



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Indiana Division

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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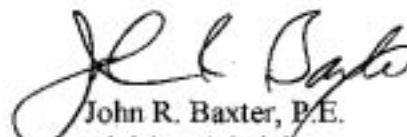
I-70/US41 an Alternative in I-69 Study

A second round of public outreach sessions for the I-69 study has recently been completed in Jasper, Vincennes, and Indianapolis. Those sessions were designed to receive comments on the issues which should be considered in the development of a purpose and need for the proposed project. After one of those sessions, local media reported that I-70/US41 was not being considered as an alternative by the Federal Highway Administration. It is important to correct this key misunderstanding.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which is responsible for the approval of the final decision on I-69, reiterates its position that while Indiana's I-69 effort is an element of a Congressionally designed national transportation corridor (Corridor 18), the specific location of any route between Indianapolis and Evansville will be determined using a thorough environmental review and evaluation process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. That process will ensure an analysis of a multitude of factors (natural environment, economic, social, etc.) and alternatives. While specific alternatives have not yet been identified in this new study, the I-70/US41 link will be an alternative to be considered.

The FHWA would also like to reiterate the importance of allowing the NEPA process to unfold. Defining the purpose and need of this project is an important step in the process, and input directly related to the development of purpose and need will help shape the direction of this effort. There will be ample opportunity to discuss alternatives, but currently there is not sufficient information available to support the views of supporters or opponents of specific alternatives. That information will emerge from detailed analysis to be conducted over the next several months.

The FHWA will continue to work in partnership with the numerous agencies and interest groups involved to ensure a fair process is applied in making this very important decision.


John R. Baxter, P.E.
Division Administrator