

Meeting Summary
I-69 Tier 1 EIS
Public Meeting re: Draft Purpose and Need Statement
Oakland City, Indiana
May 8, 2001

The meeting was held at Wood Memorial High School in its cafeteria. Its purpose was to receive feedback regarding the Draft Purpose and Need Statement, published April 17, 2001. One hundred fifty four (154) individuals registered as attendees.

The meeting began with introductory remarks by James Dittoe of the consultant team. Bryan Nicol, INDOT Deputy Commissioner, gave an approximately 20 minute presentation summarizing the key findings of the Purpose and Need Analysis.

Public statements were made by approximately 45 citizens and public officials. Principal issues brought forth during the public comment portion of the meeting included:

- The Southwind Maritime Center will become a much more successful intermodal facility if I-69 is built.
- The routes which use the SR57 corridor will be of greatest benefit to all of Southwest Indiana.
- Evansville has significant accessibility and connectivity problems.
- Transportation improvements will improve our quality of life.
- The Purpose and Need analysis is a fine study.
- We need a safer route to the center of Indiana.
- The Purpose and Need Analysis presents fair and balanced information.
- The lack of highway accessibility in the Evansville region makes it hard to recruit businesses.
- The roads in southwest Indiana are not safe.
- A new terrain route would be fiscally irresponsible.
- Commerce should go by rail, not by truck.
- A new Interstate highway will damage our local economy.

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- The Purpose and Need analysis does not consider the true needs of rural residents.
- US41/I-70 will accomplish the purpose of the project while minimizing impacts and cost.
- The existing highways in the region are adequate for truck traffic.
- In comparing alternative routes, it is important to consider the gasoline consumption and added air pollution from increased vehicle travel.
- Crane Naval Warfare Center must be served by I-69.
- The highway will be good for developing tourism and industry in rural areas.
- This region already has as many jobs as it needs.
- We don't need to build a highway for Canada and Mexico.
- We need more high speed rail for passenger travel.
- The state and federal government are doing their best to minimize the impacts of the highway.
- We must reverse the ongoing loss of farmland.
- The Purpose and Need shows its biases by double and triple counting certain factors.
- The report shows its bias by including as a Commerce Corridor a route to Bloomington which does not exist today.
- This road is essential to the economic development of Southwest Indiana.
- Interstate highways leverage economic development. Pike County is handicapped by lack of an Interstate highway.
- The Purpose and Need's economic analysis is contrived.
- If people do not want an Interstate highway, then none should be built.

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- Southwest Indiana's culture is different from other parts of the state. An Interstate highway is incompatible with Southwest Indiana's culture.
- The best and brightest of our young people are leaving because good jobs are not here. We need a direct route to help keep our children in our communities.