

**Meeting Summary**  
**I-69 Tier 1 EIS**  
**Public Meeting re: Purpose and Need Issues**  
**Jasper, Indiana**  
**August 28, 2000**

The meeting was held in the auditorium of Jasper High School in Jasper. Its purpose was to receive feedback regarding the Purpose and Need Discussion Paper, published August 9, 2000. One hundred eight (108) 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:

Some believed that their homes or property were in danger of being taken if certain routes were chosen.

Careful attention must be paid to effects on existing businesses, especially smaller businesses.

Providing upgrades to existing roads is important

Communities along U.S. 41 will suffer if the I-70/U.S. 41 alternative is not chosen.

Any new roads should use existing roads/rights of way.

The U.S. 41/I-70 alternatives is the only responsible alternative.

A direct, new terrain highway will provide the greatest benefit to this part of the state.

A new terrain highway would provide vital linkages for communities in the central part of the study area.

The National Corridor 18 project will bring unwanted types of development to this area.

It is important to minimize the taking of farmland for a highway.

Another new, major north-south highway is needed in Southwest Indiana.

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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:

When farmland is taken, it is important to ensure that farmers are not left with “landlocked” parcels, to which access is difficult. If such parcels are created, special steps should be taken to provide farmers access across the Interstate.

When forecasting economic development impacts, the effects of tax abatements offered to new businesses should be considered.

Economic development officials from Rockport would like US 231 upgraded to four lines from the Ohio River to I-70, in addition to a direct route for I-69 via Bloomington, serving Crane Naval Weapons Center.

Landowner concerns regarding, “Is there a preferred alternative, and will my property be taken?”

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.