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Transit, school reports could transform area

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Opinion
Dennis Ryerson

Good morning, Typically as the holidays near, the news business all but grinds to a halt.

Not so this year.

Tuesday, the Central Indiana Transit Task Force, a partnership of public and business-led organizations, is expected to announce its final approach toward a greatly expanded transit system that, proponents say, will feed neighborhood development, economic growth and our overall quality of life.

The issues are complex. How will it all be paid for? What will be

required of state and local legislative bodies? How will this proposal affect the future of Indianapolis and its neighbor communities?

Also, the Indianapolis-based Mind Trust, which for more than a year has been studying urban school districts nationwide, is expected to soon release its recommendation for reforming Indianapolis Public Schools.

The largest of Marion County's 11 school systems, IPS in recent years has made some notable improvements. But this year the state said it will take over the operation of four IPS

schools because of poor performance. The Star reported last month that eight more IPS schools could be added to the list.

The Mind Trust study, though focused on IPS, could generate a lively, if not heated, conversation about how all urban schools ought to be transformed to better serve students and families.

Nothing is more important than the success of our youngest residents. Few things are more important to any community than the mobility of its people, all of its people.

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Our goal in presenting both of these stories in the days and weeks ahead will be to tell them in ways that you can fully understand, avoiding insider jargon and providing you with necessary perspective. We'll be breaking both stories on our website, IndyStar.com, then using the newspaper to follow up with more background and detail.

I love these kinds of stories. They are transformational. They ask us to stretch our thinking. They invite us to make choices as we participate in the civic arena.

Watch for more details soon on IndyStar.com and in The Indianapolis Star.

Have a great Sunday, and thanks for reading The Indianapolis Star.

Contact Star Editor Dennis Ryerson at Dennis.Ryerson@IndyStar.com or by calling 317-444-6169.

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