



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
Thomas O. Sharp, Commissioner

November 22, 2006

***Electronic copy/hard copy to following U.S. Mail***

Mr. Robert F. Tally, Jr., P.E.  
Division Administrator, Indiana  
Federal Highway Administration  
575 N. Pennsylvania St., Room 254  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Re: I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis Project

Dear Mr. Tally:

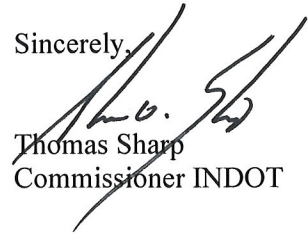
As we have discussed, Governor Daniels announced on November 9, 2006, that the I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis project will be developed as a non-toll Interstate. The Governor also announced that construction of this project will begin as soon as possible at the southern end of the project, and will proceed from south to north. Construction will begin with \$700 million, which the State received from Major Moves funding. We are exploring innovative opportunities to develop additional revenue sources, including concession fees for public-private partnerships on other projects, to assist in completing I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis.

Based on the Governor's announcement, we intend to proceed with the ongoing Tier 2 studies for I-69 in accordance with the original Tier 1 Record of Decision (ROD), which was issued in March 2004. We will not be asking FHWA to finalize the Tier 1 Reevaluation, which was issued in June 2006, nor will we be asking FHWA to issue a Tier 1 Amended ROD approving the consideration of tolling in the Tier 2 studies.

Finally, we will be proceeding with the Tier 2 studies for all six sections of the I-69 project. The Tier 2 Draft EIS ("DEIS") for Section 1 (the southernmost section) will be submitted for your approval within the next few weeks. We intend to submit the Tier 2 DEISs for Sections 2 and 3 in early 2007; we are also moving ahead with the DEISs for Sections 4, 5, and 6, and intend to submit those documents on a rolling basis later in 2007. All of these studies will examine alternatives for completing I-69 as a non-tolled project. Tolling is no longer being considered as a financing option in these studies.

I deeply appreciate your work as our federal partner in the I-69 studies, including your assistance in considering tolling options for I-69. While we have decided not to proceed with tolling for this project, your agency's expertise and advice has been invaluable. We look forward to completing the remaining studies and commencing construction on I-69 in the summer of 2008.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Sharp  
Commissioner INDOT