



# THE SUCCESS OF FULL HIGHWAY CLOSURES

A complete closure of all lanes in a highway section can save months of lane restrictions, improve safety for both motorists and workers, and reduce construction costs.

Full closure of eastbound I-465 in southeast Marion County in 2019 enabled INDOT to complete concrete pavement restoration, repair bridge joints, replace concrete overlays on bridge decks, fix guardrails, replace signs, and upgrade lighting in 20 working days. Performing this work using traditional lane-by-lane closure methods would have required a full construction season.



## The Logic Behind Full Highway Closures

The Indiana Department of Transportation is committed to planning, building, and maintaining safe and innovative interstate highways, U.S. routes, and state roads in Indiana.

Over the past several years, multiple freeze-thaw cycles during Indiana winters and aging infrastructure have caused significant deterioration of sections of Indiana roadways and are the main causes of highway potholes. INDOT has dedicated \$225 million in projects in 2019 alone to repair and improve highways affected by winter damage.

In order to complete this work in the quickest and safest way possible, INDOT occasionally chooses to close all lanes of entire sections of highway. While this may create a temporary inconvenience for motorists, businesses or the community, the long-term benefits gained from full highway closures outweigh the short-term disruptions.



Thanks to Gov. Eric Holcomb's Next Level Roads program, INDOT is repairing and improving Indiana roads at record levels.

Visit [www.nextlevelroads.com](http://www.nextlevelroads.com) to see an interactive map of all current and planned INDOT projects.

## Benefits of Full Highway Closures

- **Full closures are safer for motorists and highway workers.**

Since 2012, an average of more than 330 severe crashes have occurred each year in INDOT highway work zones. Four of every five deaths in highway work zones are drivers and passengers, not highway workers. By removing lane restrictions and merging at work zone entrances, full closures eliminate traffic backups and prevent rear-end collisions, the most common type of work zone crash.

Full closures also eliminate lane crossovers and separate construction workers from nearby high-speed traffic, improving safety for both motorists and workers.

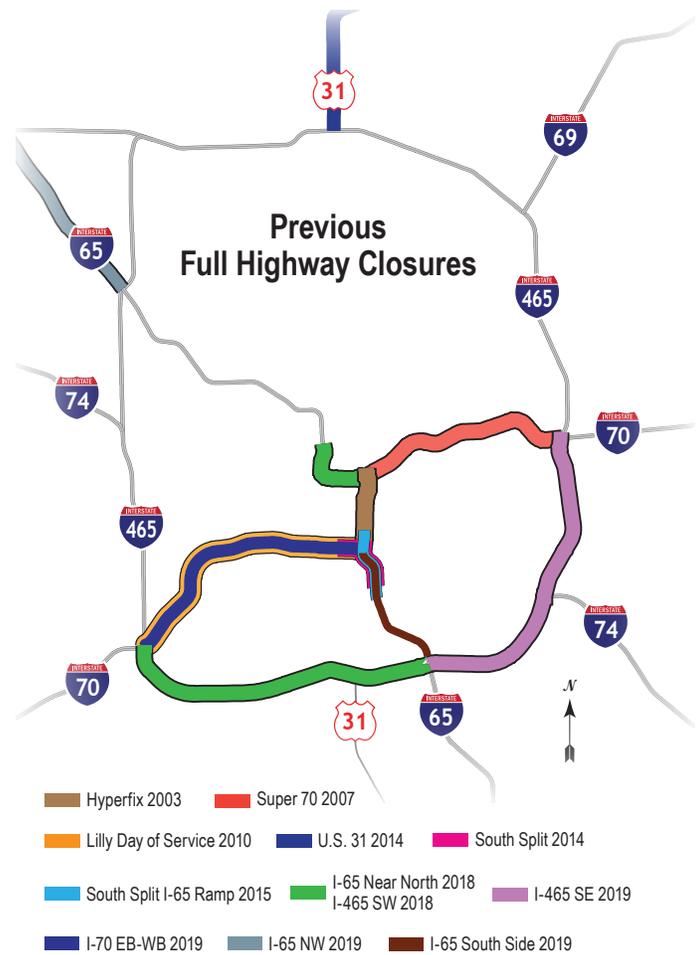
- **Full closures enable workers to maximize their time and resources.**

Without the need to maintain traffic flow through an active construction zone, INDOT and its contractors can dedicate their full efforts to completing needed construction and maintenance work.

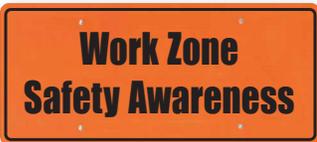
Full closures save time and money by reducing or eliminating the need for workers to set up and take down barrels and barricades each day. Closures also enhance flexibility for construction traffic and the delivery of materials, and enable new road surfaces time to harden.

- **Full closures shorten project construction time and save money.**

A full closure of 2-4 weeks can save months of lane restrictions. Additionally, full closures can reduce project costs by nearly 40% over traditional staging methods.



## INDOT is Making Construction Zones Safer



INDOT is working to make highway construction zones safer. We've added additional buffer zones between motorists and workers and more patrols by Indiana State Police and local law enforcement in construction areas. We're using message boards to warn motorists of slowing or stopped traffic in advance of construction zones and working with contractors to develop traffic management plans before highway construction starts.

## Easing the Effect of Full Highway Closures

Motorists can reduce the inconvenience of full highway closure projects by planning ahead and taking a few simple precautions:



- **Know Before You Go:** Use smartphone apps to find current detour and alternative route conditions.
- **Stay alert and minimize distractions:** Don't text, talk or adjust controls.
- **Expect the unexpected:** Speed limits may be reduced on detour routes near full closures or highway work zones.
- **Slow down:** Speeding is the major cause of work zone crashes.
- **Don't tailgate:** The most common work zone crash is the rear-end collision.
- **Keep up with traffic:** Maintain traffic flow and posted speeds.
- **Pay attention to signs:** Warning signs, barrels, and barricades help keep you safe.
- **Leave early, be patient and stay calm:** Highway closures mean construction crews are working to make your future drive better.



Indiana Department of Transportation  
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N755  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
[www.in.gov/indot](http://www.in.gov/indot)

