



**Year 2002 Community Outreach Summary**  
**I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis Study**

Seeking public involvement through community outreach continued as a major priority of the I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis study team in 2002. The effort to provide the latest information to the public by Jim Dittoe, the study's community outreach coordinator, kicked off in January and continued through December. Dittoe of Winning Communities met with officials and other stakeholders in more than 30 face-to-face meetings in the 26-county study area and beyond. Personal summaries of these meetings follow in this report.

From January through March, Dittoe provided updates to several chamber of commerce officials, including those with the Vincennes, Washington/Daviess County, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, as well as Indiana state chambers. He met with Bedford Mayor John Williams and Loogootee Mayor Brian Ader. He and INDOT Commissioner J. Bryan Nicol met with several members of the agricultural community in Daviess County, explaining the process of choosing the route and providing history on the project. He and Michael Grovak, project manager for BLA, spoke to a Purdue University Natural Resources class on the NEPA process and I-69.

In the spring, Dittoe and others provided updated information on I-69 to students through the Corporation for Educational Communications for their distance learning project. Five schools participated in this second year of the collaborative venture between CEC and I-69 study staff. Others meetings held April through June included the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Motor Truck Association, Harrison Sertoma Club, and several mayor's offices, including those in: Washington, Vincennes, Bedford and Terre Haute.

Summer meetings were with IU Division of Business Research head Morton Marcus, the Infrastructure Committee of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, Sen. Thomas Wys and mayors Randy Harris of Petersburg and Jim Brainard of Carmel.

Meetings for the remainder of the year were with college classes at Purdue University and IUPUI, Evansville Chamber of Commerce, Hoosier Environmental Council, Washington mayor's office, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce and Daviess County Economic Development Council.



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**Meeting:** Bedford Mayor's Office

**Date:** Jan.15, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Bedford

**Major topic:** Update of study

**Summary:** I met with Bedford Mayor John Williams who has a very keen interest in the highway for the citizens of Bedford. He prefers a route that comes near Bedford but explained that the state needs the highway for overall transportation improvement. I explained that the study team plans to have the draft EIS out in the summer for review by stakeholders and the public.



**Meeting:** Loogootee Mayor's Office

**Date:** Jan.15, 2002

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Loogootee

**Major topic:** Update of the study

**Summary:** I met with Mayor Brian Ader of Loogootee to give him a status report of the EIS .He desires to give information to his citizenry since there are alternatives that affect his community. He has been present and spoken at public meetings. There is overall interest in the highway in Loogootee.



**Meeting:** Vincennes Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Jan. 16, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Vincennes

**Major topic:** Study status

**Summary:** I met with Chamber of Commerce President Troy Woodruff . He wanted information about the status of the study for his membership. Mr. Woodruff has been active in distributing the facts to his community and wanted to know what the timetable was for the next rounds of meetings. Vincennes and Knox County are located on Alternatives 1, 2A, 2B, and 2C.



**Meeting:** Washington/Daviess Co. Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Jan. 16, 2002

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Washington

**Major topic:** Status of the study

**Summary:** There was a new executive director of the Washington-Daviess County Chamber of Commerce and I met with Tom Tucker to give him information about the study. Mr. Tucker was somewhat familiar with it, but he wanted to have a status report for his membership. Daviess County has several alternatives that will have impact upon the community.



**Meeting:** Daviess County farm officials

**Date:** Feb. 1, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Vincennes

**Major topic:** Status of study

**Summary:** Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner J. Bryan Nicol and I met with several members of the agricultural community of Davies County. There were rumors that the decision for the location had already been made. Mr. Nicol gave a presentation of the history of the study and detailed the issues that would be of interest to the area. He assured the group that the Study was fair and impartial and urged them to follow the progress.



**Meeting:** Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Feb. 1, 2002

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major Topic:** Status of project

**Summary:** I met with Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce President Rod Henry and Bert Williams, a member of the Issue Involvement Team, and gave them an update about the study. They were interested in timetables and the availability of information. Mr. Henry asked about the locations of the public hearings and I told him that the decision had not yet been made.



**Meeting:** Region 15

**Date:** Feb. 7, 2002

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Ferdinand

**Major topic:** Study status

**Summary:** Deb Beavin is the Executive Director of Region 15, which has a number of the counties with an alternative going through. She asked me to meet with her to discuss meeting with the executive committee of the agency. She will call members and see when would be a best time to address the group.



**Meeting:** Purdue University natural resources class

**Date:** Feb. 22, 2002

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** West Lafayette

**Major topic:** NEPA process re: I-69 Study

**Summary:** Michael Grovak, I-69 study Project Manager from Bernardin, Lochmueller, and Associates and I were asked by Dr. Shorna Broussard, a professor at Purdue University to address her students and relate how the NEPA process applies to the study. This was a third year Natural Resources class. Following a presentation by us both, we responded to questions from the students and also heard their comments. We outlined the remaining timetable for the study.



**Meeting:** Indiana Department of Natural Resources

**Date:** March 5, 2002

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Update of study

Summary: I met with Mr. John Goss, the executive director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Goss was formerly at the Indiana Department of Commerce where he led the tourism area. He was on the Issue Involvement Team and I asked if he wanted to continue. He asked to be kept informed, but that the new executive at tourism was in a better position to serve. I told him that he would receive information directly from Bernardin, Lochmueller, and Associates since they were a consulting agency.



**Meeting:** Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** March 15, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Update of the study

**Summary:** I met with John Myrland, president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce to give him a status report of the study. Devonne Richburg-Pollard is a member of the Issues Involvement Team and helped set up the meeting. Mr. Myrland asked if there was a study of how I-69 connected from the north. I told him as of yet that was not determined except around I-465.



**Meeting:** Indiana State Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** March 28, 2002

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Issue Involvement Team

**Summary:** I met with Reggie Williams of the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce. He told me due to staff changes at the chamber he was to be the representative to the Issues Involvement Team. I gave a him a briefing as to the purpose of the group and that status of the study. We discussed the impact upon his membership of the different alternatives.



**Meeting:** Corporation for Educational Communications

**Date:** April 10, 2002

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Information for students and teachers

**Summary:** I met with the leaders of the Corporation for Educational Communications along with Lyle Sadler of the Indiana Department of Transportation to give updated information to the students and teachers. Several schools in the study area have been involved as a class project in the I-69 process.



**Meeting:** Indiana State Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** April 19, 2002

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Briefing of the study

**Summary:** I met with the new President of the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce Kevin Brineger at the request of Reggie Williams, who is on the Issue Involvement Team. He wanted me to give an update and briefing to Mr. Brineger. We discussed the timetable of the project and the expected information that would come out at the hearings.



**Meeting:** Indiana Motor Truck Association

**Date:** May 6, 2002

**Time** 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Kenny Cragan, executive director of the Indiana Motor Truck Association and gave him an update of the status of the study. Mr. Cragan has many members who are vitally interested in the study particularly the aspect of accessibility and transportation costs. He also mentioned the aspect of safety as very important.



**Meeting:** Harrison Sertoma Club

**Date:** June 3, 2002

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Report to the members

**Summary:** I was invited to speak to the Harrison Sertoma Club at a dinner meeting to inform the members about the study. I gave them a history of the project and the progress of the study over the last two-and-a-half years. I showed them the Purpose and Need Statement and the 14 original alternatives. I updated them about where the study is now with the five remaining alternatives. I told them that hearings would be held this summer.



**Meeting:** Washington Mayor's Office

**Date:** June 11, 2002

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Location:** Washington

**Major topic:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Mayor Tom Baumert of Washington to give him an update of the study. He stated that his community will likely have significant impact if one of the alternatives is chosen in his area and that he wants to be prepared. I told him that the public hearings would be held this summer and that he should encourage the citizens of the community to attend and voice their opinions.



**Meeting:** Vincennes Mayor's Office

**Date:** June 11, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Vincennes

**Major topic:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Vincennes Mayor Terry Mooney to give him a status report of the study. Vincennes is on Alternative 1 and he has been at previous public meetings and expressed interest in being kept informed. I told him that the public hearings would be held this summer and encouraged him to attend.



**Meeting:** Bedford Mayor's Office

**Date:** June 11, 2002

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Bedford

**Major topic:** Update

**Summary:** Mayor John Williams has had a continuing interest in the development of an improved highway system in the state. He said he would like to have the route chosen close to Bedford but that it was important to have it built somewhere. I told him that there were to be public hearings this summer and that a final decision is expected by the end of the year.



**Meeting:** Terre Haute Mayor's Office

**Date:** June 20, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major topic:** Update

**Summary:** Mayor Judy Anderson of Terre Haute has been vitally interested in the study and favors Alternative 1 that would have major impact upon her city. I gave her an update and said that hearings would be held and that Terre Haute is in serious consideration as one of the sites. She encouraged that.



**Meeting:** Indiana University

**Date:** July 1, 2002

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Locations:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Morton Marcus who is the head of the Indiana University Division of Business Research that is part of the School of Business. Mr. Marcus also has a column that is carries throughout the state in many newspapers. I gave him an update and discussed the various alternatives. I told him that the next steps included public hearing to be held this summer.



**Meeting:** Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** July 15, 2002

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Meeting with the Infrastructure Council

**Summary:** I discussed with DeVonne Richburg-Pollard meeting with the council in the fall. She wanted me to address the alternatives and the possible impact upon the Indianapolis area.



**Meeting:** Indiana Association of Cities and Towns

**Date:** July 26, 2002

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Study status

**Summary:** I met with the new executive director of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, Matt Greller. IACT has a position on the Issue Involvement Team and I wanted to brief Mr. Greller about the EIS. He said he will attend if his schedule permits. Tom Morton is the current representative of IACT.



**Meeting:** Petersburg Mayor's Office

**Date:** Aug.15, 2002

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** Petersburg

**Major topic:** Alternatives

**Summary:** I met with Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris. He wanted to understand better the meaning of the alternatives as they affected his community. He asked to be kept in the loop since many of the alternatives impact Petersburg.



**Meeting:** Carmel Mayor's Office

**Date:** Aug. 26, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Carmel

**Major topic:** Status and timetable of study

**Summary:** I met with Mayor Jim Brainard and gave him a status report and expected timetable of the study and the future construction. He wanted to know the impact on improvements to US 31 in respect to the state transportation budget.



**Meeting:** Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Aug. 2, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major topic:** Public hearings and IIT meeting

**Summary:** I met with Rod Henry, president of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the upcoming public hearings and their locations. He asked if he could attend the IIT meeting. I told him, yes. Bert Williams is the representative of the Terre Haute community.



**Meeting:** Sen. Thomas Wyss

**Date:** Sept. 24, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Status of study

**Summary:** I met with Sen. Wyss of Ft. Wayne to discuss the progress of the study and the timetable. Sen. Wyss said that the continuation of the highway is important for his district.



**Meeting:** Purdue University

**Date:** Oct. 2, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** West Lafayette

**Major topic:** NEPA

**Summary:** I was asked to speak with a class for the Department of Natural Resources about the public involvement portion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I utilized the web site that gives the outline as recommended by the Indiana Department of Transportation.



**Meeting:** Evansville Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Oct. 17, 2002

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** Evansville

**Major topic:** Media coverage

**Summary:** I met with Sally Lambert, vice president of government affairs, for the Evansville Chamber of Commerce. She wanted to discuss the media coverage of the EIS study. I told her that it was the team's responsibility to report the process of the study and not give opinions. We strive to be neutral in our comments to the media.



**Meeting:** Hoosier Environmental Council

**Date:** Oct. 22, 2002

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** DEIS comments

**Summary:** I spoke with Andy Knott of the Hoosier Environmental Council about their address change and the process for comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Study. He believed that the comment period should be longer than has been stated.



**Meeting:** IUPUI students

**Date:** Oct. 24, 2002

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** DEIS process

**Summary:** I was asked by a class from Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis to help their understanding of the project and the process. They had a class assignment to “take sides”. I explained that the process was very complex and that significant study needed to take place before a decision should be made. They asked if I could make a presentation before their class.



**Meeting:** IUPUI class

**Date:** Nov. 13, 2002

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** NEPA process

**Summary:** I was asked to explain the NEPA process to a class from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Administration. After relating the process, I responded to questions and attempted to explain the complexity of the EIS.



**Meeting:** Washington Mayor's Office

**Date:** Nov. 14, 2002

**Time:** 8 a.m.

**Location:** Washington

**Major topic:** Route alternatives

**Summary:** I met with Mayor Tom Baumert of Washington and discussed the route alternatives. We talked about the decision stating that a corridor will be chosen not a specific location to begin engineering and design.



**Meeting:** Indiana State Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Dec. 12, 2002

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major topic:** Newly formed group

**Summary:** I met with Reggie Henderson of the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce. He wanted to discuss a new group interested in the I-69 project. It is a combination of business leaders and mayors who want to see the road built. He was seeking a report of when a decision would be made on the chosen alternative. I told him that we hoped that an announcement would be made by the end of the year.



**Meeting:** Daviess County Economic Development Council

**Date:** Dec. 16, 2002

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Washington

**Major topic:** Announcement of alternative

**Summary:** I met with the Executive Director the Daviess County Economic Development Council, Ron Arnold. He was seeking information about the announcement of the chosen alternative. I told him that INDOT intended to make it by the end of the year.