

I-69 Community Conversation Questions

1. Why did the fire station at Smith Valley need to be moved now?
The fire station needed to be relocated because of the new interchange. INDOT worked closely with the department to find a suitable location and paid for the construction of a new but comparable fire station. The current location won't cease operations until the new facility is built and functional.
2. Just curious as to why the worst part of 37 is being improved last? The 37/465 interchange.
It made sense from a construction sequencing perspective to begin in Martinsville and continue up the corridor. However, with an accelerated schedule, there will be construction throughout the corridor starting in 2020 or 2021. There will likely be some work around the 465 interchange beginning in 2021.
3. Is Morgantown road going to be widened?
4. What improvements are planned for 144 between 37 and Bargersville?
144 east of SR 37 is a county road.
5. Are there going to be any improvements to 144 from 37 to Whiteland.
144 east of SR 37 is a county road
6. Why is there no parallel access road between 144 & Smith Valley road?
There are. There is a new access road on the west side, and portion of an access up to Stones Crossing on the east side. From Stones Crossing access to the Smith Valley Road interchange is via Mullinix Road, which includes a new intersection at Smith Valley and Mullinix.
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%206%20State%20Road%20144%20to%20Smith%20Valley%20Road.pdf>.
7. What in your opinion would be a hardship for selling a property early?
The first opportunity for property owners to identify themselves as a potential hardship is during the Kitchen Table Meeting (KTM). In the Code of Federal Regulations, hardship cases are defined as:
Sec. 710.503 Protective buying and hardship acquisition.
(a) General conditions. Prior to the State Transportation Department (STD) obtaining final environmental approval, the STD may request FHWA agreement to provide reimbursement for advance acquisition of a particular parcel or a limited number of parcels, to prevent imminent development and increased costs on the preferred location (Protective Buying), or to alleviate hardship to a property owner or owners on the preferred location (Hardship Acquisition), provided the following conditions are met:
(1) The project is included in the currently approved STIP;
(2) The STD has complied with applicable public involvement requirements in 23 CFR parts 450 and 771;

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(3) A determination has been completed for any property subject to the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 138; and

(4) Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are completed for properties subject to 16 U.S.C. 470(f) (historic properties).

(b) Protective buying. The STD must clearly demonstrate that development of the property is imminent and such development would limit future transportation choices. A significant increase in cost may be considered as an element justifying a protective purchase.

(c) **Hardship acquisitions.** The STD must accept and concur in a request for a hardship acquisition based on a property owner's written submission that:

(1) Supports the hardship acquisition by providing justification, on the basis of health, safety or financial reasons, that remaining in the property poses an undue hardship compared to others; and

(2) Documents an inability to sell the property because of the impending project, at fair market value, within a time period that is typical for properties not impacted by the impending project.

(d) Environmental decisions. Acquisition of property under this section shall not influence the environmental assessment of a project, including the decision relative to the need to construct the project or the selection of a specific location.

8. When will Smith Valley Road be widened between 37 and 135 be widened?

9. What is the projected date of the roundabout at Mullinix Road?

The construction schedule has not been finalized but sometime between 2020 and 2024.

10. What are the plans to correct/improve the local roads in White River Township to handle even more traffic?

11. Why is it necessary to close a portion of 37 north of Edgewood? Could you not just bifurcate this to both roads?

The addition of an interchange to carry through traffic from I-69 onto I-465 will require local roadways to convey local traffic onto the interstate. The portion of SR 37 that remains will serve local purpose and not through traffic.

12. When is proposed start of section 6 construction?

There will be some offline construction in Martinsville this year – Grand Valley Boulevard overpass and extension, new Artesian Avenue, work on Cramertown Loop. Proposed construction phasing for Martinsville can be found here:

https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/2018-0914_Constr_by_Yr_.pdf.

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13. Will Center Grove Little League be affected by the Smith Valley Road interchange?

No.

14. Can you please explain how the new access road will affect the Wakefield subdivision?

The intent is that motorists moving between the County Line and Smith Valley interchanges use Morgantown Road. It is a distance of approximately 3.5 miles, and it will be the most direct and quickest route. Taking Bluff Road down and through the Wakefield subdivision is approximately 3.2 miles with slower speeds, twists and turns, and ultimately a longer travel time. There are traffic mitigation measures the county can take to limit the amount of traffic that goes through the subdivision, including strict enforcement and driver education, and other measures that make it a less desirable option.

Commented [FS1]: I'd say it will be the most direct and quickest route rather than speculate 'most likely'.

15. Do the current online Section 6 maps include all changes to date?

The maps in the Martinsville Re-evaluation Meeting reflect changes made in Martinsville after the publication of the FEIS:

<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/2535.htm>.

The remainder of the maps from the FEIS are current:

<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/2345.htm>.

16. Will old Bluff Rd be connected as a frontage rd along I69 from County Line Rd to hwy 44

No.

17. Brentridge Estates entrance is on Morgantown Road. How will it be affected? If the two brick walls at the entrance have to be torn down, who will pay for a replacement?

18. Are there still plans to connect I69 to I65 via Worthsville Road?

19. How will Morgantown traffic be impacted?

20. When the interchange goes in at Smith valley what is going to be done to Smith valley and Smith valley and 135 intersection to help with increased traffic?

21. I work in Bloomington and have struggled through the last 4 years. INDOT and construction contractor seemed to have no regard for the 20 to 30 minutes added to a commute. What will change to consider citizens impacted?

The project team will attempt to minimize delays associated with construction, but with a project of this size delays are inevitable and commuters are encouraged to plan other routes during heavy construction.

22. Could the Smith Valley fire station be converted to a maintenance facility or other use and kept?

The current station will need to be demolished because it sits in the interchange right of way.

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23. Will you please update us regarding plans for frontage roads from Smith Valley Rd north?
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%207%20Smith%20Valley%20Road%20to%20Stop%2011%20Road.pdf>.
24. Related to this, what are the plans for a sound barrier on the east side of the Interstate from Smith Valley to County Line?
On the east side of the highway, a segment from about Honey Creek to near the animal hospital at Bluff Road is eligible for sound barriers.
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%207%20Smith%20Valley%20Road%20to%20Stop%2011%20Road.pdf>.
25. The governor last night said the I-69 project was 3 years ahead of schedule. When will section 6 start (construction) and what is the estimated completion date?
Some construction will begin in Martinsville this year. The entire corridor is anticipated to be completed by 2024. The bulk of mainline construction activity will be 2021-2024.
26. What is planned for the exit? We need nice hotels and dining.
27. Do the current online Section 6 maps include all changes to date?
See #15.
28. The environmental impact and other studies will likely expire before Section 6 is contracted. I believe Federal law requires a new round of alternative studies. Can we expect another round of alternative studies which may likely result in deviations from the current plan?
The current FEIS will not expire before construction begins or ends.
29. Can old Bluff Road be reconnected to County Line and Wicker Road?
30. What is the expected increase in traffic on stones crossing and where will the frontage road merge onto stones crossing?
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%206%20State%20Road%20144%20to%20Smith%20Valley%20Road.pdf>
31. Will the hill at Co Line and Morgantown be cut down
32. Will old Bluff Rd be connected as a frontage rd along I69 from County Line Rd to hwy 44
No.
33. Will Center Grove Little League be affected by the Smith Valley Road interchange?
No.
34. 1. Will you please update us regarding plans for frontage roads from Smith Valley Rd north?
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%207%20Smith%20Valley%20Road%20to%20Stop%2011%20Road.pdf>

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<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%208%20Stop%2011%20Road%20to%20I-465.pdf>

35. Related to this, what are the plans for a sound barrier on the east side of the Interstate from Smith Valley to County Line? Thank you.
See #24.
36. There are a couple homes west of the highway on Fairview Rd... will those families be able to access their homes?
Yes, via a new access road.
37. What is the expected increase in traffic on stones crossing and where will the frontage road merge onto stones crossing
38. Where can we see the maps of traffic patterns etc utilized tonight?
39. What is the improvement plan for SR144 from Mooresville to I-69?
40. What is the expected increase in traffic on stones crossing and where will the frontage road merge onto stones crossing
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%206%20State%20Road%20144%20to%20Smith%20Valley%20Road.pdf>.
41. Where can we see the maps of traffic patterns etc utilized tonight?
42. Will sewer and other ground utilities be placed east side
43. Floodplains and aquifers exist all along this section. How will they be protected
There is a wealth of information about these topics in the Water Resources chapter of the FEIS:
https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/I69S6FEIS_Ch5.19_Water.pdf.
44. How long before property is purchased (or offer to land owners) at the 144 & 37 area?
Appraisals and purchasing in that area has begun and will continue throughout this year.
45. I have commuted to Bloomington for the past four years. INDOT and the contractors seemed to have no regard for the 20 to 30 minutes added to a commute during the construction. How will this be different?
The project team will attempt to minimize delays associated with construction, but with a project of this size delays are inevitable and commuters are encouraged to plan other routes during heavy construction.
46. How will Morgantown traffic be impacted?
47. Several subdivisions have drainage issues, sewage backflow, and flooding. Has this issue been studied if current drainage flow and natural runoff and capacity will be impacted? This is a huge issue for many homeowners.
For the interstate project, the state will retain surface water from the right-of-way. It will be released to natural waterways at a rate that is prescribed by state standards. If there is a drainage issue unrelated to state right-of-way it won't be addressed.

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48. Isn't the Center Grove school tax rate one of the lowest in the county?
49. When will INDOT take over 144 between SR67 and SR135 and make it a five-lane state road?
SR 144 between SR 67 and SR 37 is already a state road. CR 144 from SR 37 to SR 135 is a county road.
50. How far east of I-69 will Smith Valley Road be widened and when will it happen?
The yellow indicates road construction or improvement. You can see from the map how far the improvements will go. There is no firm schedule for when this work will occur.
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%206%20State%20Road%20144%20to%20Smith%20Valley%20Road.pdf>
51. Heard at the beginning of this meeting there was enough cash to proceed with development so why all this about TAXES????
52. What are the plans for the connecting road between 37 and Bluff Road north of the veterinarian hospital, and will Bluff Road be extended back south to Smith Valley Road?
<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/files/Map%207%20Smith%20Valley%20Road%20to%20Stop%2011%20Road.pdf>
53. Will a roundabout be put in at Fairview Rd and Peterman Rd?
54. Will tax abatements be used to encourage economic development, and if so, would that affect infrastructure growth?
55. What are the plans for the connecting road between 37 and Bluff Road north of the veterinarian hospital, and will Bluff Road be extended to connect it to Smith Valley Road?
See #52.
56. What about traffic using Travis Rd going to Bypass Road to get to I-69. Northbound traffic will be cutting through Travis to get to I-69?
57. When will we actually start to see orange cones in Section 6?
Most likely 2020, but for certain 2021-2024.
58. Is the plan to start from Martinsville and go north or to start at 465 and come south?
Martinsville then head north, but there will most likely be construction throughout the corridor 2021-2024.
59. Who is responsible for the work needed to County Line Road? Marion or Johnson county?
60. Will 37-69 be shut down completely for any period of time
A full closure of SR 37 from SR 39 to just north of SR 44 (Martinsville segment) is scheduled for the 2021 construction season. Construction sequence and detour routes have not been determined for segments north of Martinsville at this time.
61. How is Morgan County paying for their local improvements?

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62. What county officials do we contact to get action on these important / immediate needs? County Commissioners & County Council members
63. So the actual window of time for construction of section 6.4 is 2022-25, correct?
It is possible we'll see some construction in section 6.4 as early as 2020.
However, construction sequencing north of Martinsville is still being evaluated.
64. Will 67 become a heavily traveled alternative from 465 to Martinsville? Can it handle it?
Traffic studies show that the proposed detour during 2021 (SR 39 to SR 67 to SR 144) can handle the additional traffic.
65. Will tax abatements be used to encourage economic development, and if so, would that affect infrastructure growth?
66. Is the Center Grove area at a disadvantage since it is not incorporated as a town? (Mr. DeBoer)
67. How much are the expected improvements to cost Johnson County?
68. What can we do to get more money out of the MPO?
69. What is the timing for the projects that are required to support the I-69 project?
70. How do we prevent the decision makers who grant curb cuts from caving into business owners who desire them? Case in point, 135 where the controls did not work.
71. Any bets that when I69 is complete that is when the City of Indianapolis will close County Line to widen it and Johnson Co will do the same thing for Smith Valley?