



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDOT Seeks Public Input on Final Highway Alignment *Public hearing to review environmental impacts for southern section of I-69*

Oakland City, Ind.— The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will conduct a public hearing regarding the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Section 1 of the I-69 corridor on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, from 5 to 9 p.m. (CST) at Waldo J. Wood Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, 943-945 South Franklin St., Oakland City.

Section 1 begins at I-64 near Evansville and runs along SR 57 to SR 64 near Oakland City.

During the hearing, INDOT and the consulting firm that conducted the environmental studies and engineering assessment for Section 1 will present the preferred alternative, which is based on months of research and study. The preferred alignment was chosen over other alternatives based on impacts to resources such as farmland and the local road network as well as feedback gathered from public information meetings.

The public can submit comments about the information presented during the hearing in the following ways:

- Complete and submit the comment sheet available at the hearing.
- Mail comment sheets to Mr. Roger Wade, QK4 Indiana, P.O. Box 8464, Evansville, IN, 47716.
- Provide comments to the project Web site at www.i69indyevn.org.
- Record verbal statements during or immediately following the public hearing. A court stenographer will be on hand to record comments.

Comments will be received through Feb. 20, 2007.

After public review, INDOT will refine the preferred alignment based on public and agency input. INDOT will then submit a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Section 1 to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It is anticipated that FHWA will then issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for Section 1. The Section 1 ROD is FHWA's authorization for INDOT to proceed with federally funded design and construction of the project.

The corridor for the entire I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis project was approved by FHWA in March 2004, based on a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the entire corridor. FHWA and INDOT are now preparing six separate Tier 2 Studies, each of which examines potential alignments for a section of the corridor. The first of the Tier 2 Studies to be released is the Section 1 DEIS. The Tier 2 Studies for the other five sections are under way.

The new interstate is widely regarded as a key component to the future economic vitality of Southwestern Indiana and will provide necessary connectivity with the rest of the state and the nation. For more information about all six sections of I-69, visit the project Web site at www.i69indyevn.org.