

**THE NEW US 31
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**The New US 31 Hamilton County
Public Open House
Westfield Middle School, Cafeteria
March 12, 2013
5 – 8 p.m.
Meeting Summary**

INDOT Team	
Don Ballard	Chad Nierman
Rickie Clark	Gary Pence
Wendy Griffiths	Nathan Riggs
Dawn Haecker	Sam Sarvis
Andrea Hermer	Joe Sheedy
Gail Lee	Dena White
Pat Moore	Will Wingfield

Design Team	
Chad Costa – RW Armstrong	Reed Nicholson – Green 3
Steve Fleming – RW Armstrong	Jeff Picker – Parsons Brinckerhoff
Melanie Killips – RW Armstrong	Jason Rowley – RW Armstrong
Dawn Kroh – Green 3	Seth Schickel – RW Armstrong
Duane McKinney – Parsons Brinckerhoff	Chris Schultz – RW Armstrong
Kim Mills – Parsons Brinckerhoff	Aaron Wood – Green 3
Paul Mykytka – Parsons Brinckerhoff	Mark Woodard – RW Armstrong

Public Outreach Team	
Sandhya Graves – Siyan Communications	Whitney Pflanzner – Borshoff
Jill Hoffmann – Empower Results	Lisa Tellus – Borshoff

DATE/TIME: March 12, 2013
LOCATION: Westfield Middle School, Cafeteria
SUBJECT: Annual public open house
NOTES BY: US 31 Hamilton County Public Outreach Team

PURPOSE: To provide updated information regarding The New US 31 Hamilton County project to the public. The public had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with project team members.

DISCUSSION: The New US 31 Hamilton County project team provided design and noise wall updates, discussed right of way and utility relocation status' and gave updates on ongoing/completed construction. Also, the team discussed the updated contract letting plan, upcoming construction plans and ongoing public outreach efforts.

ACTIONS: Attendees were encouraged to ask one-on-one questions of the team members, see a team presentation and take project handouts (fact sheets, "Follow Our Progress" cards and Gary Pence's contact cards).

OVERVIEW: The annual public open house was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at Westfield Middle School. Approximately 300 people attended.

General information:

- Rickie Clark, INDOT public hearing manager, opened the presentation at 6 p.m. and introduced INDOT project manager, Gary Pence.
- He outlined INDOT's mission and values, which read as follows:
 - INDOT's Mission: INDOT will plan, build, maintain and operate a superior transportation system enhancing safety, mobility and economic growth
 - INDOT's Values: Respect, Teamwork, Accountability, Excellence
- Gary explained that the purpose of the meeting was to disseminate project information and answer questions. He acknowledged Westfield Mayor Andy Cook and thanked everyone for attending the open house.

Design updates:

- Gary Pence outlined the agenda and presented the completed construction and design updates:
 - Agenda
 - Updates on ongoing construction
 - Design updates
 - Noise wall update
 - Right of way acquisition status
 - Utility relocation status
 - Upcoming 2013 construction plans
 - Future contract letting and construction sequencing
 - Ongoing public outreach efforts
 - What's been happening?
 - Currently, the US 31/SR 38 interchange, 146th Street bridge and US 31/Keystone Parkway/146th Street interchange are all complete.
 - Demolition and clearing contracts will continue to be ongoing.

- Crews will work on local roadway adjustments to meet the needs of the upcoming corridor work.
- Design updates
 - INDOT has worked with the cities of Carmel and Westfield to provide more access points, better traffic movements and more detour routes from I-465 to 116th Street.
 - INDOT, the City of Carmel and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) made the final decision to construct roundabout interchanges at both the 106th and 116th Street interchanges. Throughout the design process, these two interchanges have been presented with two design options: diamond and roundabout.
 - The design of the interchange at US 31 and SR 32 was changed to a single point interchange (SPUI), and the profile of the interchange was changed so that US 31 will now come up and over 181st Street and SR 32. This design change changes the noise profile in this area. Because of this, the team had to conduct new noise studies to determine if noise walls were warranted in this area. It was determined that a noise wall was warranted near North Glen Village mobile home park. The residents have approved construction of the noise wall.

Context sensitive design elements and right of way and utility updates:

- Jason Rowley, from RW Armstrong is The New US 31 Hamilton County design manager. He presented context sensitive design elements and right of way and utility updates for the corridor.
 - Context Sensitive Design elements:
 - Landscape and hardscape elements have been designed to fit the local feeling of the cities. Retaining walls are meant to mimic limestone.
 - There will be different colors (within each city's chosen color scheme) on every bridge along the corridor.
 - The team worked with locals regarding plants and landscaping maintenance.
 - There will be a detention pond near the Keystone Parkway ramps.
 - INDOT will work to maintain pedestrian and business access during construction.
 - Right of way acquisition status (as of 3/12/13)
 - Number of parcels in appraisal: 62
 - Number of parcels in negotiations: 12
 - Number of parcels in condemnation: 21
 - Number of parcels secured: 5
 - Number of parcels cleared: 149
 - Total impacted parcels: 203
 - Utility relocations
 - The New US 31 Hamilton County project is one of the largest utility corridors in the state.
 - Last year, utilities were relocated between 146th Street to 169th Street.
 - Duke, Vectren, Frontier and AT&T are working on relocating utilities in the area.
- **Duane McKinney from Parsons Brinckerhoff discussed upcoming 2013 construction**

- 2012 contract letting update (Construction occurring in 2013)
 - The most recent contract was let on Dec. 19, 2012. This contract includes the following:
 - US 31 from 146th Street to 169th Street
 - Split diamond interchange at 146th/151st Street
 - Roundabout interchange at 161st Street
 - Roundabout at 161st Street and Farr Hills Drive
 - Overpasses at 156th Street and Union Street
 - A frontage road will be constructed from 146th Street to 151st Street.
 - Greyhound Pass will be constructed as a right-in, right-out.
- Construction phasing 2013
 - Next year, the 151st Street/Greyhound Pass interchange and 161st Street interchange are scheduled to be constructed, pavement will be laid on mainline US 31 from 146th Street to south of 169th Street.
 - Also, there will be work on East Street, Oakbrook Parkway as well as local road improvements made near SR 32. Additionally, demolition, clearing and utility relocations will occur.
 - In spring, temporary widening will occur on mainline US 31. Nighttime closures will be necessary for this work, and the plan is to maintain two lanes in each direction during the daytime hours (subject to change). A temporary cross-over will go in just north of the 146th Street bridge, and temporary widening will go in along both sides of northbound US 31 from 151st to 169th Street.
 - In April/May, the contractor plans to implement the first phase of cross over traffic. The southbound lanes will cross over to northbound US 31.
 - Temporary lane closures will be necessary in 2013. For example, 151st Street is expected to be closed west of US 31 for approximately 60 days (maximum). This closure will be west of Target, so there will always be access to Target from US 31.
 - A closure is also necessary on 161st Street. Contractors will be given 120 days (maximum) to close the ramps/access to 161st Street to build the overpass and the interchange/ramps. April 15 would be the first date the contractor could start this closure. The Farr Hills Drive extension needs to be in place before this closure can happen.
 - Once 151st Street is open, there will be a short-term closure of Greyhound Pass. Either 151st Street or Greyhound Pass will be open at all times. But, pavement work needs to be completed on Greyhound Pass on the west side of the roadway. This closure period will be up to 30 days (maximum).
 - Then, traffic will be shifted onto the newly built southbound lanes. There will no longer be access to US 31 from 156th and Union streets, as US 31 will go over these roads. In this phase, northbound US 31 will be crossed over to the southbound lanes with two lanes in each direction. The off-ramp to 151st Street will be active with a signal. Some of the collector-distributor roads on the east side will be open to traffic. The connectivity between Greyhound Pass and 151st Street will also be active. The signal at Greyhound Pass will remain in place.
 - At the time of the cross over above, it is expected that the -161st Street interchange/ramps will be fully accessible. Two lanes will be maintained in each direction on US 31.

- The team expects the construction of the I-465 interchange to be completed in 2016. INDOT's goal is to have US 31 open to freeway standards (no stoplights) from north of I-465 to SR 38 by the end of 2015.
- Ongoing public outreach
 - Rickie Clark outlined the various public outreach mechanisms in place to help the public stay up to date with the project.
 - To sign up for the enewsletter, visit the "Enewsletter" page on the project website (www.us31hamiltoncounty.in.gov).
 - To sign up to receive text messages, text the word '**ROADS**' to **411247**.
 - The team is always willing to meet with any groups or organization to provide project information and answer questions.
 - Project updates are periodically sent to businesses along the corridor.
 - Real-time construction updates are available via the website, under the "Construction/Closure Information" tab.
 - Rickie closed the presentation at 6:35 p.m. and encouraged open house guests to see team representatives to answer any questions about the project. He recommended that guests remember to pick up "Follow Our Progress" cards and fact sheets at the registration.