

# INDYSTAR★COM

## 4 steps can take us from good to great

Indianapolis is a good city with the **strong** potential to be great.

With a newly re-elected mayor and a reconstituted City-County Council, now is an ideal time to contemplate Indy's path from the good that we all should celebrate to the great that we need to become.

Here are four important steps toward that goal:

**Embrace a regional transit system:** A day after his re-election, Mayor Greg Ballard signaled his intention to champion a regional transit system during the Indiana General Assembly's upcoming session. State representatives and senators from both parties should join Ballard in that effort.

Why is transit important? First, it's a key to further economic development as well as better-paying jobs for many workers who now lack the ability to move easily around the metro area. Second, better connectivity (a concept Ballard has touted) helps create a deeper sense of community and enhances residents' quality of life. Third, an **efficient** transit system can help bring businesses and residents back into the inner city.

The next year will be crucial as to whether a regional transit system becomes a reality

in Central Indiana. Our future vitality as a region is dependent on finally moving forward.

**Build a first-class educational system:** The simple reality is that Central Indiana does not have enough highly trained workers to meet future economic needs. By the end of this decade, projections show that about 60 percent of jobs in the state will require a college degree or career certificate. But fewer than 40 percent of adults now have at least an associate's degree. That skills gap will hold the city back from reaching its potential in economic development, personal incomes and the tax revenues needed to offer top-notch amenities.

**Rebuild neighborhoods:** Far too many neighborhoods in this city, especially in the urban core, are in horrible shape. The city is repairing streets and sidewalks and knocking down abandoned houses in many of those areas. Those are essential steps. Targeted neighborhoods on the Near Eastside and along Indiana Avenue also have undergone or are scheduled to

Advertisement

**Make it Yours™**  
Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.  
Get 15% off with code: SAVE15

[Browse Designs](#)

**skinit**

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

# INDYSTAR★COM

receive impressive makeovers.

AdChoices

But there are still deep needs in many neighborhoods. The city needs to launch an aggressive, sustained campaign to revive moribund neighborhood throughout Indianapolis.

Develop a stronger urban culture: This city must grow as a place where talented people, and not just those who already have ties to Indiana, want to live and work. To do that, we need to develop a more vibrant music scene, build a stronger food community, attract world-class artists and performers, and create attractive and accessible parks and trails. It's not that the city doesn't already offer such attractions, but our expectations need to grow. Excellence -- world-class excellence -- needs to become our goal throughout the city's culture.

Are we a better city than we were 20 years ago? Without question. Can we pause to rest on past achievements? Not without slipping behind.

### Ads by Pulse 360

#### Emerging Market - FTTN

Shale Gas Stocks are Turning Rapid Profits  
Add to Your Portfolio Today  
[www.FirstTitanEnergy.com](http://www.FirstTitanEnergy.com)

#### 57-Year-Old Mom Looks 25

Thiensville: Local Mom Exposes an Anti-Aging Miracle. Her \$5 Trick ERASES Wrinkles!  
[PopularLifestyleJournal.com](http://PopularLifestyleJournal.com)

#### Thiensville: Become a Social Worker

Earn your degree in as little as 18 mos. Fin. Aid avail. for those who qualify.  
[Psychology-Colleges.org](http://Psychology-Colleges.org)

Advertisement

**Make it Yours™**

Browse thousands of designs for over 3,000 devices.  
Get 15% off with code: SAVE15

**15% OFF**

**Browse Designs**

**skin**it

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™