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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND US 31 KOKOMO DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) AVAILABILITY

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will hold a public hearing regarding the recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project. **This hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, in the auditorium at Kokomo High School located at 2501 South Berkley Road. Doors will open to the public at 4 p.m. as the community is encouraged to visit with project officials, view displays and ask questions of the project team. This open house session will continue until the start of the formal presentation which will begin promptly at 6 p.m. A public comment session will follow the formal presentation and extend until 8 p.m.** During the public comment session those interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to express their comments and concerns regarding the project. The US 31 Kokomo DEIS is now available for public review and inspection. Comments on the DEIS are being solicited by INDOT.

The alternatives assessed in the US 31 Kokomo DEIS include a No-Action alternative and five build alternatives (E,F,G,I and J). These alternatives were studied in detail for impacts to human and natural environments. The DEIS includes detailed engineering and environmental studies a required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 for large federally funded public transportation projects such as the US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project. The study corridor's fatal crash rate, which is nearly twice the statewide average, and travel speeds approximately half that of adjacent segments helped prompt this study. Numerous engineering, environmental, and traffic evaluations were conducted while developing the DEIS; likewise, public comment and local input have been incorporated at each stage of the process. The US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project study area extends approximately 12 miles, from two miles south of State Road 26 (SR 26) in Tipton County, to one mile north of the northern junction of US 35 and US 31. The project corridor has 15 signalized intersections and approximately 140 minor cross-street and private property access points.

In addition to offering a public comment session, an area will be provided with comment forms and an audio recorder to capture comments for the official public hearings transcript (the official record of the hearing). INDOT is soliciting comments on the US 31 DEIS and encourages the community to make their voices heard. **The official comment period for the US 31 DEIS begins on Friday, April 8, 2005 and will end on Monday, May 23, 2005.** INDOT respectfully requests that comments be submitted or postmarked by that time. Comments on the DEIS may be sent to: US 31 Kokomo Corridor Project, Parsons Office, 902 North Capitol Ave., Suite 301, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Phone:(866-821-6301). You may elect to fax comments as well: (fax) 317-616-1033 or access our electronic comment form on www.us31kokomo.com/comment.html.

The US 31 Kokomo DEIS is available for viewing at the following locations: (1) Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, Main Library, 220 North Union Street, Kokomo (765) 457-3242; (2) Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, South Branch, 1755 East Center Road, Kokomo (765) 453-4150; (3) Tipton County Public Library, 127 East Madison Street, Tipton (765) 675-8761; (4) City Building, Development Department, 100 South Union Street, 2nd Floor, Kokomo (765) 456-7375; (5) Kokomo-Howard County Governmental Coordinating Council (GCC), 120 East Mulberry Street, Suite 116, Kokomo (765) 456-2336; (6) INDOT Greenfield District Office, 32 South Broadway,

Greenfield (317) 462-7751; (7) INDOT Public Hearings Office, 100 North Senate Ave., Room N901, Indianapolis, Indiana (317) 232-6601. The report is also available on the project website: www.us31kokomo.com/documents.html.

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act”, if you have a disability for which the Indiana Department of Transportation needs to provide accommodations, please call INDOT’s Public Hearings Office at (317) 232-6601, by Thursday, April 14, 2005.

For the purposes of this study, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in consultation with the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), has determined that two historic properties listed in the DEIS are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As part of the DEIS review process and Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4 (d) (2), FHWA will consult with the Indiana SHPO to determine potential adverse effects for the eligible properties.

This notice is published in compliance with Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.111 (h) entitled “Early Coordination, Public Involvement and Project Development”, and the Indiana Public Involvement/Public Hearings Procedures for Federal-Aid Project Development approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on July 8, 1997.

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