NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS),
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)
has published the Tier 1 DEIS for the Mid-States Corridor project between
SR 66/US 231 and I-69 (DES#1801941)

DEIS AND PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

INDOT has published the Tier 1 DEIS, which identifies Alternative P as the preferred route for the proposed Mid-States Corridor. The public comment period for the DEIS has been extended until June 14, 2022.

Improvements for Alternative P extend 54 miles from I-64/US 231 to I-69 at the existing US 231 interchange. It uses existing US 231 between SR 66 and I-64. Construction will begin at the I-64/US 231 interchange continuing east of Huntingburg and Jasper, avoiding developed areas near these cities. From Haysville to the north, Alternative P generally parallels the existing US 231 alignment with a bypass west of Loogootee. This alternative ends at the existing I-69 interchange at US 231. These highway improvements may include a 2-lane or 4-lane facility to be determined during Tier 2. A total of nine illustrative local improvements on existing US 231 are also part of Alternative P, which may include passing lanes, turn lanes and/or other safety/access improvements to be determined during Tier 2.

Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and FHWA allow studies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for large, complex projects to be carried out in a two-stage, “tiered” process. In the first tier, the “big picture” issues are addressed, while considering the full range of impacts. These “big picture” decisions include a build/no-build decision and (in the case of a build decision) identifying a corridor for Tier 2 studies. After the “big picture” issues are resolved in Tier 1, the focus shifts in Tier 2 NEPA studies to issues associated with a more exact determination of impacts and the avoidance and mitigation of adverse impacts. Because the Mid-States Corridor is a very large undertaking with a 12-county Study Area, the NEPA process and accompanying environmental reviews, including Section 106 reviews of cultural resources, also follow a tiered process.

Tier 1 Section 106 Review identifies aboveground and previously recorded belowground resources within all the alternatives, which are documented in the DEIS for review and comment. Based on the Tiered development of this corridor a draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) is also included in the DEIS. The PA, being developed in accordance with 36 CFR 800.14(b), will guide the Tier 2 Section 106 Review, including determinations of final effect findings and development of any needed mitigation. Tier 2 studies will focus only on the preferred alternative selected in Tier 1. The views of the public on the draft Programmatic Agreement are being sought as a part of this DEIS comment period.

The DEIS, including the draft Programmatic Agreement pursuant to 36 CFR 800.14(b), is available online at <https://midstatescorridor.com/DEIS>. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at:

* Mid-States Corridor Project Office: Vincennes University Jasper Campus, Administration Building, Room 216, 850 College Ave., Jasper, IN
* Bedford Public Library: 1323 K St., Bedford, IN
* Bloomfield-Eastern Greene County Public Library: 125 S. Franklin St., Bloomfield, IN
* Dubois Branch Library: 5506 E. Main St., Evansville, IN
* Ferdinand Branch Library: 112 E. 16th St., Ferdinand, IN
* Huntingburg Public Library: 419 N. Jackson St., Huntingburg, IN
* Jasper-Dubois County Public Library: 100 3rd Ave., Jasper, IN
* Lincoln Heritage Public Library: 105 Wallace St., Dale, IN
* Loogootee Public Library: 504 Park St., Loogootee, IN
* Melton Public Library: 8496 W. College St., French Lick, IN
* Mitchell Community Public Library: 804 W. Main St., Mitchell, IN
* Monroe County Public Library: 303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN
* Orleans Town and Township Public Library: 174 N. Maple St., Orleans, IN
* Otwell Town Library: 2301 N. Spring St., Otwell, IN
* Pike County Public Library: 1008 E. Maple St., Petersburg, IN
* Shoals Public Library: 404 High St., Shoals, IN
* Spencer County Public Library: 210 Walnut St., Rockport, IN
* Washington Carnegie Public Library: 300 W. Main St., Washington, IN
* INDOT Central Office: 100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN
* INDOT Vincennes District Office: 3560 S. US 41, Vincennes, IN

Public hearings were held Tuesday, April 26, 2022 and Thursday, April 28, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public may submit written comments on the DEIS, including the draft Programmatic Agreement, through June 14, 2022 via the comment form at <https://midstatescorridor.com>, via email to [info@midstatescorridor.com](info%40midstatescorridor.com%20) or by mail to the project office. During the public comment period the Mid-States Corridor project office (Vincennes University Jasper Campus, Administration Building, Room 216, 850 College Ave., Jasper, IN 47546) will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time. The Project Team is available outside of the office hours by appointment. Those requesting appointments should call (812) 482-3116 or email info@midstatescorridor.com.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1)) states: “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.” 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: “Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary.” Approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.