

**Meeting Summary**  
**I-69 Tier 1 EIS**  
**Public Meeting re: Purpose and Need Issues**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**August 30, 2000**

The meeting was held in the cafeteria of Decatur Middle School in Indianapolis. Its purpose was to receive feedback regarding the Purpose and Need Discussion Paper, published August 9, 2000. One hundred twelve (112) 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 40 citizens and elected officials. Principal issues brought forth during the public comment portion of the meeting included:

Evansville needs another Ohio River crossing, which I-69 would provide.

The highway program in other parts of the state will suffer if I-69 is built.

U.S.41/I-70 is the best alternative. Any other alternative will take too many homes and businesses.

Constructing I-69 will contribute to the economic decline of central Indianapolis.

The highway should connect Indianapolis and Evansville with as straight a route as possible.

This project must move forward with the minimum delay.

It is Southwest Indiana's "turn" to have an Interstate Highway.

Safety is one of the more important issues which should be considered in the Purpose and Need.

The highway must minimize the effects of urban sprawl.

Farmland must be preserved.

The Purpose and Need must consider the environmental impacts of different routes.

The highway must avoid the Sunshine Gardens neighborhood of Indianapolis.

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Building Corridor 18 will produce economic harm by making it easier for jobs to move to Mexico.

Southwest Indiana should remain rural and undeveloped in character.

People live in Southwest Indiana because they want to live in an undeveloped area. If they wanted to live in a developed area, they would move elsewhere.

Special interests (construction companies and real estate speculators) are the force behind this project.

Evansville is long overdue for this highway. It has been the “stepchild” of this state for too long.

There should be no highway at all built.

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:

If manufacturers were more efficient in packing goods, not as many trucks would have to be on the highways making deliveries.

Ensure that farmers have access to their fields should the new highway dissect their property. Where we construct bridges, make them with sufficient vertical and horizontal clearance underneath to enable farm equipment to traverse.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.