

Meeting Summary
I-69 Tier 1 EIS
Public Meeting re: Screening of Alternatives
Greenwood, Indiana
November 7, 2001

The meeting was held at Greenwood High School in its Cafeteria. Its purpose was to receive feedback regarding the Screening of Alternatives Report, published October 16, 2001. One hundred (100) individuals registered as attendees.

Prior to the meeting, attendees were able to view displays which gave detailed statistical information about the findings of the screening of alternatives, as well as discuss these findings with project staff. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also staffed a booth which presented information and literature on the Section 106 Process regarding historical and archaeological resources.

The meeting began with introductory remarks by James Dittoe of the consultant team. Bryan Nicol, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Commissioner, made some brief remarks. Following those remarks, Michael Grovak, the consultant team project manager, gave an approximately 20 minute presentation summarizing the key findings of the Screening of Alternatives.

Public statements were made by approximately 32 citizens and public officials. John Baxter, FHWA Indiana Division Administrator and Steve Smith, INDOT Systems Planning Coordinator, were seated at the front of the room to hear all public remarks. Principal issues brought forth during the public comment portion of the meeting included:

- I-69 should go over SR 37 and river bottoms near SR 39 around Martinsville - that would open up these areas for development.
- The study needs to fully consider all environmental effects.
- High speed rail should be analyzed in this study.
- A new interstate would relieve traffic on other roads.
- Southern Indiana should be preserved and remain undeveloped like the Adirondacks in New York.
- The study is a colossal waste of tax dollars. We should not spend any money on out-of-state legal firms.
- There is no evidence that I-69 will be economically beneficial.
- I do site selection all over the United States. Locating an Interstate highway will bring great economic benefits to where it is located.

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- An Interstate highway will cause reduced crashes on SR 37 and SR 67.
- I-69 will bring drugs from Mexico and endanger our children. Mexican trucks will cause cancer.
- Instead of building a highway, our tax money should go into border patrols to keep out illegal immigrants.
- We should repair the roads we have, and invest in public transit rather than building new roads.
- I-69 will help Monroe County. Alternative 1 is the same as no route.
- Southwest Indiana is economically depressed. It needs the economic boost which an Interstate will provide.
- The most direct routes (Alternatives 3 and 4) are the best for Southwest Indiana.
- Any alternative needs to provide for an outer loop bypass around Indianapolis.
- Terre Haute needs economic help - Bloomington is doing just fine.
- It is INDOT's fiscal duty to build nothing.
- Many people are dying on highways in Morgan County who would be saved if I-69 came through.
- Pike and Greene Counties are isolated and have unsafe roads. They need to be served by I-69.
- Cost comparisons understate the true cost of Alternative 1.
- I-69 through Morgan County would provide major safety improvements.
- Alternative 1 would leave out a big chunk of Indiana.