

Meeting Summary
I-69 Tier 1 EIS
Public Meeting re: Draft Purpose and Need Statement
Sullivant, Indiana
May 9, 2001

The meeting was held at Sullivan High School in its auditorium. Its purpose was to receive feedback regarding the Draft Purpose and Need Statement, published April 17, 2001. Fifty six (56) 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 18 citizens. Principal issues brought forth during the public comment portion of the meeting included:

- We need the farmland which a new terrain route would require.
- We don't need any more traffic in the US 41 corridor.
- We want to see the SR57/SR67 corridor used for this highway.
- Opposition to a new terrain highway is unanimous.
- The Purpose and Need Statement is biased and skewed.
- Interstate highways do not bring development to rural areas.
- The study process is extensive and fair, but we must accelerate it as much as possible.
- The Purpose and Need does not address the infrastructure and human needs for economic development.
- A new highway will cut off a lot of local and county roads.
- Upgrading US41 to an Interstate highway will have serious negative consequences on local communities and local travel patterns. It would really hurt roadside businesses.
- Martin County should be designated as an economic center in the report, because the Crane Naval Weapons Center is located there.
- The Purpose and Need statement ignores the economic needs in the US 41 corridor.

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- Fiscal and environmental considerations should be paramount in the Purpose and Need analysis.
- Building I-69 to Indianapolis will improve business productivity and increase employees' wages.