

INDIANA LOCAL **A**ROADS

AN INDIANA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023 /// Vol. 41 / No. 3

**LTAP's New
Hybrid Classroom**

**Haunted Roads
& Bridges of
Indiana**

**Snapshots from
the 1st Annual
Snolympics**

INDIANA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The mission of the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is to foster a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation system by improving the skills and knowledge of local transportation providers through training, technical assistance, and technology transfer.

<https://www.purdue.edu/inltap/>



PREPARING FOR WINTER CONDITIONS!

Indiana LTAP has experienced a memorable fall with an enhanced CEPDS and our first annual Snolympics.

Indiana LTAP held Snolympics at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds on September 6th and 7th. Along with informative presentations, an interactive vendor space with equipment, and delicious food, the event hosted a competitive snowplow obstacle course. Local agencies competed and were awarded in a final ceremony. The 2023 champions were Bartholomew County. Second place was awarded to Wells County and Delaware County placed third. We thank the speakers, attendees, vendors, trainers, and volunteers for making the first year a success! Mark your calendars for the Second Annual Snolympics on September 4th and 5th, 2024. View the event album on pages 4 & 5.

The 38th Annual Civil Engineering Professional Development Seminar (CEPDS) was held November 17th at Purdue University. This year, the CEPDS planning committee worked with the ASCE Younger Members - Indy Metro Chapter to incorporate opportunities for university students in Indiana. Along with having their own track, Younger Members also highlighted presentations that would be of interest to future professionals.

We look forward to preparing for the winter and new year ahead.

Safe holiday travels!

Ashley Watson
LTAP COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

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INLTAP UPDATES

INDIANA LTAP HAPPENINGS

Indiana LTAP employees travel all over the state of Indiana, snapping pictures along the way. Here are a few of our favorite photos captured by LTAP employees this past fall.

Communications Specialist Ashley Watson brings the Halloween spirit to the office.



Student ASCE members pose for a photo at CEPDS.

Senior Training Specialist Meredith Camp awards Road Builders at the 2023 ISCA Annual Conference in September.





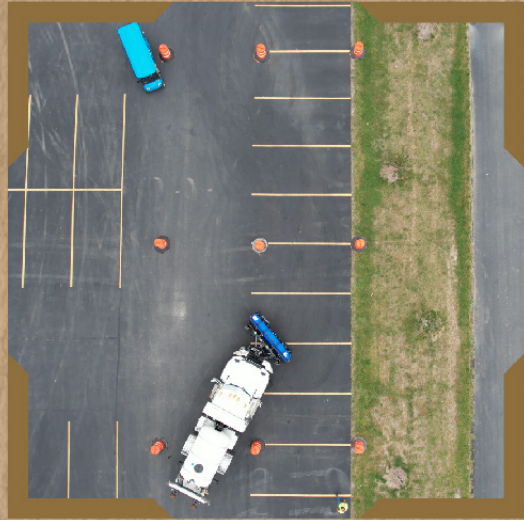
2023

SNOLYMPICS

Photo Album

Mark your calendars for the Second Annual SNOLympics on September 4th and 5th, 2024.





Scan to view this year's program.





A Brief Guide to Using QR Codes

The pandemic altered how we work and communicate in the workplace and beyond. During the pandemic, we saw the resurgence of the Quick Response Code or QR code. This little graphic allowed users to access information, websites, and apps without having to pass around paper and germs. QR codes are not going anywhere and their benefits extend beyond contactless advantages. In the following article, the benefits of QR codes, how to use QR codes, and how to create QR codes will be covered.

BENEFITS OF QR CODES

There are several benefits to using QR codes in addition to being contactless. QR codes...

- reduce paper usage and environmental impact;
- reduce cost;
- measure interaction and impact;
- can collect first party data;
- they take up less space;
- portray your agency as tech-savvy;
- and, boost social media following.

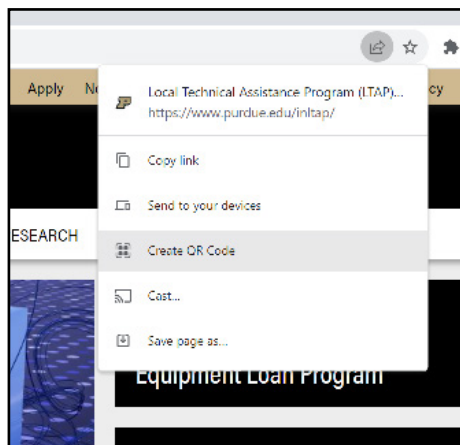
HOW TO CREATE QR CODES

QR codes are easy to make and many

social media platforms provide it as an option when you share a link.

There are two methods Indiana LTAP uses when creating QR codes, but the options are endless.

An easy way to create QR codes is using the popular internet browser, Google Chrome. When you are on the page you want to share, click the share button (see below). You have the option of creating and downloading a QR graphic.



Another method is tinyurl.com. This site allows you to create shorter URLs and QR codes. For those that prefer to not use QR codes, having a short URL along with the code is beneficial (especially when they are on posters).

There are many QR generators on the internet. Make sure to choose sites that are reputable and respect your privacy (check reviews).

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN USING QR CODES

QR codes are a great addition to your communications, but make sure to optimize their use.

- Make sure there is enough white space (also called quiet space) around the QR Code so not to obstruct usage.
- Pixelated QR codes may affect usage so ensure quality.
- Make sure to test your QR codes before publication.
- Include a call to action along with the QR code.
- QR codes are used by mobile phones, so make sure the destination is mobile friendly.

Have questions about QR codes? Do not hesitate to email Ashley Watson, LTAP's Communications Specialist. She may not have all the answers, but she will find them!

Email watsonam@purdue.edu



INNOVATION

SPOTLIGHT

Dubois County, IN

Brent A. Wendholt, Dubois County Highway Engineer, shared his experience creating the Elevated Mobile Wash System innovation with his team.

Dubois County built this structure because there was a major issue with the staff's safety while cleaning our trucks and equipment after a snow storm or a heavy construction project. They would be climbing up and down the trucks while cleaning, all while the trucks are wet and very slippery. It would be a matter of time before someone would be majorly injured. Due to our lack of space at the Highway Department, we were unable to construct a permanent structure or building. So, we came up with the idea to build a mobile structure that our loader could pick up and set in place next to our pit, and then when we don't need it, can sit off to the side of one of our building out of the way.

Once we built the structure, the staff can clean trucks, spreaders and equipment on a safer surface, which in turn, gives them peace of mind that they are safe and it makes them faster. All they have to do is walk up the steps to spray of the tops of the equipment and inside of the spreaders. Our staff is more likely to do a better job because they feel safe and are not in a hurry to get down. This in turn, means our equipment will stay in better working order as well.



Elevated Mobile Wash System



Scan the QR Code to learn more about Indiana LTAP's Innovation Program

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two ghost figures. They are made of white sheets with two black eye-holes and are sitting on a dark wooden bench. The background behind them is a dense, out-of-focus forest with green and brown leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a spooky atmosphere.

Haunted Roads & Bridges

of Indiana

By Ashley Watson, Indiana LTAP Communications Specialist

When maintaining roads and bridges this season, you might keep a lookout for paranormal surprises. That is right, ghosts. Whether you believe in them or not, it is the season for all things spooky. Hoosier roads and bridges, across the state, are dripping with tales of otherworldly creatures. Join me on a spooky road trip informed by historic newspaper clippings and local lore.

A Bridge in Dublin



**WHAT WILL POOR
GHOSTS DO THEN?**

With any new construction project, there are many factors to consider: time, money, public outreach, safety, etc. Have you ever considered the project's effect on local ghosts? This was the case in Dublin, Indiana in 1916.

Wayne County commissioners looked to approve a road project involving the pavement of 16 miles of road and replacing an old bridge with a more modern structure. Residents of Dublin were expected to oppose the bridge replacement, because it would destroy a haunted landmark.

According to local lore, if visitors touched a certain stone on the bridge at midnight, ghosts and goblins would appear. Further, during certain times of the year, an outlaw from the pioneer days could be seen hanging from the rafters.

Source: Associated Press. "What Will Poor Ghosts Do Then?" *The South Bend Tribune*, 13 July 1916, p. 7.

Gravity Hill

Keller Hill Road, just southwest of Mooresville, is the location of a transportation mystery. A longstanding legend tells of a point on the road where cars roll up when in neutral. Such phenomena has earned it its nicknames: Gravity Hill or Magnetic Hill.

It is not recommended that drivers attempt this trick as the road has become busier over time and there are plenty of blind spots.

What could it be? Ghosts and ghouls?

Next time you park your work trucks, make sure you don't lose them rolling up a hill!

Source: Moyer, Traci. "Keller Hill full of mystery, maybe seawater." *The Mooresville-Decatur Times*, 31 October 2007.



The Hitchhiking Ghost of State Road 31

A cigar salesman, Charles Sullivan,
shared his encounter with the State 31
Ghost with the media in 1937.

This story is in his own words.



It happened about 2 o'clock in the morning. Herschell Cauble, a friend, and I were driving back to Indianapolis along Road 31. It was pretty foggy and you couldn't see very clearly.

Just outside of Columbus we saw the girl. She was dressed in a dark coat, buttoned tightly around her neck. She was standing beside the road with her hands outstretched, apparently waiting for a ride.

We hesitated but then decided to stop. She asked for a ride. She said her name was Ida Meyers and she lived about ten miles back the road in the direction from which we had just come.

Cauble agreed that we'd better help her out. I helped her into the back seat and re-stacked our sample cases so she'd have room for her feet.

During the ten-mile drive back to her home she was pretty quiet. She only answered in [monosyllables].

When we got to the place she had identified I asked her "is this your home?" We looked around and she was gone.

...

We decided to go into the house and see who lived there.

A middle-aged woman who appeared, carrying an oil lamp, identified our passenger as her daughter, Ida, killed in an automobile accident three years ago. We were the third party to take her news of her daughter's ghost.

Source: "Identifies the Ghost of State Road 31."
Greenfield Republican, Greenfield, Indiana, 18 March
1937, p. 2.

Highlands Bridge



In 1907, there were reports of a ghost on Highlands Bridge in Hammond, Indiana. A group of Chicago men were approaching the bridge when a passenger spotted the outline of a man floating ten feet above the Calumet River. Once they crossed the bridge, the figure followed the vehicle while maintaining its height above the water.

To forstall all attempts to prove that the party was "piped" they are all also willing to swear that they had not taken a drink during the evening.

Source: "Ghost Follows Hammond Auto." *The Times*, Munster, Indiana, 17 June 1907, p. 2.

Montpelier Road

A ghost was sighted on Montpelier Road in Warren, Indiana in 1897. The ghost was a "low heavy-set figure with black suit, white shirt and a light Fedora hat." He appeared on a culvert or bridge and would switch sides when a driver approached. The ghost would then chase after the car, trying to grab the head of the driver. The ghost appeared between the hours of 9 p.m. and 12 a.m.

Source: "A Ghostly Apparition." *Daily News-Democrat*, Huntington, Indiana, 31 December 1897, p. 8.

Azalia Bridge

Staff of the Cummins Engine company spotted a ghost when working on the Azalia Bridge near Columbus, Indiana in 1945. It was "reliably reported that it gave them the shivers." Another sighting of the ghost resulted in two women fainting.



In September of 1957, the "ghost" made an appearance again. It seems, though, a prankster capitalized on the bridge's notoriety. The ghost, it turned out, was a dummy.

Sources: "See Ghost." *The Columbus Herald*, Columbus, Indiana, 7 November 1945, p. 1. ; "Azalia Bridge Ghost Is Out of Retirement." *The Republic*, Columbus, Indiana, 16 September 1957, p. 1.

We tell stories of the dead as a way of making a sense of the living. More than just simple urban legends and campfire tales, ghost stories reveal the contours of our anxieties, the nature of our collective fears and desires, the things we can't talk about in any other way.

— Colin Dickey, *Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places*





Indiana LTAP's

New

HYBRID

Classroom

**By Rob Hart, Indiana LTAP's
Multimedia Design Lead**

This fall, Indiana LTAP will look to push the boundaries of their training and technical assistance capabilities.

In the ongoing effort to continue improving the skills and knowledge of local transportation agencies, installation is currently underway for a "hybrid learning" classroom at Indiana LTAP's West Lafayette office facility. This remodeled classroom ushers in an exciting new world of training possibilities, offering a space for both "in-person" and "remote" participants during LTAP-sponsored meetings, workshops, and training events.



"Hybrid" or "distance learning" is any kind of learning where not all students (or even presenters) are physically present in the same classroom. Thanks to a state-of-the-art facility equipped with robust high definition video cameras, microphones, speakers, and large screen monitors, both in-person and remote attendees are able to interact via two-way video/audio as well as share multimedia materials (slides, videos, documents, etc.) across a Q-SYS computer network interface. Whether you're a presenter, attendee, or special guest, you can participate in-person or remotely (appearing onscreen in the actual classroom) and interact with all attendees.



For more complex workshops featuring multiple presenters, a behind-the-scenes Producer (in an adjacent control room) alleviates any technical concerns. In this type of controlled environment, presenters can focus on presenting. And no matter what the occasion, any classroom session can be recorded and uploaded onto LTAP's learning management system for later viewing.

The hybrid classroom offers inherent advantages for Indiana LTAP's subject matter experts, adult learners, and training associates. Presenters and attendees are afforded more flexibility, with the option to learn anywhere at



any time from the comfort of their own home or preferred workspace (Nolasco, 2022). This may also translate into potential time and cost savings by eliminating prolonged travel and lodging expenses.

By overcoming geographical barriers and classroom seating capacity, the hybrid classroom model allows for a wider pool of experts, learners, and participants. With this facility, Indiana LTAP is taking yet another step to engage and satisfy the variety of preferred teaching and learning styles of adult learners.

While the “hybrid” classroom model is nothing new to academic institutions, modern innovative virtual meeting tools, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams, have allowed these high-tech learning spaces to surge in popularity since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Housed within the Lyles School of Civil Engineering at Purdue, Indiana LTAP is proud to rollout this distance education facility in 2024. How fitting that in the early 1930s, Purdue University became one of the first pioneering universities to establish an experimental television teaching program to reach geographically remote students. Since 2003, distance education courses among U.S. colleges and universities have risen by more than 200% (Johnson, Becker, Estrada, & Freeman, 2015).

In fact, studies across 51 universities have revealed higher achievement and learning gains for students in hybrid classrooms versus traditional environments (Simonson, Zvacek, & Smaldino, 2019).

For administrative purposes, this flexible, high-tech environment affords new insights into business communication, group collaboration, needs assessment, and presentation strategies. The hybrid model also allows training workshops to evolve and improve over time via learner feedback and formative/summative assessment in an Indiana LTAP-controlled, designed, and supervised space.

REFERENCES

Johnson, L., Adams Becker, S., Estrada, V., and Freeman, A. (2015). *NMC Horizon Report: 2015 Higher Education Edition*. Austin, Texas: The New Media Consortium.

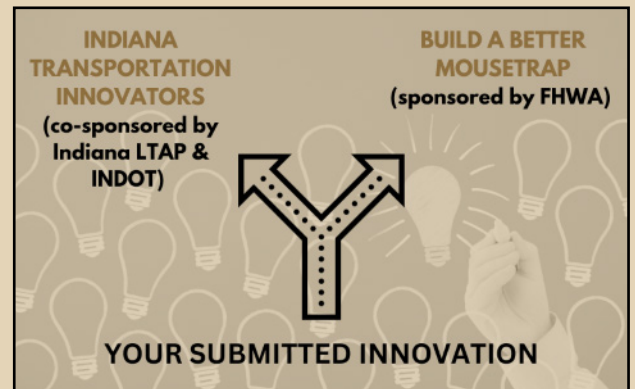
Nolasco, C. (2022). *Online Distance Learning: The New Normal in Education*. eLearning Industry.

Simonson, M., Zvacek, S., & Smaldino, S. (2019). *Teaching and learning at a distance: Foundations of distance education (7th Ed.)*. Information Age Publishing.

We want to hear from YOU, the Innovation Mastermind!

Indiana Local Innovation Masterminds Challenge
Indiana LTAP has launched the Indiana Local Innovation Masterminds Challenge to celebrate successful ideas utilized in our transportation agencies. This contest is open to innovators in Indiana town, city, and county government entities.

Submitted innovations will be entered into two competitions.



1. Indiana Transportation Innovators (March). Innovations will be entered into the Indiana Transportation Innovators competition, along with INDOT innovations. A winner for best Indiana innovation for that year will be chosen by people's choice and announced at Purdue Road School.
2. Build a Better Mousetrap Program (June). Submitted innovations will compete with other ideas across the nation in the Build a Better Mousetrap Program sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This challenge is an opportunity to showcase a successful idea and help other transportation agencies benefit from your creative thinking on a nationwide scale.

We accept innovations throughout the year. Innovations received before December 31st will be submitted to the two competitions in the new year.

*Submit your
innovation today!*



LTAP Fall 2023 Newsletter

FINAL THOUGHTS

WAIT, BEFORE YOU GO...

ROAD SCHOLAR CORE COURSES

All the Road Scholar Core Courses are now online! *Learn more here:* purdue.edu/inltap/road-scholar

OBTAINING RECORDS

To get your LTAP records and certificates, go to: <https://inltaptraining.azurewebsites.net/>

After logging into the database, select "My Credits" from the left side. For each event, you will see a small medal Icon on the right under actions. Select that icon and your certificates should download as a PDF suitable to save and print. There is also an option of downloading a CSV transcript.

*If you have never logged in before select the "Forgot your password?" link. Enter your work

e-mail address and select "Send Reset Link." Follow the e-mail instructions to create a new password and gain access to the database.

**Emails from the system come from indianaltaptr@gmail.com

INDIANA LTAP IS ON LINKEDIN

Find us at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/Indiana-ltap>

PUBLICATIONS TO CHECK OUT

The Excel version of the 2023 LTAP Directory is ready for download. *Visit* purdue.edu/inltap/resources/publications



Local Technical Assistance Program

CONTACT US

EMAIL: INLTAP@PURDUE.EDU

PHONE: 765-494-2164

PURDUE.EDU/INLTAP

Indiana Snapshot

Leaves changing color
Noblesville, Indiana

Photo by Steven Van Elk on Unsplash

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1281 WIN HENTSCHEL BLVD. SUITE 2111, WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47906