the updated Regional Center Design Guidelines to continue to uphold the standard of strengthening the character of our downtown neighborhoods.

"This public comment period is an important opportunity to hear directly from residents, businesses, and community partners to ensure that future development reflects the values of Downtown's neighborhoods and stakeholders," said Taylor Schaffer, President & CEO of Downtown Indy Alliance. "Through broad, intentional engagement, we can continue building a more people-centered, connected downtown. I encourage everyone to review the proposed guidelines and share their feedback with the City."

"For Indianapolis to remain a competitive visitor destination, we must prioritize the pedestrian experience," added Brad Beaubien, Senior Director of Destination Development for Visit Indy. "These updates reflect a commitment to thoughtful design that enhances how people live, work, and play downtown."

The 30-day public comment period will close on Friday, December 5, 2025. Community members can review the draft and leave comments by visiting [indy.konvejo.com](#), creating an account, and searching for the Regional Center Design Guidelines portal.

Since beginning to draft the updated guidelines in 2024, DMD has already engaged over 100 organizations. The DMD connected with:

- An advisory committee to align updates with broader city goals
- A steering committee of subject matter experts to guide technical content, and
- Fourteen focus groups covering urban design, mobility, sustainability, and more

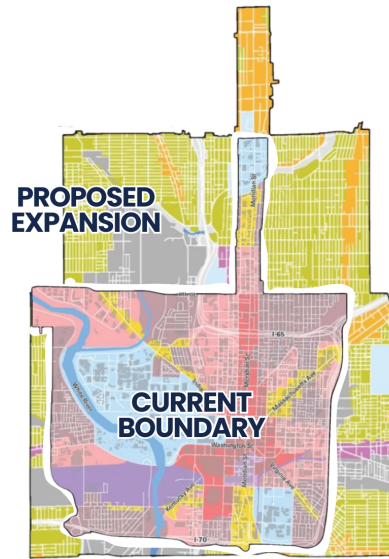
"Design guidelines are a key tool to help ensure Indianapolis remains a thriving commercial, industrial, and cultural destination," said Andy Mallon, Executive Director of the Capital Improvement Board. "Quality development begins with a shared vision and strong design principles."

Following the comment period, the updated guidelines will be reviewed through the local legislative process, with final approval and implementation expected in 2026.

For more information or to participate in the public review process, visit the [Regional Center Design Guidelines webpage](#).

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PLEASE NOTE: To determine the exact boundaries of the proposed expansion, please view the draft of the new guidelines.

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CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Metropolitan Development works to shape the city's identity by strengthening people and places, building upon our history, and fostering visionary development. The DMD team envisions Indianapolis as a growing, vibrant, and beautiful city where people and businesses thrive in an inclusive, world-class community.

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