



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Indiana Division

575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 254
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

March 21, 2002

Mr. John R. Goss
State Historic Preservation Officer
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room W256 IGCS
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Goss:

Subject: US 231 Relocation

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is preparing an Environmental Document that will re-examine a full range of alternatives for the proposed relocation of U.S. 231 between State Road (SR) 26 and US 52 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

A brief project history is as follows: in 1992, FHWA, 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), as identified in the 1985 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (1985 DEIS) and the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement (1992 FEIS), consisted of "Line A" from south of CR 500S to Harrison Bridge (including a Wabash River crossing), and "Line 1" from South River Road to US 52. Since the September 1992 Record of Decision (1992 ROD), Line A including the Wabash River Crossing has been constructed. Line 1 of the PA has not been constructed at this time.

In the interval between the 1992 Record of Decision (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 Line 1 Project Area is experiencing a period of rapid development that is primarily confined to the eastern third of the area. In that area, several new subdivisions are under construction. Because of this development, FHWA and INDOT have decided to reevaluate build alternatives for the area north of the Wabash River and initiate an additional environmental study and associated documentation in accordance with NEPA.

One of the issues that the Environmental Document will address is the potential effects upon historic properties. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings (in this

case the proposed improvements to U.S. 231) on historic properties.

Enclosed is the list of possible consulting parties that are being invited to participate in consultation at this time. Per 36 CFR 800.3(f), we hereby request that the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) notify this office if the SHPO is aware of any other parties that may be entitled to be consulting parties for this project.

During the next public information meeting that will focus on the screening of alternatives, the Federal Highway Administration will be available to answer questions regarding the Section 106 consultation process for the proposed relocation of U.S. 231 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

Sincerely,

John R. Baxter, P.E.
Division Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelby M. Fuller".

By: Shelby M. Fuller
Environmental Engineer

Enclosures