

**The I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis Study  
Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement**

**Task 1.3 Report**

**Public and Community Outreach**

**July - December 2001**

**February 12, 2002**



**Community Outreach Summary, July through December, 2001**  
**I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis Study**

Community outreach was an important part of the I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis study in 2001 with more than 60 meetings between Jim Dittoe of Winning Communities and various community and advocacy groups, chambers of commerce, and local, county and state officials.

First-person summaries of meetings from the last half of the year follow in this report. At many of these meetings, INDOT officials and I-69 consultant staff also participated. Dittoe worked with the project's Issue Involvement Team and the Corporation for Educational Communications, which is bringing the I-69 project into the classroom in five schools in the 2001-2002 school year. The community outreach meetings served many hundreds of people, providing project history as well as updates on the 14 route concepts and their reduction to five route alternatives. November public meetings concerning the route finalists were also highlighted.

Many group leaders, such as the president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, were able to keep their members informed on the status of the project as a result of the information they gleaned from the meetings. People involved in these community outreach meetings also were able to encourage attendance at public meetings. After the five route concepts were announced, Winning Communities met with several groups and officials seeking information on how the project would affect their particular area.

Summaries of meetings in the first half of the year are contained in Task 1.3 Report, **Public and Community Outreach, January-June, 2001.**



**Meeting:** Terre Haute Mayor Judy Anderson

**Date:** Aug 8, 2001

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

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major Topics:** Update on the study

**Summary:** I met with Mayor Judy Anderson to give her an update on the study. She had questions regarding the timing of the release of the route alternatives reduction from 14 to 5. I told her that the team was “crunching” numbers to make certain that the information was correct. She said that she understood that the complexity of the study was great and that INDOT was doing a great job. She asked to be advised as to when the next public meetings were to be held.



**Meeting:** Crawfordsville Rotary

**Date:** Aug. 8, 2001

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Crawfordsville

**Major Topics:** Study presentation

**Summary:** I introduced Steve Cecil, Deputy Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation, who delivered a speech to the Rotary Club of Crawfordsville. He discussed the history of the study and the process being followed. He told of the Purpose and need Statement and the 14 route alternatives. He commented on the factors going into the decision making. He spoke of study's complexity and assured that it was a highly professional study. He responded to questions dealing with timing of construction and costs. We showed the map with the 14 alternatives on it.



**Meeting:** Martinsville Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Aug. 9, 2001

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** Martinsville

**Major Topics:** Update on study.

**Summary:** Bill Patterson, Executive Director of the Martinsville Chamber of Commerce, requested to be kept informed of the developments of the study. I met with him to give him an update of the progress. He was happy to get the report and would pass along the information to the membership. He is concerned with the development opportunities of the community and sees the highway, if planned properly, assisting. I told him that the information dealing with the study was as sophisticated and state of the art as possible and that the study team was dedicated to giving a professional and factual report.



**Meeting:** Bedford Mayor John Williams

**Date:** Aug. 9, 2001

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Bedford

**Major Topics:** Study update

**Summary:** I met with Mayor John Williams to keep him informed of the development of the study project. He said that the Bedford community was very interested in the highway and its proximity to Bedford, but that it was important that it be built somewhere in the region. He talked of the importance of Crane Naval Station and accessibility to it. He asked if there was anything that could be done to “hurry the study along.” I told him that it is on schedule and that meetings would be held in the fall reducing the alternative route concepts from 14 to 5.



**Meeting:** Indianapolis Kiwanis

**Date:** Aug. 10, 2001

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topic:** Study presentation

**Summary:** I introduced Commissioner Cristine Klika of the Indiana Department of Transportation, who delivered an address to the Downtown Indianapolis Kiwanis Club. She gave the story of the history of the project, spoke of the Purpose and Need Statement, and showed the 14 route alternatives. She talked about next steps and responded to questions. Of particular interest was how the highway would affect the Indianapolis metro area, timing, and costs.



**Meeting:** Muncie Rotary Club

**Date:** Aug. 14, 2001

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Muncie

**Major Topic:** Study presentation

**Summary:** I introduced Commissioner Cristine Klika of the Indiana Department of Transportation who spoke to the Muncie Rotary Club. She gave the members of the Club an update of the study beginning with a brief history of the project. She talked about the timing of the study and that we are over half way complete and are on schedule to have a decision by the end of 2002. She responded to questions regarding cost and construction time.



**Meeting:** Fishers Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Aug. 15, 2001

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Fishers

**Major topic:** Study update

**Summary:** I introduced Commissioner Cristine Klika of the Indiana Department of Transportation to the Fishers Chamber of Commerce membership. She gave an update of the study and showed the 14 route concept alternatives. She talked about the decision-making process and of its complexity and professional nature. She responded to questions of how the highway would affect the Fishers area. She was also asked of the costs and sources of funding and the time of construction.



**Meeting:** Indiana State Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Aug. 15, 2001

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topics:** Study update

**Summary:** I met with Mark Lawrence of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lawrence is also a member of the Issue Involvement Team. He wanted to know how the Indiana Chamber can get word to its members about the status of the I-69 study. They would like to use their newsletter and e-mail to advise their members. He asked if the study was on time for completion, and I assured him that it was.



**Meeting:** Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Aug. 20, 2001

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topics:** Update

**Summary:** I met with John Myrland, President of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has membership on the Issue Involvement Team. Mr. Myrland wanted to have an update on the study status so that they might better keep their members informed. He asked if the impact on the metro Indianapolis is known yet. He asked if an outer belt has been discussed. I explained that that detail is not part of the study and that the southwest part of I-465 is the area under consideration by this study.



**Meeting:** Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Aug. 23, 2001

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major Topics:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Rod Henry, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Bert Williams, Chairman of the I-69 Task Force to give them an update of the study. They were interested in the status of information dealing with the I-70/U.S. 41 alternative. I told them that information dealing with the decision-making process was being collected and will be announced with the other information about the other alternatives in September or October. They continue to believe that their favored route is the best for time and cost considerations. I encouraged them to attend one or more of the public meetings that will be held soon.



**Meeting:** North Central Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Date:** Aug. 23, 2001

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

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major Topics:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Pat Martin, chief planner for North Central, who asked for the latest information regarding the Public meetings. He wants to encourage attendance and participation from his area elected and appointed officials. I offered to meet also with his planning committee and the North Central Council of officials. He will let me know if that is necessary. He will publicize the public meeting dates when they are determined.



**Meeting:** Indiana University

**Date:** Sept. 6, 2001

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Bloomington

**Major Topic:** Update

**Summary:** I met with Kirk White who is responsible for community affairs and leads the “Town and Gown” committee for the University. He is new at the position and I gave him a briefing of the status of the study. He will let me know when the next committee meeting is and requested that I be on the agenda. He also will send a letter from the President of the University that endorses the I-69 highway.



**Meeting:** Bloomington Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Sept. 6, 2001

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Location:** Bloomington

**Major Topics:** Public meetings

**Summary:** I met with Steve Landers, the President of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. He requested information about the next public meetings and asked what information will be revealed. He also commented that he believed that the pace of the study is too slow and the State of Indiana is in danger of losing the project to Illinois. I told him that the study is on schedule and that officials of both states met and Illinois denied interest in the highway and has not pursued it. This meeting took place last spring.



**Meeting:** Mayor Fernandez of Bloomington

**Date:** Sept. 6, 2001

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

**Location:** Bloomington

**Major Topics:** Update of the study

**Summary:** I met with Martha Smith, the mayor's assistant. I gave her information dealing with the public meetings that they will be held soon and encouraged her to ask the Mayor to encourage public participation. She said that the mayor would promote it to city council and the news media and try to get people to develop a better understanding of the issues involved in the study.



**Meeting:** City of Huntingburg

**Date:** Sept. 20, 2001

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

**Location:** Huntingburg

**Major Topics:** Alternatives Discussion

**Summary:** I met with Bill Land, Planning Director for the City of Huntingburg, to hear of his suggestions for the alternatives that come close to Huntingburg. They have a development plan that includes the need for a connector to a major four-lane highway. He suggests that I-69 could be that highway and open this community to expanding economic development. With the proximity to Jasper, he believes that it would have continuing opportunity for that region of the state. Job creation would grow as a result. I told him that the public meetings would be held soon and that this would be a good place to express his ideas. I also encouraged him to write as soon as possible to INDOT.



**Meeting:** Voices for I-69

**Date:** Sept. 24, 2001

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

**Location:** Evansville

**Major Topics:** Public meetings

**Summary:** I met with John Schwartz, Executive Director of the Voices for I-69, who wanted information regarding the study. He was particularly interested in the schedule and the location of the next public meetings. I told them that at this very moment we were planning them and determining locations and dates. I told him I would call as soon as these were decided.



**Meeting:** Corporation for Educational Communications

**Date:** Sept. 25, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis and Evansville

**Major Topics:** Introduction to teachers

**Summary:** I met, along with Lyle Sadler and Steve Cecil from INDOT, with the Corporation for Educational Communications via video conferencing with teachers who will participate in this year's CEC program. We were connected by way of this technology that permits the students and teachers to examine various aspects of the I-69 study. Five schools from the study area will participate in this year's study process.



**Meeting:** Indiana Society of Professional Appraisers

**Date:** Sept. 26, 2001

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topics:** Overview of the Study

**Summary:** I spoke to the Indiana Society of Professional Appraisers at a luncheon. I gave them the brief history of the study and a status report of where things stand at the present. I showed them the map of the 14 alternative route concepts and told them that shortly these would be reduced to 5. I mentioned that they should watch the news media for an announcement of the next round of public meetings.



**Meeting:** Washington/Daviess County Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Oct. 9, 2001

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Washington

**Major Topics:** Status of Study

**Summary:** I met with Ron Arnold of the Washington/Davies County Chamber of Commerce to discuss the status of the study. He said that interest continues to be high in this community. Several groups and many individuals have many opinions about the highway. I told him that we were going to be in Washington soon and that he should encourage all to participate. He will make contacts and promote attendance.



**Meeting:** Issue Involvement Team

**Date:** Oct. 17, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Location:** By telephone statewide

**Major Topics:** Announcement of reduction of route concepts

**Summary:** I called all 18 members of the Issue Involvement Team plus other members who have expressed interest in being informed of the public meetings. I told them first of the announcement of the reduction of the route concepts from 14 to 5.



**Meeting:** Issue Involvement Team

**Date:** Oct. 24, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Location:** By telephone statewide

**Major Topics:** Announcement of public meetings' dates and locations

**Summary:** I called all 18 members of the Issue Involvement Team plus other members who have expressed interest in being informed of the public meetings. I called to tell them of the time, dates, and locations of the public meetings.



**Meeting:** Indiana State Farm Bureau

**Date:** Oct. 24, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topics:** Update of study

**Summary:** Lyle Sadler, project manager for INDOT on the I-69 study, and I met with Harry Pearson, President of the Indiana State Farm Bureau, and gave him an update of the study. Mr. Pearson informed us that he is retiring at the end of the year and invited in his Vice President of Government Relations. He said that they would request assistance after the first of the year in communicating with their field managers to give information to them for those areas affected by the five remaining alternative routes. Mr. Sadler and I welcomed their interest and promised that we would be in communication with them after the first of the year.



**Meeting:** Mid-continent Consortium

**Date:** Oct. 30, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topics:** Status of Study

**Summary:** I met with Jim Newland, Executive Director of the Consortium, who had questions regarding the next round of public meetings. He said that he would encourage members in Indiana that belong to his group to attend and learn from the presentations and make comments at the open session. He would like to be kept informed of the progress of the study and was complementary to the study team for its professionalism.



**Meeting:** Corporation for Educational Communications

**Date:** Oct. 30, 2001

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis and Spencer via teleconferencing

**Major Topics:** CEC study components

**Summary:** Lyle Sadler and Steve Cecil of the Indiana Department of Transportation and I met with the school officials that are involved for the various schools via the fiber optic network. We discussed project topics and the status of the project study. There were some new teachers present to whom we gave a brief history and spoke of the next 15 months of activity. They are determined to utilize the study as a classroom teaching opportunity and assist the students in their quest for knowledge.



**Meeting:** Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization

**Date:** Nov. 1, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Noblesville

**Major Topics:** Status report

**Summary:** I met with the Indianapolis MPO Technical Committee and gave them an update of the progress of the study. The representatives present are from the communities in the eight counties surrounding and including Marion County. I informed them of the public meetings and encouraged them to attend and inform others of the sessions.



**Meeting:** Indiana State Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Nov. 6, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Indianapolis

**Major Topic:** Update to new staff

**Summary:** I met with Mark Lawrence of the chamber, who introduced me to Reggie Williams, the new economic development staff person with the chamber. Since there is so much information regarding the effects of transportation and job development and economic activity, Mr. Lawrence wanted me to brief Mr. Williams. I gave them an update and encouraged them to attend the public meetings beginning this night and continuing the next two nights. Mr. Williams may become the state chamber representative on the Issue Involvement Team.



**Meeting:** Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Dec. 6, 2001

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Terre Haute

**Major Topics:** Review findings of study

**Summary:** Mike Grovak, Vince Bernardin, and I met with members of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce. There were also representatives of the city and the county present. Rod Henry, President of the chamber, requested a meeting to clarify study elements as they pertain to the Terre Haute area. Mr. Grovak and Mr. Bernardin presented information of how decisions are made and listed the criteria. They showed statistics for the Route Concept 1 that goes through Vigo County. A roundtable discussion followed with several questions, comments, and responses.



**Meeting:** Ellettsville Economic Development Council

**Date:** Dec. 11, 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Location:** Ellettsville

**Major Topics:** Update on Project

**Summary:** The Board of Directors of the Development Council requested an update on the project with particular interest on how the five alternatives affected their part of Monroe County. I distributed the newsletters and some of the color maps. I explained that it was too early in this phase of the study to give an impact report; in fact, this is what this level of analysis will show. They asked questions with regard to timing and I told them that the study team is on target to be completed by the end of 2002.



**Meeting:** South Bend/St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce

**Date:** Dec.19, 2001

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Location:** South Bend

**Major Topics:** I-69 study status

**Summary:** I met with Mark Eagan, President of the South Bend/St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce, to discuss another project; however, Mr. Eagan said that his membership and community has an interest in I-69. He requested information and we spent considerable time as I gave him a report of the past two years and current status. He said that the business community recognizes the importance of a strong transportation system and that even where they are this project had an effect upon them. He asked to be kept informed of future major occurrences.



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