



## 6.0 PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES TO BE CARRIED FORWARD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS IN THE DEIS

The following alternatives are recommended for further study. The next phase of the US 31 Environmental Impact Statement will involve public input and more detailed engineering and environmental evaluations. The freeway alternatives recommended to be carried forward are shown in Figure 6.1.

### No Build Alternative

The “No Build” (No Action or Do Nothing) Alternative is represented by the existing roadway network plus programmed major roadway improvements in the South Bend Metropolitan Area. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project, but serves as a baseline for comparing the “Build” alternatives, and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

### Alternative C

This alternative meets the purpose and need for the project. It has a relatively low number of residence (48) and business (8) relocations. Alternative C avoids the two closely spaced Local Historic Landmarks (Ullery/Farneman House, c. 1860 and Southlawn Cemetery) on the existing US 31, both of which are potential Section 4(f) issues. This alternative has relatively high potential forest (196 acres) and wetland (85 acres). It crosses the edge of the Maxinkukee Moraine, a unique geological and ecological area, and could potentially affect a population of the state endangered Blandings turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*).

### Alternative E

This alternative meets the purpose and need for the project. Alternative E uses a significant portion of US 31. It may be possible to minimize right-of-way requirements between the properties or to shift Alternative E to connect with existing US 31 slightly north of the two closely spaced Local Historic Landmarks (Ullery/Farneman House, c. 1860 and Southlawn Cemetery). This alternative has relatively high potential forest (148 acres) and wetland (82 acres) impacts. It crosses the edge of the Maxinkukee Moraine, a unique geological and ecological area, and could potentially affect a population of the state endangered Blandings turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*).

### Alternative F

This alternative meets the purpose and need for the project. Alternative F uses a significant portion of US 31. It may be possible to minimize right-of-way requirements between the properties or to shift Alternative F to connect with existing US 31 slightly north of the two closely spaced Local Historic Landmarks (Ullery/Farneman House, c. 1860 and Southlawn Cemetery). This alternative has relatively low potential forest (33 acres) and wetland (57 acres) impacts. This alternative could potentially affect a population of the state endangered Blandings turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*).



**Alternative G**

This alternative meets the purpose and need for the project. Alternative G uses a significant portion of US 31. It may be possible to minimize right-of-way requirements between the properties or to shift Alternative G to connect with existing US 31 slightly north of the two closely spaced Local Historic Landmarks (Ullery/Farneman House, c. 1860 and Southlawn Cemetery). This alternative is to the east of the existing US 31, and avoids the unique geological and ecological areas associated with the Maxinkukee Moraine.



# US31 Plymouth to South Bend

## Screening Report

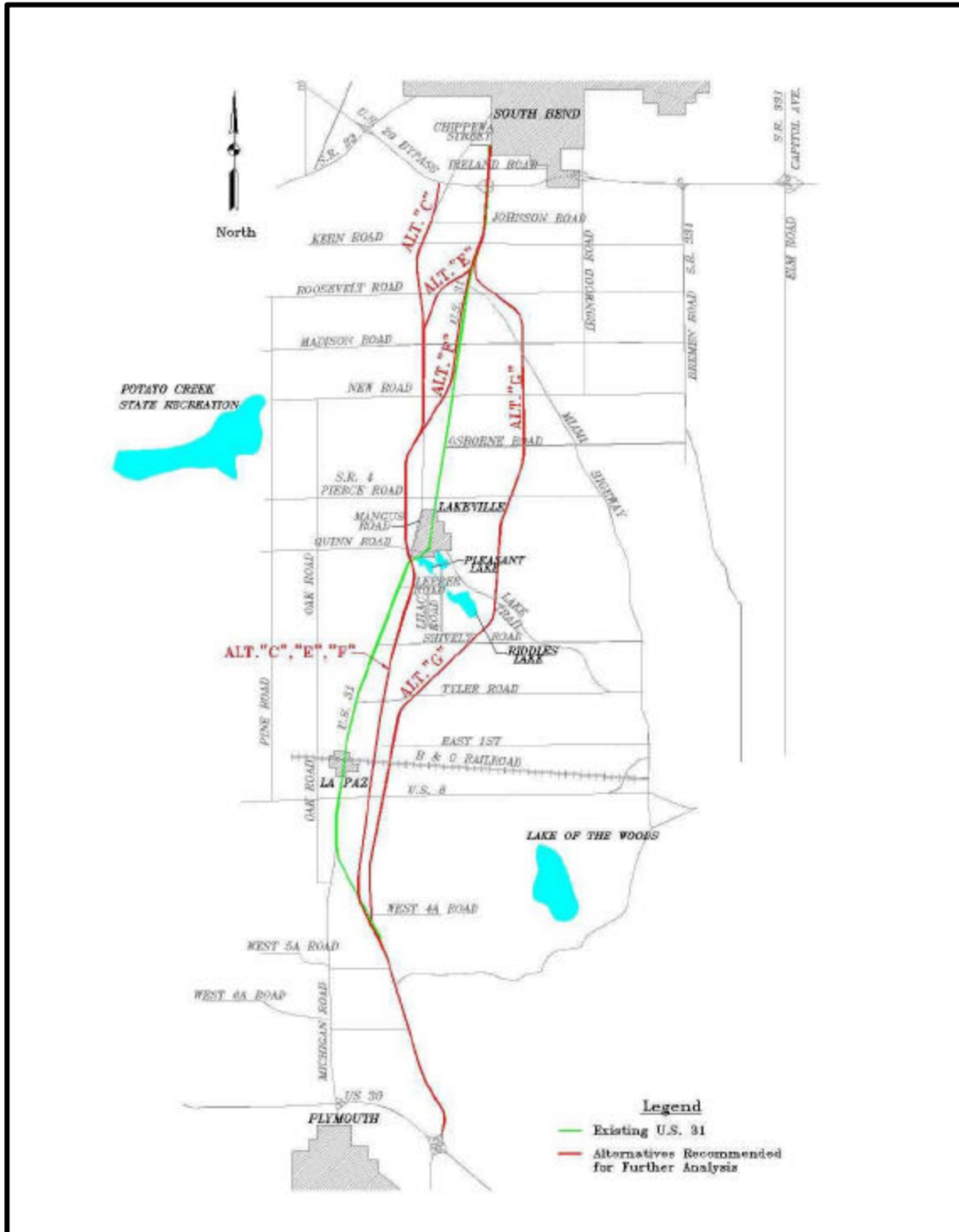


Figure 6.1: US 31 Plymouth to South Bend Freeway Alternatives Recommended for Further Analysis in the DEIS (Alternatives C, E, F, and G)