

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INDOT Launches New Web Site for US 31 Plymouth-South Bend Project**

*Site provides information for residents in advance of Aug. 16 public open houses*

Indianapolis – The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has launched a new Web site for the US 31 upgrade and realignment project from Plymouth to South Bend. The site – <http://www.in.gov/dot/div/projects/us31/study/> – contains updated maps and schedules for the project that will upgrade to interstate standards US 31 from US 30 in Marshall County to the US 20 Bypass in St. Joseph County.

“We are pleased this project – one of the governor’s Major Moves initiatives – is moving forward,” INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning said. “This project will reduce congestion, improve safety, align with state and local transportation plans, and provide an economic boon for north central Indiana.”

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Record of Decision on the US 31 route selection through Marshall and St. Joseph counties in June 2006. The ROD explains the reasons for the project decision and is a determination by FHWA that the project has passed the environmental review process.

Final design and surveying for the 20-mile segment are currently underway. To answer questions the public may have regarding the project, INDOT is hosting two open house sessions on Aug. 16 at the Newton Center in Lakeville. The sessions are from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m. Officials will be on hand with maps to answer questions concerning the project’s schedule, right of way needs and scope.

Governor Mitch Daniels’ Major Moves highway program will invest more than \$1 billion to upgrade US 31 between Indianapolis and South Bend, with new construction in Marshall, St. Joseph, Howard and Hamilton counties. It represents the largest investment of Major Moves funds in the entire road construction program. The second largest, the I-69 extension between Evansville and Indianapolis, is receiving \$700 million in Major Moves funding.

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