



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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News Release

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I-69 Section 4 Draft Environmental Impact Study Available for Public Review *Critical link between Crane NSWC and Bloomington reaches major project milestone*

Greene County, Ind. – After years of extensive environmental studies, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) are releasing the Tier 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Section 4 of the I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis project. Section 4 begins at US 231 near the Crane NSWC and generally runs northeast to SR 37 just south of Bloomington.

The Section 4 DEIS is the product of public input and meticulous environmental and engineering studies. The DEIS recommends a preferred alignment for the highway within the fourth portion of the federally approved 142-mile I-69 corridor. Since early 2004, several preliminary alignments have been made available for review at the Section 4 project office and during public information meetings. Those alignments were refined and reconfigured based on public input and further study.

“In October 2009, Governor Daniels asked INDOT to accelerate construction of I-69 from Evansville to Crane to be completed by the end of 2012 and we are well on our way to making that happen,” said INDOT Commissioner Michael B. Cline. “The Governor’s announcement on May 19 of plans to accelerate Section 4 from Crane to Bloomington underscores the importance of this key transportation link to both the southwest region and the state of Indiana overall. We’re eager to receive public feedback in this stage of study and planning.”

As part of the public comment period, the DEIS document will be made available at the Section 4 local project office and on the I-69 project Web site, where the public can provide comments and feedback. The document is also available at area libraries. Comments also may be directed to Gary Fisk at DLZ Indiana, LLC, P.O. Box 8464, Evansville, IN, 47716. The comment period ends on September 28, 2010. There will be a public hearing on the DEIS at 5 p.m. EDT on Thursday, August 26, 2010, in the Eastern Greene Middle School gymnasium at 10503 East SR 54 near Bloomfield.

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 4 to the FHWA. It is anticipated that FHWA will then issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for Section 4. The Section 4 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 EIS 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. A ROD has been reached in the first three sections.

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.

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