

Meeting Summary
I-69 Tier 1 EIS
Public Meeting re: Purpose and Need Issues
Vincennes, Indiana
August 29, 2000

The meeting was held in the cafeteria of Lincoln High School in Vincennes. Its purpose was to receive feedback regarding the Purpose and Need Discussion Paper, published August 9, 2000. Ninety-eight (98) individuals registered as attendees.

The meeting began with introductory remarks by James Dittoe of the consultant team. Michael Grovak, the consultant team's project manager, gave an approximately 12 minute presentation summarizing the role of the Purpose and Need Statement in this project. He summarized the main issues being analyzed to determine the Statement of Purpose and Need. He suggested what kinds of input from the public would be most helpful in this process.

Public statements were made by approximately 32 citizens and elected officials. Principal issues brought forth during the public comment portion of the meeting included:

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Choosing any route other than U.S. 41/I-70 or U.S. 41/SR 67 will be economically devastating to this part of the state.

It is important that the U.S. 41/I-70 alternative be given fair consideration.

Tourism is an important industry in this region.

A U.S. 41/I-70 route will encourage economic development in eastern Illinois.

Indiana will receive the maximum benefit if the highway goes through the central part of the study area.

Improved roadway safety in the study area is a major issue.

Improved access to the Crane Naval Warfare Center is a key to increasing economic development in the region.

Other parts of the state have much better interstate highway access. For Southwest Indiana, it's now "our turn."

The study must consider the effect of the highway on existing businesses, especially those dependent upon pass-by traffic.

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The highway should use, to the extent possible, existing “natural” pathways, such as mined-out coal areas, river basins, county boundaries, utility rights-of-way, etc.

For economic development to occur, communities must be prepared to have infrastructure in place.

Preserving existing farmland and forest land is important.

Beginning at 7:30 pm, project staff members were available for one-on-one conversations. During the one-on-one sessions with project staff, additional issues were brought forth. These included:

The analysis must be comprehensive, so as to include all relevant impacts.

It would be helpful for the public to be informed of the range of impacts and analysis which will take place in this study.

There is an airport across the river in Illinois near Lawrenceville which could be an intermodal facility. It is operated by a bi-state authority, and formerly was an air force base.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.