



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

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I-69 environmental study available for public review *Highway giant step closer to 2008 groundbreaking*

Oakland City, Ind. – After two years of extensive environmental studies, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) are releasing the Tier 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Section 1 of the I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis project. Section 1 begins at I-64 near Evansville and generally runs along SR 57 to SR 64 near Oakland City.

The Section 1 DEIS is the product of public input and meticulous environmental and engineering studies. The DEIS recommends a preferred alignment for the highway within the first portion of the federally approved 142-mile I-69 corridor. Since early 2004, several preliminary alignments have been made available for review at the Section 1 project office and during public information meetings. Those alignments were refined and reconfigured based on public input and further study.

In November, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels announced that I-69 will be a non-toll facility and that the project is on track to break ground in 2008.

“The completion of the DEIS document is a major achievement in I-69’s progress,” said INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning. “Governor Daniels pledged to make I-69 a reality, and because of his determination, Southwestern Indiana is one step closer to having a crucial transportation tool for economic development. We’re eager to receive public feedback in this final stage of study and planning.”

As part of the public comment period, the DEIS document will be made available at the Section 1 local project office and on the I-69 project Web site, where the public can provide comments and feedback. The document is also available at area libraries. Comments also may be directed to Roger Wade at Qk4, P.O. Box 8464, Evansville, IN, 47716. The comment period ends on Feb. 20, 2007. There will be a public hearing on the DEIS at 5 p.m. CST on Thurs., Jan. 18, 2007, in the Wood Memorial Jr./Sr. High School cafetorium in Oakland City.

After public review, INDOT will refine the preferred alignment based on public and agency input. INDOT will then submit a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Section 1 to the FHWA. It is anticipated that FHWA will then issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for Section 1. The Section 1 ROD is FHWA’s authorization for INDOT to proceed with federally funded design and construction of the project.

The corridor for the entire I-69 Evansville-to-Indianapolis project was approved by FHWA in March 2004, based on a Tier 1 EIS for the entire corridor. FHWA and INDOT are now preparing six separate Tier 2 studies, each of which examines potential alignments for a section of the corridor. The first of the Tier 2 studies to be released is the Section 1 DEIS. The Tier 2 studies for the other five sections are under way.

The new interstate is widely regarded as a key component to the future economic vitality of Southwestern Indiana and will provide necessary connectivity with the rest of the state and the nation. For more information about all six sections of I-69 visit the project Web site at www.i69indyevn.org.

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