



MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 **Re:** Northcentral Regional Issues Involvement Team Meeting

Location: Redemption Christian Church, Loogootee **Issue Date:** July 23, 2019

Submitted By: Lochmueller Group

In Attendance: Noel Harty – Loogootee Mayor
Nathan Abrams – Greene County Commission
Richard Burch – Midwestern Engineering
Mike Branham – Lawrence County Sheriff
Rex Knight – Southwest Indiana Development Corporation
Phil Cornelius – Daviess County Highway Superintendent
Tim Kinder – Martin County Alliance
Rodney Fish – Lawrence County Commission
Jameson Hibbs – Daviess Martin Parks
Michelle Allen FHWA
Mark Schroeder – Mid-States RDA
Kyanna Moon – INDOT
Jason DuPont – Lochmueller Group
David Goffinet - Lochmueller Group
Nick Jahn – VS Engineering

ITEMS DISCUSSED:



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Needs:

- Economic Development
 - Poor accessibility is limiting region's access to larger markets.
 - Increase workforce reach and mobility.
 - Support existing development initiatives such as the Mitchell Industrial Park and Westgate @ Crane.
 - Ability to create corridors for improved broadband and cellular service improvements.
 - Improved tourism and recreational leisure opportunities. Ability to connect leisure services throughout region.
 - Agribusiness is important in the region.
 - Lawrence County has significant development potential with improved transportation facilities and access.
 - Putting southern Indiana "on the map" with improved transportation facilities matters when it comes to the State Legislature.
- Safety
 - Routes within the corridor are not adequate from a safety perspective to support inter-region mobility.
 - Remove trucks from curvy, winding roads.
 - Crashes frequent on existing state routes specifically in hilly regions of study area.
- Congestion
 - Significant amount of trucks servicing gypsum and limestone quarries.

Location

- General Comments
 - Keep routes as close to towns and cities as possible when going around. Development along I-69 in Greene County has been minimal as I-69 is too far from services.
 - Despite being shorter routes and potentially less-costly, western alternatives will provide limited additional economic development when compared to potential eastern routes into Lawrence County.
 - Lawrence County has significant development opportunity, but is limited by accessibility.
 - Stick to US 231 and utilize existing corridor whenever possible.

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- Corridor 3F has highest environmental impact. A corridor through Orange County would negatively impact serenity.
- From Mitchell south and west to French Lick there are safety concerns along those state facilities (SR 37 and SR 150)
- Avoid alternatives that would potentially divert traffic away from I-69
- Specific Alignment Comments
 - Consider use of US 50 as an eastern alternative corridor.
 - Also consider an alternative following US 60 to Mitchell.
 - East side of Loogootee makes most sense if trying to avoid schools and Amish Communities.
 - There is room to the east of Loogootee to accommodate alternative without impacting CRANE property.
 - West side of Loogootee would improve access to schools and I-69. SR 450 has many flooding problems
 - The due north route makes the most sense with bypasses closely positioned around Huntingburg, Jasper, and Loogootee to move people and goods and help CRANE and Westgate @ Crane development.
 - Alternative 3F seems to have the most environmental impacts. It will adversely impact the serene nature of that area.
- Companion Projects
 - Depending on route consider upgrades to US 50 both west and east of Loogootee as a potential companion project(s).

Local Knowledge / Impact Considerations

- Hard feelings remain regarding R/W takes due to I-69 in the region.
- Consider cumulative impacts of I-69 Section #4 when evaluating Corridor 3F.
- Do not divert traffic away from I-69.
- West Boggs Park.
- Loogootee Schools could be close to a western bypass of Loogootee
- Corridor 3F runs through an Amish community.
- Blue Springs Cavern
- Glendale Fish and Wildlife Reserve
- Amish in Martin County reside west of US 231. Also note Amish communities in Orange and Lawrence counties.
- Hindostan Falls
- Prime farm ground west of Loogootee.

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- CRANE Joint Land Use Study has a development buffer that needs to be considered.
- Martin County Gypsum Plants

Key Questions / Answers

- What is the priority in the selection process? *The process looks at benefits, impacts and cost while also garnering input from the public and agencies to inform the final decisions.*
- When looking at alternative assessment, does previous study information help and is there a potential for cost savings? *The project team will examine previous studies undertaken in the region to determine if there is relevant and up-to-date information to inform the study process. Any potential costs savings are minimal relative to the overall project cost.*

The above constitutes our understanding of the meeting. If you believe there are omissions, additions, or corrections, please send your written comments within seven working days to Lochmueller Group.
