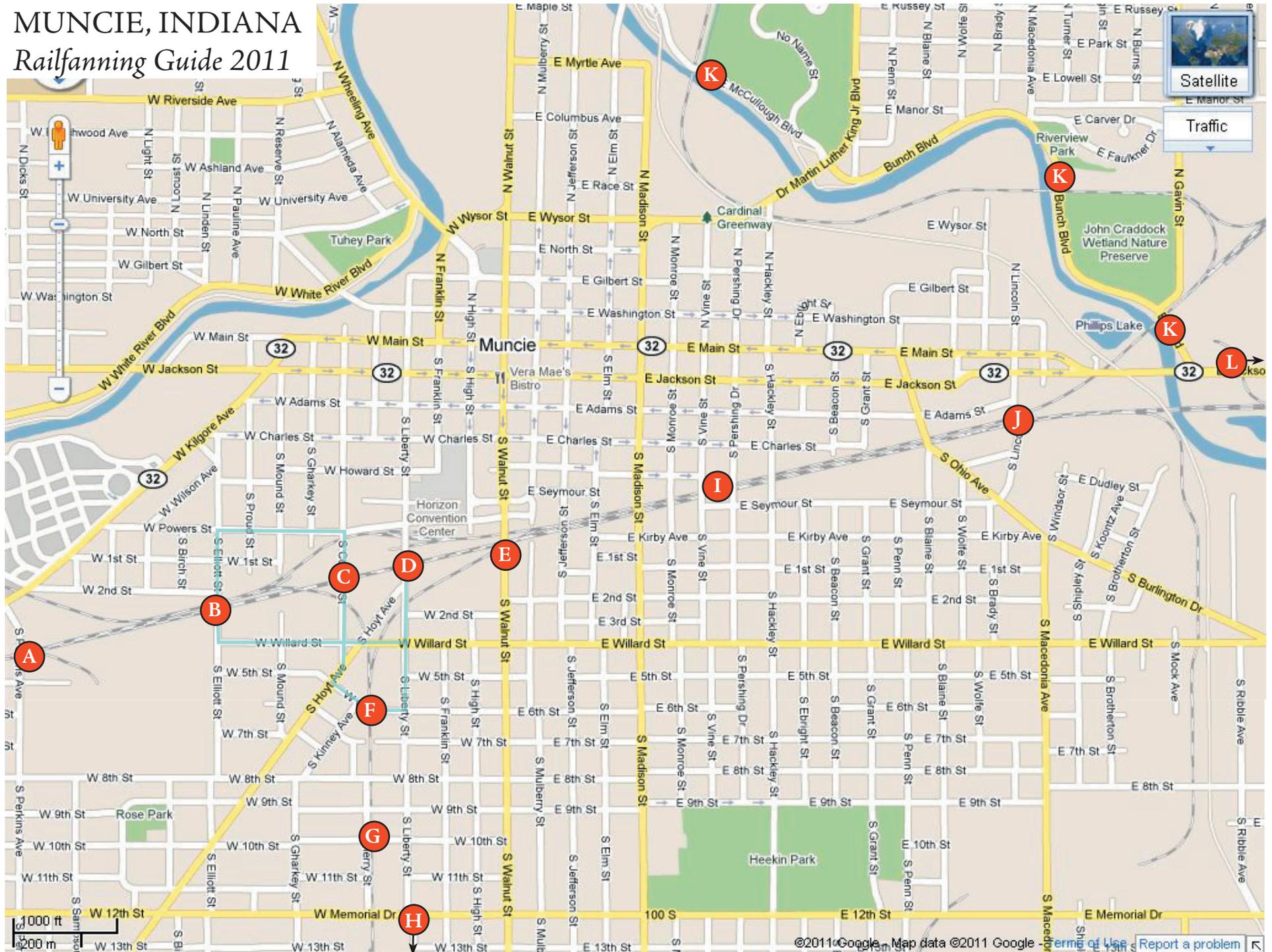


MUNCIE, INDIANA

Railfanning Guide 2011



A. PERKINS AVENUE: (CSX) Located west of downtown, this crossing has parking for roughly 3 cars, its all private property. Parking is on the south side of the tracks, do not park on the north side of the tracks as this is an active business driveway! This location allows shots of the CP230 signal bridge using telephoto lens, and also shots of eastbound CSX trains topping the hill coming down into Muncie. Nice photo angles in each direction.

B. ELLIOTT STREET: (NS/CSX) Located west of downtown, this is the convergence of the NS Frankfort district and the Indianapolis line of CSX. CP230 is located here, and you can see the diamond at CP230 east of the road. Parking is very limited here, all parking is private property; however if you don't linger long you shouldn't have issues. The little building at the corner of 2nd Street and Elliott Street, if you turn down 2nd street, there is limited parking behind that building and you can walk up to the road from there. Nice photo angles, limited for WB trains on the CSX. Signal bridge for CP230 is here.

C. COUNCIL STREET: (NS/CSX) Just west of downtown, probably the 2nd busiest location in Muncie. From here you can see the NS Frankfort District, CSX Indianapolis Line and NS Frankfort-New Castle District connection track. Parking is very limited here, its all street parking at the curb, there is a home located just north of the CSX tracks so DO NOT BLOCK THIS DRIVEWAY!!! Photo angles are limited to every direction; however, good angles for CSX both East and West can be had, NS Frankfort district (limited traffic) can be had on Powers Street north of the tracks. The NS Frankfort-New Castle connection track has a nice angle for northbound (railroad west) here, but limited southbound. Many signal shots to be had here.

D. LIBERTY STREET: (NS/CSX) South of Downtown, this location offers both railroads and all the districts in town. This is the busiest location (along with Walnut Street) for activity. From here you can see the NS Frankfort District, CSX Indianapolis Line, NS New Castle District. Parking again is limited, you can usually park in the Aluminum Supply lot if they are closed, or pull off in the old Freight House driveway to grab a shot, but please do not block any driveway! This location gives great photo angles on the NS New Castle District for Southbound trains, and for both directions on the Indianapolis Line of CSX. The NS Frankfort district is tight through here, with the curve. You can view CP229 diamond looking east from Liberty Street.

E. WALNUT STREET: (NS/CSX) South of Downtown, this is the busiest location to watch trains at in Muncie. It includes all the Districts in town, NS Frankfort District, CSX Indianapolis Line and NS New Castle District. Parking is limited, there is a small lot north of the tracks, this is private property as well.

Limited photo angles exist here without walking down Walnut Street. The CP229 diamond is located just east of Walnut Street crossing, this location also has limited view of the signals in town.

F. SIXTH STREET: (NS) South of Downtown, this is the junction of the NS New Castle district and the NS Frankfort-New Castle District connection. Trains heading to and from Fort Wayne will head toward CP229 (right) and trains heading toward Frankfort and Elkhart will head toward CP230 (left) here. Parking can be had in the Bowling alley parking lot. Please note that on the west side of the tracks, the city salt barn and fire station lot is NO TRESPASS. You can pull in there along the road, but don't go all the way back in there. This location has limited photo angles, but good for roster shots.

G. TENTH STREET: (NS) Not a interlocking but a good place to park and get shots of NS trains on the south side of town. The road now dead ends at the NS tracks, you can reach it from Liberty Street. Also you can follow along side it on Cherry Street. This location allows decent photo angles north and south. This is from a public road, plenty of room to park and turn around. The Muncie Mission (homeless shelter) is just south of this location, but hasn't been an issue thus far). If you park on Cherry, the road is narrow and can cause issues, use caution!

H. 23RD STREET: (NS) This location is on the far south side of Muncie. Parking is in the Omni Source south lot, usually just a park and grab location. Photo angles are nice to the south, limited somewhat to the north due to the scrap yard.

I. PERSHING/VINE STREETS: (NS/CSX) This location is east of Downtown, it is of the dual NS Frankfort/New Castle Districts and CSX Indianapolis Line. Neighborhood isn't one to hang around in, but makes for a good quick photo location. Parking is streetside.

J. LINCOLN STREET: (NS/CSX) On the east side of Muncie, this is the former Vance tower location. THIS ROAD IS HORRIBLE!!!! When I say horrible, its bad, bad, bad. Use caution driving it. There are holes as big as cars! Parking is streetside, there is some limited pull off locations. The NS New Castle/Frankfort District and CSX Indianapolis line come together here. Both cross bridges of the White river to reach this site, but the bridges are not easy to photograph from this location. Photography here is decent to the west and ok to the east for both CSX and NS.

K. BUNCH BLVD: (NS) This is the site of Bath Interlocking on the NS, where the New Castle and Frankfort lines split at Muncie East Yard. There is a small pull over spot along the river,

that allows shots of the trains crossing river on the bridge. This is almost a due west shot, so mid afternoon is a hard time to shoot here! Parking is very limited, but worth the effort if you can get a shot. Further down Bunch Blvd the New Castle District comes back around and crosses the river and road on another bridge, creating a different photo angle and the road will follow the river and tracks out on the North side of downtown providing for other photo opportunities! Please note: Muncie East Yard is not very photo accessible, please do NOT trespass here!!! Do not block the drive into the yard or pull into the area south of the tracks on Gavin Avenue!

L. BUTTERFIELD ROAD: (CSX) located on the far east side of Muncie, just west of the Muncie Bypass, this location leads to wide open photography. Parking can be had in the former Container Corp driveway. Please stay away from the building! Angles are great to the east and ok to the west. Train speeds are slowing down here, so you are good to shoot east.

PLEASE USE GOOD JUDGEMENT while railfanning in Muncie. Don't trespass and if it doesn't seem like the right place to be, then leave! Many streets in Muncie downtown are One-Way, so please use caution while chasing. Walnut Street south of the roundabout is 2-way, but north its 1-way. Victor Street cuts from Walnut Street west to Liberty Street.

To be able to catch traffic in both directions on the CSX, try crossing at Liberty Street or Council Street. You can make the loop through town to check signals by following this simple route, as shown in blue on the map.

Starting at Liberty and Victor Streets:

Head south on Liberty Street, turn west onto 6th Street (observe the NS 6th Street CP NB); turn north onto Hoyt Avenue, and turn left onto Council Street, (observe the NS CP230, CSX CP229 and CP230 and NS Elliott Street); turn left onto Powers, heading west on Powers, turn south at the 4 way stop onto Elliott Street and (observe NS Elliott Street and CP230); turn east onto Willard and head back to Liberty Street, crossing the NS Frankfort-New Castle connection and New Castle District (observe CP 6th street SB).

This will allow viewing of all the signals except the WB signals for CP229 interlocking and the associated interlockings on the NS.

Currently, CP230 can be viewed for CSX from Perkins street. When CSX cuts over the new signals at CP230 for EB moves on CSX, you can view it from Elliott Street.