

## I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis Tier 2 Studies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Wendy Vachet, Section 5

Date: June 21, 2004 812-355-1390

## INDOT to Open New Interstate 69 (I-69) Project Office in Bloomington Public Invited to Open House on July 1, 2004

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is opening a local project office where area residents can meet with officials during the next phase of work on the Interstate 69 (I-69) extension from Evansville to Indianapolis. The Section 5 office represents one of the six new facilities that are being open along the 142-mile project corridor. The office is located in Bloomington at One City Centre, Suite 106/108, 120 W 7th Street.

"Community input and participation are key as the final highway alignment is determined," said INDOT Commissioner J. Bryan Nicol. "The local office is the latest example of our long-standing commitment to encourage community involvement and ensure citizens are kept informed as the project moves forward."

A special public open house will be held on Thursday, July 1, 2004, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to tour the new facility and meet members of the project team. Persons can stop in to review maps of the project area and speak with representatives about specific areas of interest. Brochures and other handouts will also be available.

This phase of work is referred to as "Tier 2," and each of the six sections will be studied independently over the next 18 to 36 months. The local office will be performing comprehensive studies in the 22-mile Section 5 corridor, which runs along existing State Road 37 from approximately Victor Pike Road south of Bloomington, to State Road 39 in Martinsville. The project manager for this section is Wendy Vachet, from Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

The project office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Residents can also reach the office by calling 812-355-1390. Residents are encouraged to call before visiting to ensure appropriate staff is available to personally meet with them.

In March 2004, the Federal Highway Administration approved the 142-mile Evansville to Indianapolis corridor. The new highway is widely regarded as a key component to the future economic vitality of southwestern Indiana. It will prevent nearly 40,000 serious injuries and save travelers between Indianapolis and Evansville nearly an hour per round trip.

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