

January 30, 2002

Name
Title
Organization
Address
City, St Zip

Re: Solicitation of Interest for Participation on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the US 231 Relocation Study, Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Dear ____:

This letter serves as an official solicitation of interest for participating in the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the US 231 Relocation Study (see "Project History" below) in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Please reply whether you are or are not interested by returning the attached application/reply form.

This letter and application, as well as other information concerning the CAC and project, are also posted on the project website (www.relocate231.com). Individuals representing groups/organizations that do not receive this invitation directly are encouraged to apply using the application posted on the website.

CAC Involvement:

INDOT will involve the CAC during the entire Public Involvement Process. CAC members will serve as liaisons between the project team (described in "Project History" below) and the groups/organizations they represent, as well as the larger community. The CAC will provide input on community issues and provide feedback on certain aspects of project development.

The CAC will also assist in the development of the Community Impact Assessment & Mitigation (CIA Report) portion of the US 231 Relocation Study. The CIA Report will contain environmental, social and economic data and will analyze the impacts to the community associated with the project. This report will ensure that any environmental justice issues are satisfied, and that, if warranted, community mitigation measures are developed.

Although INDOT and FHWA will maintain ultimate authority over decisions regarding the project, the CAC serves in an important advisory role.

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The committee will be comprised of community members and representatives, such as:

Airport representative	Parks & Recreation representative
City-elected representatives	Neighborhood Leaders (up to 6)
County-elected representatives	Purdue University representative
City Administrators	Others, as deemed appropriate

We are seeking input from the community and its leaders to determine what individuals best represent the community. In order to keep the CAC functional, it is important to keep the group small (approximately 20 members). Applications (and nominations) will be accepted through Monday, February 18, 2002 (postmark date).

The committee will meet on an as needed basis. It is anticipated that the committee will need to meet approximately four times over the course of the project and that meetings will last approximately one to two hours. INDOT's Project Manager and representatives from the project consultant (Michael Baker Jr., Inc.) will facilitate each meeting. The CAC Kick-off meeting date and location will be distributed to those individuals that are selected to participate in this committee.

Project History:

In 1992, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Tippecanoe County, Lafayette, and West Lafayette jointly initiated a project to relocate US 231 and construct a new bridge over the Wabash River. The project's Preferred Alternative (PA) consisted of Line A, including a Wabash River Crossing, and Line 1 as identified in the 1985 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Since the September 1992 Record of Decision (ROD), Line A and the Wabash River Crossing have been constructed. Line 1 of the PA has not been constructed at this time.

In the interval between the ROD and the current period, there have been noticeable changes in the landscape due to new construction and development within the original Line 1 Project Area. The original Project Area is experiencing a period of rapid development that is primarily confined to the eastern third of the area. In that area, there are several new subdivisions under construction. Partly because of this development, FHWA and INDOT have decided to reevaluate the build alternatives for the area north of the Wabash River and to prepare an environmental document for the FEIS in accordance to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

INDOT, on behalf of the FHWA, is also reinitiating the Section 106 Review and Coordination Process with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (IDHPA) in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Advisory

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Council on Historic Preservation's current regulations of 36 CFR 800, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and other applicable laws and regulations.

A Project Team has been assembled by INDOT. The Project Team consists of members of the FHWA, INDOT, local metropolitan planning organization (Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County - TCAPC), and Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (consultant).

The Public Kick-off Meeting for the project was held on January 17, 2002 from 5 - 8 p.m. at Purdue University's Stewart Center. General information on the project, as well as information pertaining to the Public Kick-off Meeting is available on the project website (www.relocate231.com).

How to get involved:

If you are interested in serving on the CAC, please respond by completing the CAC Application (enclosed). You may also obtain this information via the project website. The CAC application deadline is February 18, 2002 (postmark date).

Following the receipt of applications, final CAC membership will be determined by INDOT and committee members will be posted to the project website. We hope to conduct the CAC Kick-off meeting sometime in late February. As noted above, additional information on the role of the CAC is provided on the project website and will be updated as new information becomes available.

If you have any comments or questions, please post them to the project website via the feedback page or submit them in writing via US mail.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Wendy L. Vachet
Project Manager – US 231 Relocation Project
701 E. 83rd Avenue
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

enclosed: CAC Application

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Membership Application US 231 Relocation Study

Yes, I am interested in serving on the CAC.
See my responses below.

No, I am not interested in serving on the CAC.

This application must be
postmarked no later than
February 18, 2002.

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

What groups/organizations do you represent? (e.g. community, religious, cultural, ethnic, special interest, business) **Please provide the exact name and address for each group AND a description of its purpose/mission OR what interests it represents.** Feel free to use additional sheets, if necessary.

Explain your role(s) in the group(s)/organization(s) you listed.

Explain why your group(s)/organization(s) should be represented on the CAC.

Which days of the week/times are you available to meet for the CAC meetings?
(meetings will last approximately 1-2 hours) **Do you have any suggestions for meeting locations?**

Please return this application (postmarked by February 18, 2002) to:

Wendy L. Vachet
Project Manager – US 231 Relocation Project
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
701 E. 83rd Avenue
Merrillville, Indiana 46410