

I65/US31 Connector Newsletter

Project Item Number: 3-16.00

County and Route: Warren, I-65 and US 31 Connector Study

Project Description: A Connector study for improved access between I-65 and US31

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Other contacts:

Approximate dates: April 2004

Comments (number of people reached, effectiveness of the technique, what you would do differently, etc.): 100+ people were reached



I-65 to US 31W Connector



April 2004
Vol. 2

KYTC Item No. 03-16.00

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
invites you to a
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Where:
Warren East Middle School
Cafeteria

When:
Thursday, April 29
From
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Project Purpose & Need

The purpose of this project is to provide improved access and a more direct connection between I-65 and US 31W in northeast Warren County. This area is growing rapidly and the transportation system requires improvements. The project is considered necessary due to the existing and on-going developments in northeast Warren County, including the Kentucky Transpark, Scotty's Industrial Park, and Kelly Road Industrial Park, all of which are near the existing US 31W/US 68-KY 80 intersection.

The needs being addressed by the I-65 to US 31W Connector are as follows:

1. Improve accessibility between I-65 and US 31W by enhancing the transportation network/linkage to serve regional travel needs.
2. Serve the traffic demands for the rapidly developing industrial areas.
3. Meet transportation demand and relieve congestion on existing roadways in the study area.

Public Information Meeting to Display Preliminary Alternatives

The purposes of the April 29, 2004 public information meeting are to:

- present the alternative alignments the project team is currently investigating,
- seek comment on the project's purpose and need, and
- seek public input on the preliminary alternatives identified for the project.

The comments and information received from the meeting will be used to assist the Project Team in studying the alternatives.

History and Future of Alternatives

The first Public Information Meeting was held October 9, 2003. At that meeting the following alternative were presented: 1) No-Build, 2) minor, low-cost improvements, 3) reconstruct KY 446 and US 31W, 4) reconstruction of US 68/KY80 and the I-65 interchange in Oakland, 5) a new road linking US 31W and I-65, and 6) a new road linking US 31W and I-65 with an interchange at US 68/KY 80. These six options were called the Phase 1A alternatives.

Since that time, the Project Team has eliminated Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. However, a new alternative has also been identified—the combination of

Contacts

Address written comments to:

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For More Information

KYTC District 3 Website:
<http://www.kytc.state.ky.us/D3/d3.asp>

Alternative 3 and 4 (i.e., 3+4). Therefore, through the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Alternatives 1, 3+4, 5 and 6 will be studied in detail, including alignment options for each corridor. These alignment options in these build alternative corridors will be the Phase 1B alternatives.

Phase 1B Preliminary Alternatives

The more detailed analysis of Alternatives 3+4, 5 and 6 will be shared with the citizens of Warren County at the April 29, 2004 Public Information Meeting. These alternatives are described below:

- Alternative 1 – No-Build – consisting of the existing highway system plus any currently programmed highway improvements, such as reconstruction of KY 101
- Alternative 3+4 – Reconstruct existing roads – consisting of the widening of KY 446 and US 31W to 6 lanes from I-65 to US 68/KY 80, reconfiguration of KY 446/US 31W Interchange, modification of the I-65/US 68 interchange and the widening of US 68/KY 80 from I-65 to US 31W to four lanes (access would be partially controlled, with use of access roads)
- Alternative 5 – New I-65 to US 31W Connector – consisting of the construction of a new roadway from I-65 to US 31W including a new interchange on I-65, an at-grade intersection at

US 31W (access would be fully controlled), and local improvements on US 31W west to US 68/KY 80

- Alternative 6 – New I-65 to US 31W Connector with US 68/KY 80 Interchange – consisting of the construction of a new roadway from I-65 to US 31W including a new interchange on I-65, a new interchange at US 68/KY 80, an at-grade intersection at US 31W, and local improvements on US 31W west to US 68/KY 80 and US 68 / KY 80 west to US 31W

Next Steps

The next steps in this project include the following.

- Complete engineering and environmental evaluation of the Alternatives 3+4, 5, and 6.
- Initiate and implement Section 106 process
- Produce a DEIS that will address Alternatives 1, 3+4 (north and south options), 5, and 6 (Red, Blue, and Orange options)
- Hold a Public Hearing to received comments on the Approved DEIS
- Based on the findings in the DEIS and the comments received at the Public Hearing, identify a preferred alternative
- Develop the FEIS

