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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, August 1, 2000

AUGUST MEETINGS ON I-69 STUDY FOCUS ON PURPOSE AND NEED

**Public invited to comment on discussion paper
by attending meetings, logging on to www.I69indyevn.org or calling 1-877-INDYEVN**

INDIANAPOLIS – The next round of public meetings on the I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis Study will provide an update on the development of the Purpose and Need Statement.

The meetings' schedule and locations are:

- Jasper, Monday, Aug. 28, 2000; Jasper High School, 1600 St. Charles St.
- Vincennes, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2000; Lincoln High School, 1545 South Hart St.
- Indianapolis, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2000; Decatur Middle School, 5108 S. High School Road

Each meeting is 6 to 9:30 p.m.

A Purpose and Need Statement defines the basic goals of the project and evaluates the needs the project is intended to address. It also provides a consistent set of factors for evaluating existing conditions and for measuring the ability of each alternative to achieve the project's objectives.

Discussion papers on the Purpose and Need Statement for this study are being released for public review in two stages. The documents being released before the August meetings define the project's overall goals and establish the criteria that will be used to evaluate existing conditions and measure the performance of various alternatives. These documents –including a general discussion paper and more detailed technical reports – will be available on the project Web site (www.I69indyevn.org) in early August or can be mailed to individuals; request a copy by calling 877-INDY-EVN (877-463-9386).

Each meeting follows a set format. At 6 p.m., members of the study team will give a brief overview of the discussion paper and technical reports addressing purpose and need. Then individuals can address the assembly to offer suggestions regarding the Purpose and Need Statement. Because 200 to 700 people have attended past meetings, each speaker is limited to two minutes. Also, the order in which people speak is assigned randomly using a lottery system; it is not "first-come, first-served."

Starting at 7:30 p.m., members of the study team will be available for one-on-one discussions for those who prefer not to speak to the entire group. Public comments may continue during this period if necessary.

People who have ideas to share but cannot attend the public meetings are encouraged to submit their comments by calling the 24-hour toll-free hotline 877-INDY-EVN (877-463-9386); visit the Web site: www.I69indyevn.org; or writing a letter to INDOT: Lyle Sadler, project manager, Indiana Department of Transportation, 100 N. Senate Ave., Room N855, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2218.

INDOT has commissioned the new study to look at a broad range of alternatives to provide a transportation link between Indianapolis and Evansville, including new-terrain routes, upgrading U.S. 41 and Interstate 70, and not building a highway at all.

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