



MEETING SUMMARY

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

Location: Antioch Christian Church, Washington **Issue Date:** July 23, 2019

Submitted By: Lochmueller Group

Tom McCracken – Daviess County Commission
Samantha Bobbitt – Davies County Chamber & CVB
Joe Wellman – Washington Mayor
Ashley Willis – Pike County Economic Development Corporation
Joe Dedman – PCEDC
Jon Craig – Midwestern Engineers
Matt Clarke – Midwestern Engineers
Elmer Brames – Dubois County Commission
Bryant Niehoff – Daviess County Economic Development Corporation
Phil Cornelius – Daviess County Highway Superintendent
Kyanna Moon – INDOT
Mark Schroeder – Mid-States RDA
Jason DuPont – Lochmueller Group
David Goffinet – Lochmueller Group
Nick Jahn – VS Engineering

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Needs:

- Economic Development
 - Provide better connectivity to major markets to south (i.e. Nashville and other I-65 markets) – an extension of I-165.
 - Ability for Dubois/Pike/Daviess Counties to think regionally in a manner that hasn't been done before.
 - Support existing development initiatives such as Washington's mega-site (Billings Crossing).
 - Support the Southwest Indiana Megasite southeast of Petersburg at SR 61/I-69 interchange. The site includes 8,000 acres under common ownership and the county has master planned 4,000 acres for infrastructure and land use planning.
 - Allow for region to better leverage CRANE's presence.
 - Allow for more efficient and safer workforce mobility into and out of region.
 - Time savings for movement of people and goods.
 - Talent attraction and retention to address workforce challenges by improving commuter efficiencies
 - Time savings is not just a money thing... it is a Quality of Life matter.
 - Transportation improvement will bring jobs.
 - Workforce and transitional housing is needed in conjunction with the road improvement.
- Safety
 - US 50 from Washington to Loogootee is not a safe road due to the amount of truck traffic - "one of the highest 2-lane traffic counts in Indiana".
 - SR 257 is route that is utilized for local connectivity between Dubois County and Daviess County that is often closed due to flooding.
 - SR 61 south of the I-69/SR 61 interchange has safety concerns – consider this for any Petersburg alternatives.
- Congestion
 - US 50 is heavily congested.

Location

- General Comments

- While Mid-States is a north/south route, depending on preferred corridor, it could serve as an important regional east/west route as well via 3A, 3B or a hybrid of them.
- Utilize the central corridor along US 231 north of Dubois County and include a companion project along US 50.
- Cases can be made for all corridors.
- The importance of NSA CRANE to this region cannot be overstated, every effort should be made to support the White River Military Alliance, JLUS findings, and any other needs coming from CRANE.
- Specific Alignment Comments
 - Consider the US 50 eastern corridor (Bedford) along with the SR 60 option (Mitchell).
 - Consider western alternative south of Glendale F&W area.
 - Consider bypass options around French Lick and West Baden
 - Utilize the US 231 alignment (3C or D) with upgrades to SR 56 from French Lick to Haysville.
 - If eastern corridors are chosen, upgrades to SR 37 will be required depending on the facility type.
 - Consider the use of the SR 56 & SR 356 corridor and potential connection to I-69 near IPL's generating station. A potential interchange was previously planned for during the development of I-69 and RW acquired.
 - Concerned with alternative 3F impacting the local charm and character of French Lick/West Baden.
- Companion Projects
 - Depending on route consider upgrades to US 50 to the east as a potential companion project. US 50 upgrades are garnering added attention in Illinois which may justify further consideration for this investment throughout Indiana.
 - SR 56 between Petersburg to Jasper and even to French Lick should be considered in the future depending on the route selection.

Local Knowledge / Impact Considerations

- Glendale State Fish and Wildlife Reserve
- Corning Irish Heritage Center
- West Boggs State Park
- Historic Charm of French Lick / West Baden
- Patoka Lake

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- Amish population near Alfordsville (verify this because another participant noted there are no Amish families in this area) and other locations in Daviess County, as well as those in Martin County, Lawrence County and Orange County.
- Farms
- Shoals Jug Rock
- Hoosier National Forest
- Pike State Forest
- Martin State Forest
- Historic bridges near Williams in Lawrence County
- SR 450 alternative has substantial environmental and engineering cost implications

Key Questions / Answers

- Could multiple routes be identified, such as I-69 in Texas which has two routes? *The project team will follow the NEPA process to reach an outcome. It is inappropriate to presuppose alternative(s) selection.*
- Is this project in direct competition with the I-69 bridge project (I-69 ORX)? *No.*
- Is No Build a possible outcome? *Yes, No Build is always a consideration.*

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.
