

## **‘Portland Loo’: City of Fort Wayne considers investment in downtown public restrooms**

By Taylor Williams

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FORT WAYNE, Ind. (WPTA) - The city of Fort Wayne is looking at a new downtown development project, but it might not be what you're thinking.

Last week, leaders launched a survey asking if more public restrooms need to be added. They're considering putting in what's called a "Portland Loo" in several locations.

Evan Madden builds and sells the restroom and says it's time.

"The way we have to look at restrooms needs to change," Evan Madden said. "We can't rely on Starbucks, department stores, or parks to provide the need for restrooms when we enter downtown."

Madden says the structure focuses on crime prevention, including what he calls graffiti-proof wall panels, and blue lights to prevent drug users from locating veins. With the proper maintenance Madden says the loo can last 100 years.

While the restroom is free to use for the public the city will spend around \$155,000 for each one. Once installed the loo will need to be cleaned by hand and placed in public areas.

"It mimics other restroom designs but really improves it to make it simple hard and durable," Madden said. "It's an exciting thing to share. We will hopefully suffer with the lack of facilities anymore because we found something that could really work in high-use busy areas."

Engage Fort Wayne says the city will review proposed restroom locations this fall and would begin installation in spring 2025.

You can take the survey [here](#).

There are [90 Portland Loo locations](#) across the United States and Canada. After being founded in Oregon, the company now has facilities in states including Ohio, Colorado, New Jersey, Arkansas, and Florida.