Section 6 Project Update

Purdue Road School

March 8, 2016
Presenters

Jim Earl

Tim Miller
Agenda

- Project Background
- Activities:
  October 2014 – March 2016
- Project Schedule
- Questions
Background

- Section 6 limits: Just south of SR39 in Martinsville to I-465 in Indianapolis

- 2004 Tier 1 EIS selected SR 37 corridor as new I-69

- Tier 2 studies began in 2004; paused as Sections 1-2-3 constructed
Background

- Section 6 studies resumed October 2014
- Resumption began with no predetermined routes
- Revised four-county study area (Hendricks, Marion, Johnson and Morgan counties)
- SR 37 corridor will be carried forward regardless if additional routes are studied further
Scoping Considerations

What should INDOT/FHWA consider when determining whether to evaluate alternatives outside the SR 37 corridor?
Scoping Considerations

Why?

- Original decision was in 2004
- Review and document 2003-2014 changes in
  - Development patterns
  - Population
  - Employment trends
  - Estimated project costs: construction, real estate, mitigation, etc.
- Investigate reducing, avoiding significant impacts
- Original SR 37 corridor will be considered throughout environmental process
February 2015 Scoping Meeting

- Two meetings; 500+ attendees
  - February 23: Center Grove High School (243 signed in)
  - February 25: Martinsville High School (326 signed in)

- Comments could be written, spoken to court reporter, provided at public comment session and/or submitted via project website
Stakeholder Scoping Comments

Reasons to consider alternatives outside SR 37 corridor:

- Decision was issued more than 10 years ago, and conditions have changed
- Different alternatives could have different economic growth-generating potential
- Consideration should be given to moving goods and freight around the country on a regional basis
- Preferred Alternative should have the lowest social impact
Reasons NOT to consider alternatives outside SR 37 corridor:

- Similar concerns whether INDOT constructs I-69 on SR 37 or off existing alignment
- Local communities have planned for I-69 along existing SR 37 (zoning changes and constructing access roads)
- The SR 37 corridor may have fewer impacts to farmland, natural resources
- Constructing grade separations on SR 37 will increase safety along route
February 2015 Activities

27 ALTERNATIVES UNDER STUDY
27 Conceptual Alternatives
Scoping Conclusion

- FHWA/INDOT will consider alternatives outside Tier 1 Section 6 corridor
- Upgrading SR 37 to I-69 will remain an alternative throughout evaluation process
May 2015 Activities

- 14 Conceptual Alternatives developed from feedback at meetings
- May 18: Conceptual Alternatives Report released
- May 18-19: Public meetings
14 Conceptual Alternatives
June 2015 Activities

- **June 2015:** Alternatives under study screened to five; these alternatives referred to as *Preliminary Alternatives*
- **June 2015:** *Preliminary Alternative Selection Report* released
- **Ongoing since June 2015:** Environmental field work, cost analysis, and performance evaluations

5 ALTERNATIVES UNDER STUDY
5 Preliminary Alternatives
Screening Methodology

- COST
- ENVIRONMENT
- PERFORMANCE

Reasonable Alternatives
Performance Measures

- Safety improvements (crash reductions)
- Travel times
- Congestion reduction
- Economic benefits/impacts
Cost Considerations

- Construction cost
- Real estate cost
- Mitigation cost
- SR 37 infrastructure cost
- I-465 and I-70 improvement cost
Environmental Considerations

Human and Natural Environment

- Public Involvement
- Purpose and Need
- Construction Cost
- Traffic
- Economic
- Residential and Business Displacements
- Access, Emergency Services, Schools, and Churches
- Environmental Justice
- Water Resources
- Floodway
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Publicly owned Recreational Areas
- Hazardous Waste
- Cultural Resources and Archaeology
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Farmland

COST
ENVIRONMENT
PERFORMANCE
REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES
Proactive and aggressive stakeholder involvement for public comment

- Community advisory committees (CAC)
- Stakeholder working groups (SWG)
- Resource agencies
- Public involvement meetings
Public Involvement Investment

- Full-time public involvement specialist
- Website
- Listserv
- Social media
- Local presentations
- Project office
www.i69indyevn.org

- Project documents
- Maps
- Screening reports
- CAC/SWG information
- Media room
- FAQ
- Schedule
2015 Public Involvement Summary

- 40+ meetings with organizations, utilities, businesses
- CAC and SWG quarterly meetings
- Land Use Panel meetings
- Public information meetings
  - Feb. 23 – Center Grove High School
  - Feb. 25 – Martinsville High School
  - May 18 – Center Grove High School
  - May 19 – Martinsville High School
  - Nov. 30 – Perry Meridian High School
  - Dec. 2 – Mooresville High School
  - Dec. 3 – Martinsville High School
2016 Activities

- **Additional public involvement**
  (CAC/SWG, resource agencies, Land Use Panel meetings, public information meetings)

- **Environmental field studies**
  (wetlands, streams, historic resources, noise, right-of-way)

- **Lane determinations**

- **Interchange locations**

- **Local service road evaluations**

- **Cost estimating**
Environmental Studies and Analysis (2015 through 2017)

- 2015: Public Information Meetings
- 2017: Draft EIS Public Hearing
- 2017: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- 2018: Final EIS (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)
Questions?
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