



## FHWA Recognizes INDOT Real Estate Practices

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently issued a report in which it reviewed INDOT's real estate acquisition procedures, and certified these procedures as having followed federal guidelines.

A team of federal and state officials examined documentation for 50 right-of-way purchases over the past three years on Interstate 69, U.S. 31 Hamilton County, State Road 25 Hoosier Heartland and other projects. The review found that INDOT records were adequate and sufficient to support administrative settlements, and demonstrated substantial compliance with federal record-keeping guidelines and policies.

The report notes that INDOT has already taken steps to address issues identified during the review by supplementing parcel files with additional documentation, initiating an update of INDOT's Real Estate Manuals, and planning to offer additional right-of-way training for staff and consultants. In addition, the review recognized successful INDOT practices that save time and tax dollars that will be shared with other state DOTs. These practices include public outreach and education efforts, implementation of FHWA's "Every Day Counts" initiative, specifically, the use of acquisition incentive payments and right of entry agreements to expedite project delivery.

I am pleased with the outcome of the review and confident that INDOT is positioned to achieve greater successes with its federal aid right-of-way program in the future. To that end, INDOT and FHWA will continue to partner and collaborate on key programmatic elements and processes to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Adams".

Scott Adams  
*Director of Real Estate*