



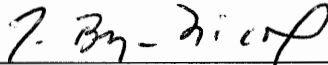
US 31 Improvement Project
Plymouth to South Bend
(US 30 to US 20, south junction)
Marshall County to
St. Joseph County

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

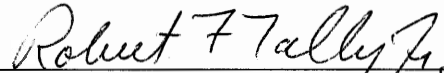
February 2004

**US 31 Improvement Project – Plymouth to South Bend (US 30 to US 20, south junction),
Marshall County and St. Joseph County, Indiana**

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
AND
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Submitted Pursuant to 42 USC 4332 (2)(c)



J. Bryan Nicol
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation



Robert F. Tally, Jr., P.E.
Indiana Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

2/13/2004

Date of Approval

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The US 31 Improvement Project – Plymouth to South Bend, is located in both Marshall and St. Joseph Counties, Indiana. The US 31 improvement corridor is approximately 20 miles in length, running from the southern terminus at US 30, near Plymouth, to the northern terminus at the south junction with US 20, near South Bend. The communities of LaPaz, Lakeville and the south edge of South Bend are within the limits of the project study area. Due to the fact that US 30 and US 20 are both functionally classified as principal arterials on the National Highway System (NHS) and as Statewide Mobility Corridors in the INDOT 2000-2025 Long Range Transportation Plan, they serve as logical termini for examining the need to improve the segment of US 31. Additionally, US 30 represents a major carrier of traffic and logical origin and destination point for US 31 and US 20 represents the last major east-west arterial within the study corridor. In addition to being a part of the INDOT 2000-2025 Long Range Transportation Plan, the need for improving existing US 31 has also been identified in the regional transportation plan. The transportation plan of the Michigan Area Council of Governments (MACOG), the South Bend Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), identifies the need to improve existing US 31 to a new limited access road with interchanges at several locations that would continue to US 30 in Marshall County. Based on an analysis of socio-economic and environmental impacts and the ability to satisfy the purpose and need of the project, Alternatives Cs, Es and G-C have been identified as the alternatives selected for detailed study. The highway would be a freeway facility with interchanges providing the only access. Following the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) public comment period, a single preferred alternative will be selected and presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Comments on this Draft EIS are due by April 26, 2004. Comments should be directed to Carl D. Camacho, P.E., Project Manager at Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates, Inc.; 7830 Rockville Road, Suite C; Indianapolis, Indiana, 46214-3105. Comments may also be submitted through the US 31 – Plymouth to South Bend Study, project website at www.us31study.org. Two separate public hearings will be held. The first public hearing will be held on March 18, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Lakeville School Project, 601 N. Michigan St, Lakeville, Indiana, 46536. The second public hearing will be held on March 18, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. at the LaVille Jr.-Sr. High School, 69969 US 31 South, Lakeville, Indiana, 46536. Information presented will be the same at both sessions, with the latter being a repeat version of the first.



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