



## MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** July 27, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Meeting:** Environmental Justice (EJ) Working Group Meeting #2

**Location:** Switzerland County Technology and Education Center, Vevay, Indiana and Microsoft Teams

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Laura Hilden	INDOT
Sarah Rubin	INDOT
Kari Carmany-George	FHWA
Anna Wainscott	Parsons
Berry Craig	Parsons
Cory Grayburn	Parsons
Dan Prevost	Parsons
JoAnn Schutte	Rasor
Mindy Peterson	Parsons
Nick Batta	CMT
Bridget Bascolm-Hinkle	Community Mental Health Center
Erin Thomas	Lifetime Resources
Jeannette Huelseman	WorkOne Southeast
Karen Snyder	United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Lexi Bushhorn	Ripley County Health Department
Paula Brooks	Hoosier Environmental Council
Rhett Dennerline	Guest
Tara Britton	Southeastern Indiana YMCA

ITEM	TOPIC/DISCUSSION
1	A copy of the meeting's PowerPoint presentation is attached to this meeting summary.
2	Mindy Peterson (Parsons) discussed the purpose of the EJ Meeting and welcomed the group.
3	Mindy (Parsons) discussed the role of EJ members.
4	It was requested that future meetings maintain a hybrid option. Most attendees favored morning meetings.
5	Karen Snyder (UWGC) said she appreciates the virtual option, and morning time is best.
6	Mindy (Parsons) provided an overview of the Link 101 project, noting it is an Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) project evaluating alternatives for an improved State Road 101 connection between the Markland Dam and US 50. The project is expected to improve connectivity in southeastern Indiana. The project area includes portions of Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn and Ripley counties. Environmental analysis and preliminary design work are underway.
7	Dan Prevost (Parsons) presented the draft Purpose and Need statement for the project. A Purpose and Need statement is the "why" – why the project is being conducted – and is the foundation of the decision-making process and project design. The project Purpose and Need aims to reduce travel time, improve safety, meet current design standards and provide a route above the Laughery Creek flood plain by analyzing travel time and distance, safety and

	geometric deficiencies. Ten preliminary alternatives were shared. All start at SR 101 at Markland Dam, consider a range of destination along US 50 and consider areas of challenging terrain. Alternatives are screened based on Purpose and Need. Feedback from the public and agencies and helps guide alternative refinements.
9	Mindy (Parsons) discussed next steps. The draft environmental document is expected in fall 2024. A public hearing and formal comment period will be held. Two public meetings will be held next week. The first in-person meeting is August 2 at South Dearborn High School, 5:30 to 7 pm with a 6 pm presentation. The second in-person meeting is August 3 at Switzerland County Middle School, 5:30 to 7 pm with a 6 pm presentation A virtual meeting is planned for August 8 at 6 pm. A registration link will be provided. Comments associated with public meetings will be accepted through September 8 <sup>th</sup> . Comments can be shared in person at the comment station, online at <a href="http://Link101Corridor.com">Link101Corridor.com</a> , via mail to the project office, or by visiting the project office.
10	Paula Brooks (Hoosier Environmental Group) asked if there was a way to log formal comments verbally. Some people are intimidated by the formal process and paperwork. She recommended having a table to record verbal responses might enhance the volume of responses. Mindy (Parsons) thanked Paula for the suggestion. The Project Team will work to accommodate. (Note: An individual verbal comment option was included at both meetings.)
11	Rhett Dennerline (Guest) asked how comments are a part of the process. The Project Team welcomes comments and reviews them to adjust the project.
12	Mindy (Parsons) shared Link 101 social media channels and website. The project website, <a href="http://Link101Corridor.com">Link101Corridor.com</a> has project information, FAQs, maps and more. EJ/CAC and public meeting materials will be posted there. Sign up for project updates via email or text. Multiple contact channels are available with all feedback shared with the Project Team. The Project Office is in the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center, 2nd floor. The office is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and by appointment. Visit <a href="http://Link101Corridor.com">Link101Corridor.com</a> to learn more, call 844-LINK101 (546-5101) or email <a href="mailto:Info@Link101Corridor.com">Info@Link101Corridor.com</a> .
13	Mindy (Parsons) reminded the group about upcoming events. Public meetings are August 2 and 3. The virtual meeting will be August 8. It will be recorded and available on the website as well as all project materials. Amish community has been notified. The Project Team has posted fliers out in the community and sent a postcard to 13,000 homes about the meetings. The Project Team has also advertised the meetings in the newspapers and social media. After the meetings, there will be numerous opportunities to submit comments. Comments are always welcome, but the official comment period ends Sept. 8. The Project Office will also have a large map on display. The website has a great deal of information, and social media channels share much information as well.
14	Rhett (Guest) asked if increased traffic will lead to a higher accident rate. Dan (Parsons) responded that project will include a crash analysis.
15	Rhett (Guest) asked if freight traffic is a goal of the project. Dan (Parsons) indicated that freight movement is not explicitly a purpose of the project, but that it's expected that any of the alternatives would permit trucks.
16	Rhett (Guest) asked if comment forms will be the same as last time. Mindy (Parsons) explained that they would be similar in look but updated to solicit feedback on the draft Purpose and Need and preliminary alternatives.

17	Rhett (Guest) suggested a no build option. Dan (Parsons) said that no build is always an option in every project.
18	Jeannette Hulseman (WorkOne) asked why we are considering alternatives that have zero existing roads. She does not think it's a good idea financially or environmentally. Dan (Parsons) explained that the alternatives include a wide range of possibilities. The alternatives would utilize existing roads to varying degrees, from some that are all or mostly new alignment to others that would entirely or almost entirely utilize existing roads.
19	Paula (Hoosier Environmental Council) asked if farm equipment and multi-modal transportation was still being considered. Dan (Parsons) indicated that, yes, those vehicle types are being considered and will be evaluated in more detail when the list of alternatives is narrowed.
20	Rhett (Guest) asked about a possible increase in traffic and Dan (Parsons) indicated traffic analysis is still to come.
21	Rhett (Guest) asked about freight travel and if it is a need for the project. Dan (Parsons) indicated it is not a primary purpose of Link 101.
22	Closing remarks from Mindy (Parsons) and Dan (Parsons) (including a call for any additional comments).



# Environmental Justice (EJ) Working Group Meeting

**July 27, 2023**



# PRESENTERS



**Dan Prevost**

Project Manager, Parsons



**Mindy Peterson**

Public Involvement Director, Parsons

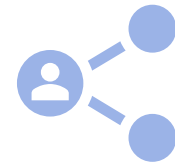
# AGENDA TOPICS

1. **Project Overview**
2. **Draft Purpose and Need**
3. **Preliminary Alternatives**
4. **Next Steps**
5. **Follow Our Progress**
6. **Contact Us**

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Discuss** issues with the potential to impact low-income or minority populations
- **Serve** as liaison between community or organization and Project Team
- **Share** views and identify local concerns in two-way communications with Project Team
- **Act** as an advisor and share project information with others



# EJ WORKING GROUP MEMBER BENEFITS

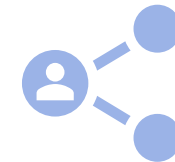
- Consistent communication
- Better understanding of project issues
- Detailed discussion of key issues
- Opportunity to hear differing views
- Opportunity for collaborative problem solving
- Opportunity to build understanding and support throughout the project





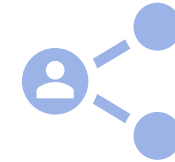
# TODAY'S MEETING

- **Draft Purpose and Need** to be shared
- **Preliminary alternatives** to be discussed
- **Public meeting** information will be shared
- **Comment channels** and outreach will be discussed
- **EJ feedback** is an important part of the process



# EJ KICK-OFF MEETING

- **Kick-off** meeting held in January
- **Introduced** Link 101 and role of EJ Working Group
- **Discussed** connectivity, travel habits, community needs and ways to connect with the community
- **Meeting minutes** shared with the group



# FOR DISCUSSION

- **Meeting format preference?** Virtual? In-person?
- **Meeting time preference?** Morning? Midday? Evening?
- **Contact preference?** Email? Phone?



# PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

- **Open house** and presentation
- **Discussions** at stations continue following presentation
- **Review** draft Purpose and Need
- **Review** preliminary alternatives
- **Talk** with Project Team members
- **Complete** a comment form





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Link 101 is an Indiana Department of Transportation project in southeast Indiana.
- It's evaluating alternatives for an improved SR 101 connection between the Markland Dam and US 50.
- The project is expected to improve connectivity in southeastern Indiana.
- The project area includes portions of Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn and Ripley counties.



# WHERE WE ARE

- The project is in the environmental and preliminary design stage.
- The draft Purpose and Need (P&N) is available for review.
- The P&N is “the why” for the project.
- Preliminary alternatives have been developed.
- The wide range of alternatives is based on data gathered by the Project Team and input from the public.



# THE BIG PICTURE

- The ten preliminary alternatives will go through a screening process.
- A smaller number of alternatives will be carried forward for more detailed analysis.
- Benefits, impacts and costs will help identify a single preferred alternative and a formal comment period will follow.
- The preferred alternative is expected to be identified in the draft environmental document in fall 2024.
- A timeline for construction will be determined at the end of the environmental study.







# PURPOSE AND NEED

# PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

- Project *determines* the *Purpose and Need*
- It's the **WHY**
  - Tells *why* the project is being conducted
  - Provides the *general vision* of the project
  - States the intended or *desired outcomes*
  - Expresses the *transportation issues* and *problems*
  - *Foundation* of decision-making process and project design



# DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED



## Project Need:

- **Travel time and distance** along existing fastest and shortest route from SR 101 at Markland Dam to US 50 is 15 minutes and 5.5 miles longer than a corresponding straight-line route.
- Existing fastest and shortest route has **numerous geometric deficiencies**.
- Laughery Creek crossings are **below the 100-year floodplain**.
- **Slide-prone areas** create **access** and **safety issues**.
- There is **no route** that **provides reliable, safe, and efficient connectivity** through the project area.



# DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED



## Project Purpose:

- **Reduce travel time** within the project area by improving connectivity.
- **Improve safety within the project area** by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on roadways with elevated crash locations.
- **Provide a roadway** that meets current design standards.
- **Provide a roadway** that is above the Laughery Creek 100-year floodplain elevation and minimizes the risk of slides.

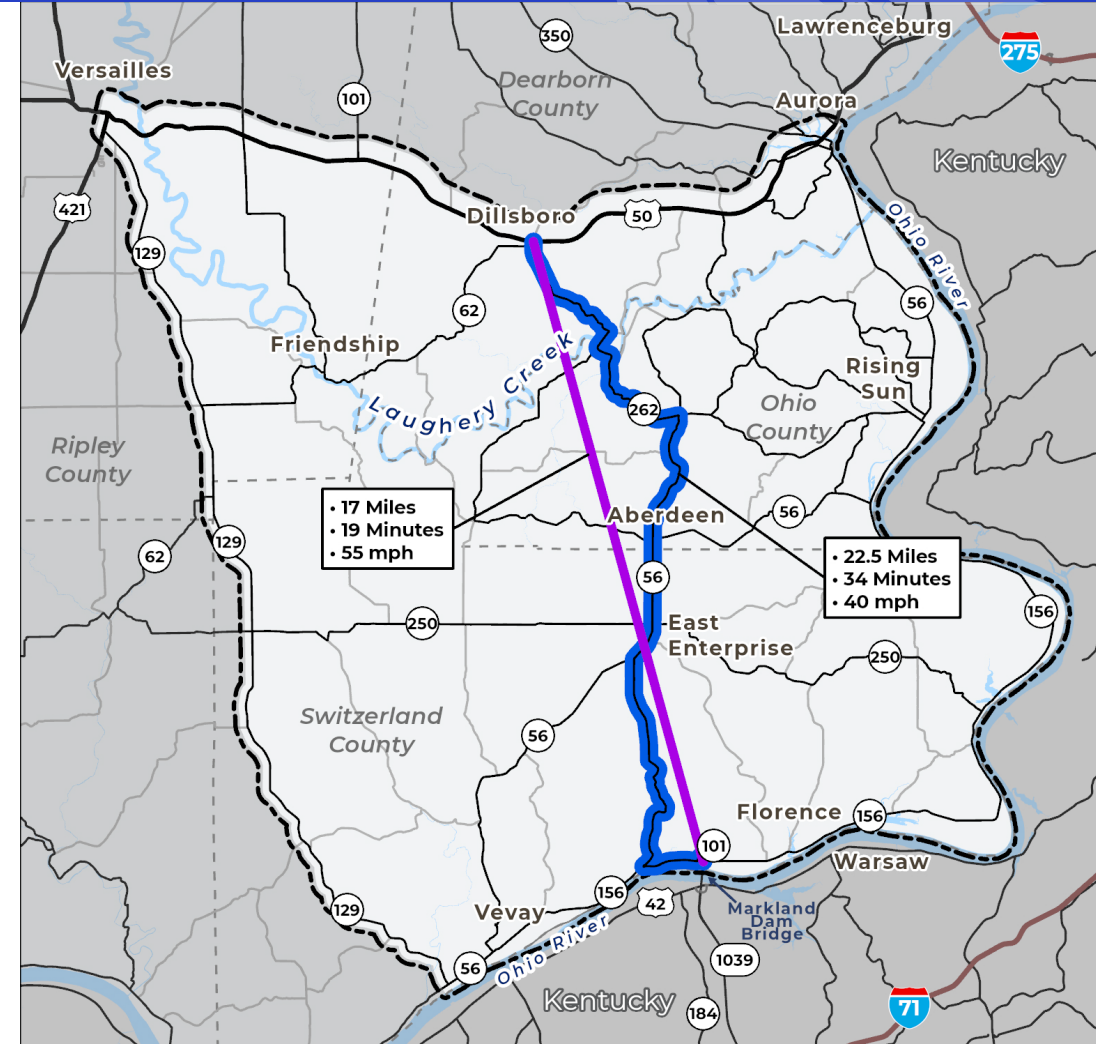


# TRAVEL TIME AND DISTANCE

## Need

- No direct path from Markland Dam Bridge to US 50
- 15 minutes and 5.5 miles longer than straight line path
- Truck restrictions increase travel times for trucks

**Purpose** | Reduce travel time within the project area by improving connectivity.



Existing Fastest & Shortest Route  
Straight Line Route

Project Area

LINK 101

0 1 2 3 4 5  
Miles

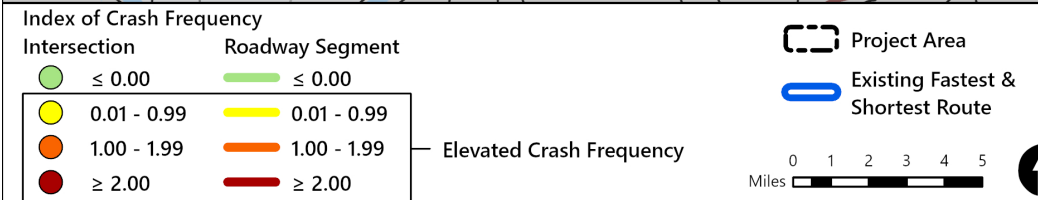
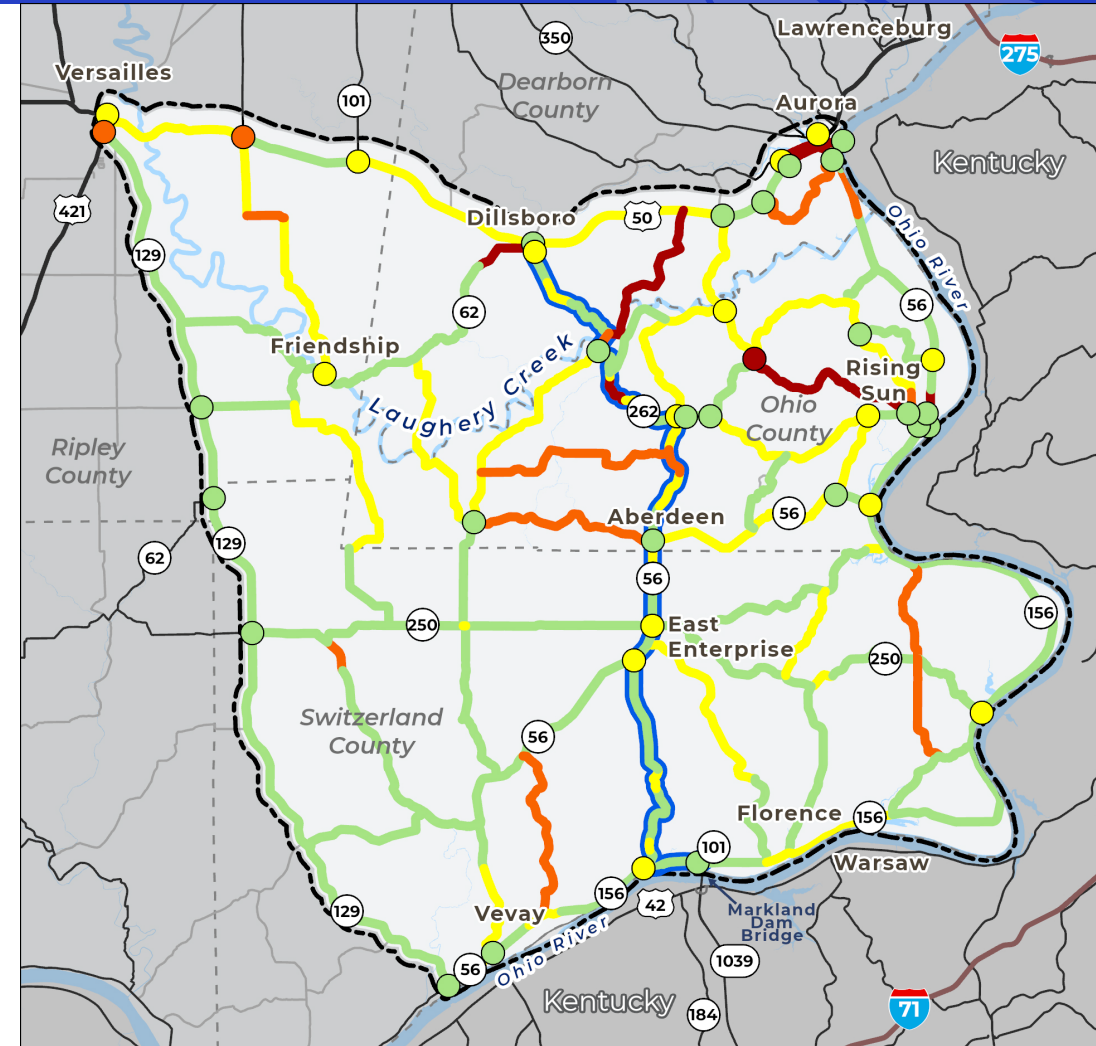


# SAFETY

## Need

- Elevated crash locations along the existing fastest and shortest route
- Elevated crash locations throughout the project area, with a higher concentration in the northern half

**Purpose** | Improve safety by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on roadways with elevated crash locations.

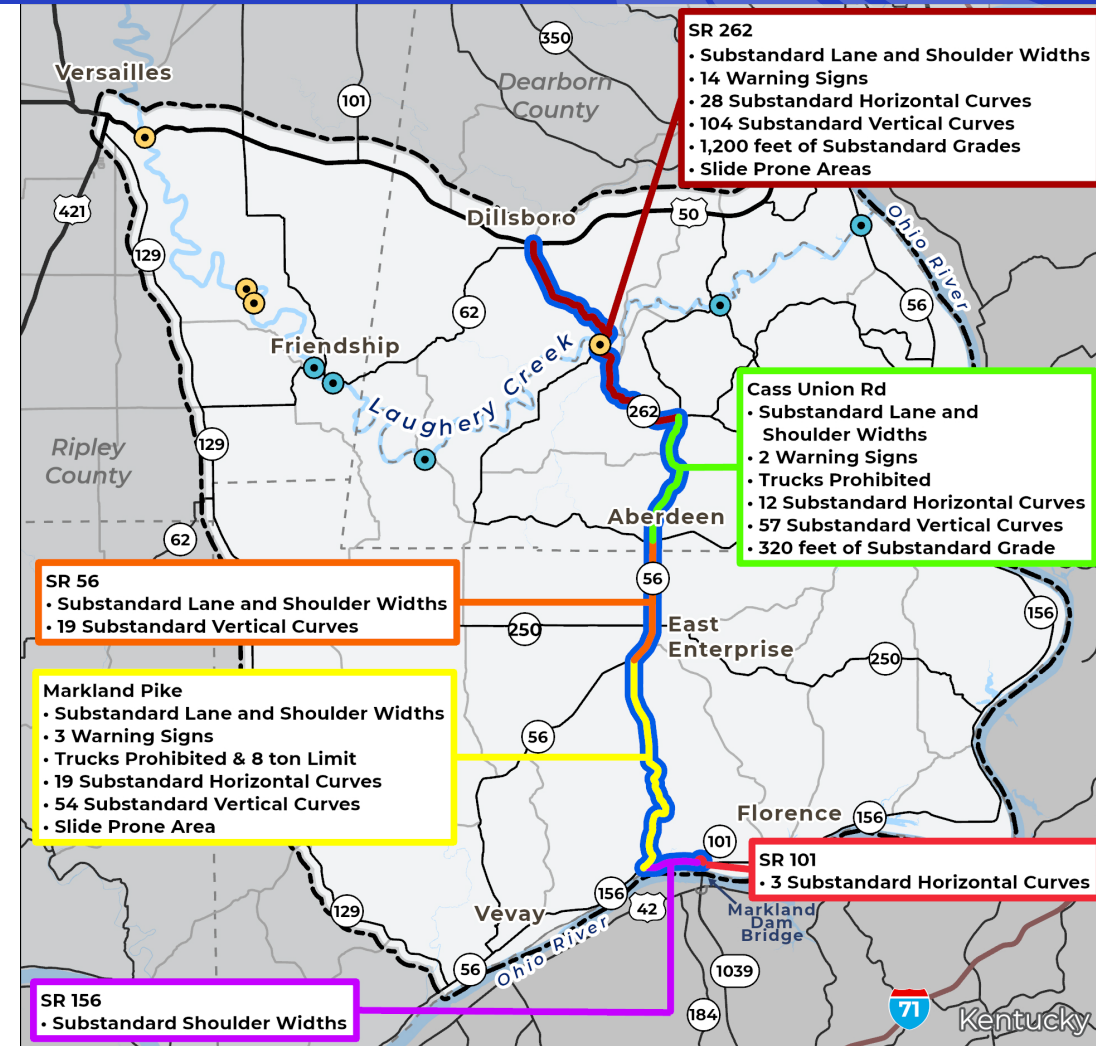


# GEOMETRIC DEFICIENCIES

## Need

- Existing fastest/shortest route has narrow lanes/shoulders, sharp curves, and poor sight distance.
- Geometric deficiencies contribute to poor safety outcomes, travel times, and connectivity.

**Purpose** | Provide roadway meeting current design standards



Laughery Creek Crossings Below 100-year Flood Elevation

- Approaches Only
- Bridge and Approaches

Project Area

Existing Fastest & Shortest Route

LINK 101

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



# GEOMETRIC DEFICIENCIES



## Need

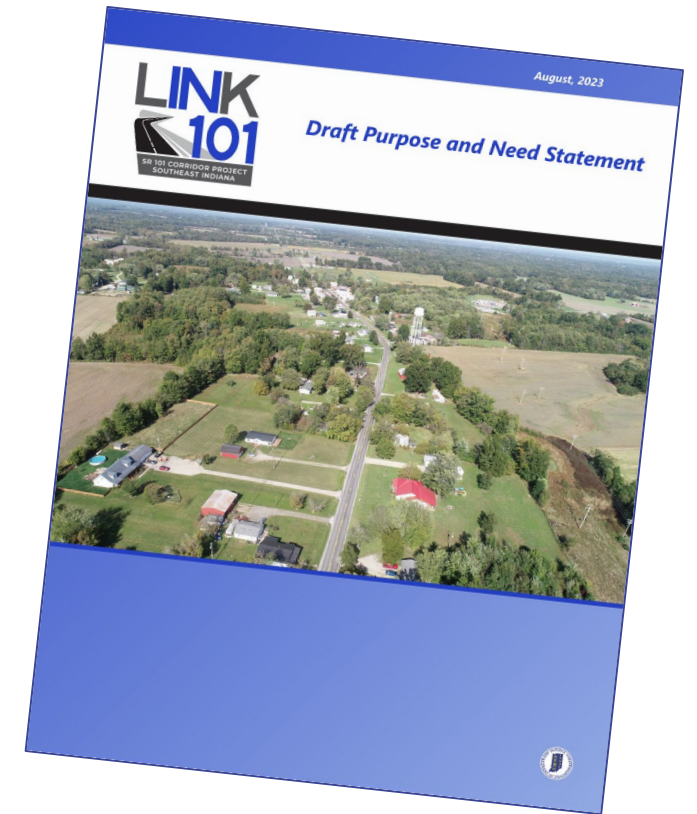
- Laughery Creek crossings in project area have roadway approaches and/or bridges below the 100-year flood elevation, jeopardizing access and safety during flood events.
- Slide-prone areas create potential access and safety issues.

**Purpose** | Provide a roadway that is above the Laughery Creek 100-year floodplain elevation and minimizes the risk of slides.



# PURPOSE AND NEED

- **We want feedback** on the draft Purpose and Need.
- Several ways to share comments:
  - **In-person** at the comment station
  - **Online** at [Link101Corridor.com](http://Link101Corridor.com)
  - **Via mail** to project office
  - **Project office** visit
- Comments associated with public meetings accepted through **September 8, 2023**.



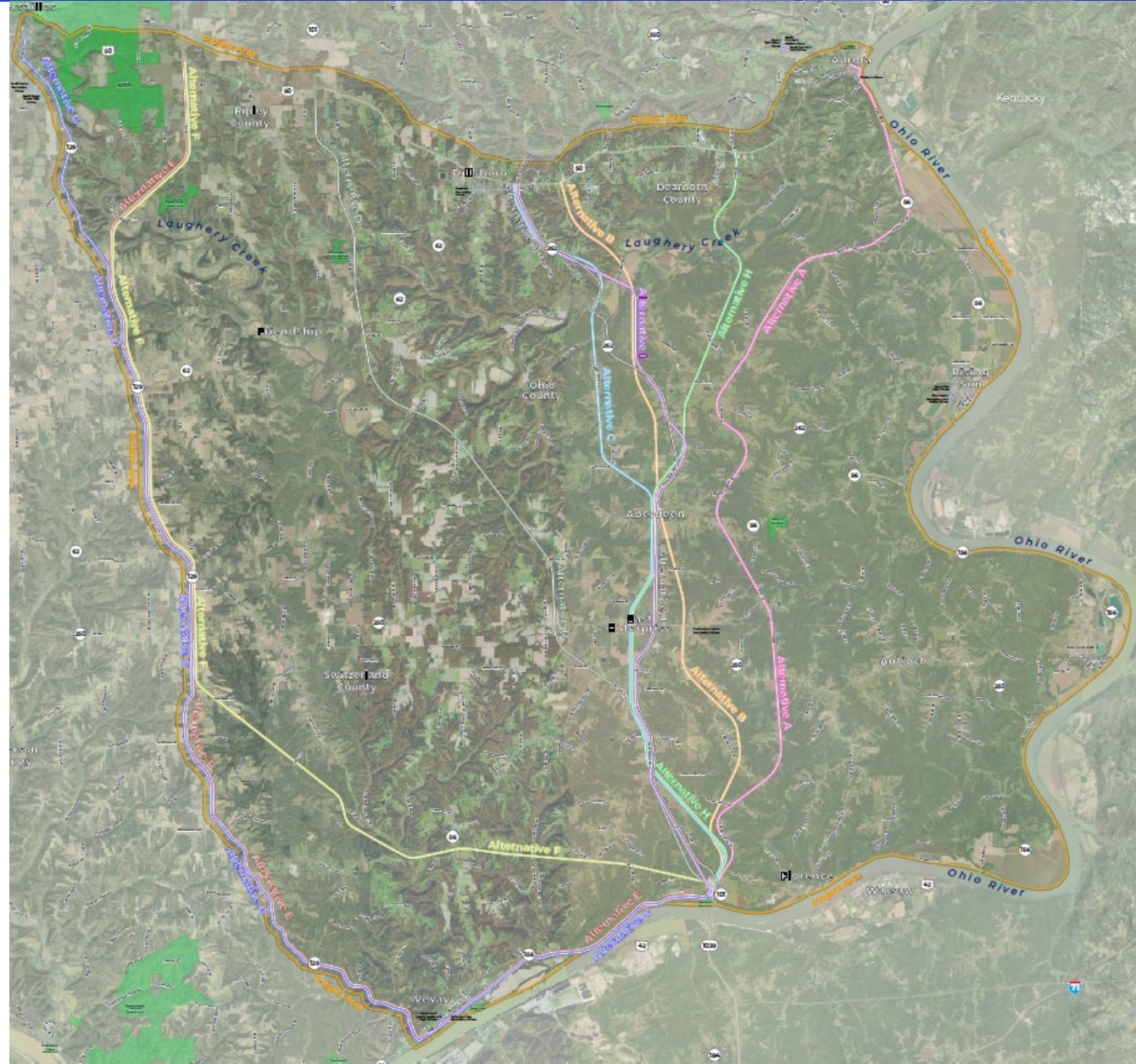


# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES



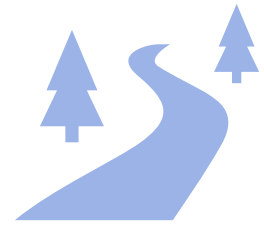
# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

- Alternatives development starts with Purpose and Need
- Data gathered and additional analysis guides alternatives development
- Public and agency feedback also guides development



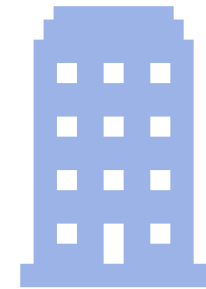
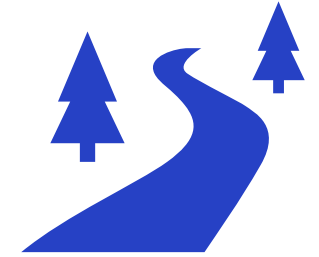
# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

- Key factors in development of general alignment:
  - All start at SR 101 at Markland Dam
  - Considers range of destinations along US 50
  - Considers areas of challenging terrain
    - Ohio River valley
    - Steep ravines
    - Laughery Creek valley



# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

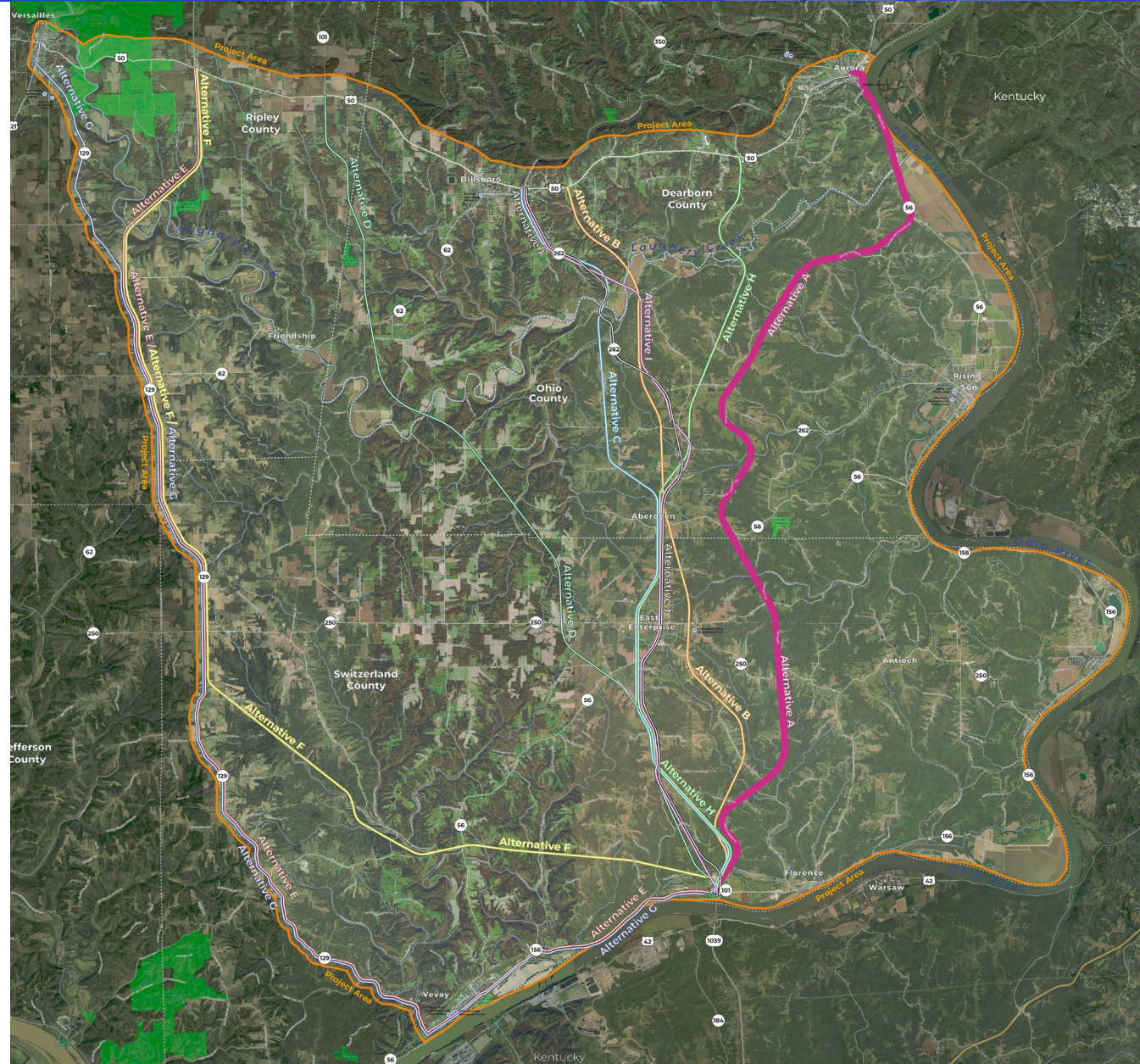
- Avoided impacts to residences, businesses, and environmental resources where possible
- Preliminary alternatives take advantage of existing roadway corridors where possible
- Range of routes help project team better understand the pros and cons of each alternative



# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

## Alternative A

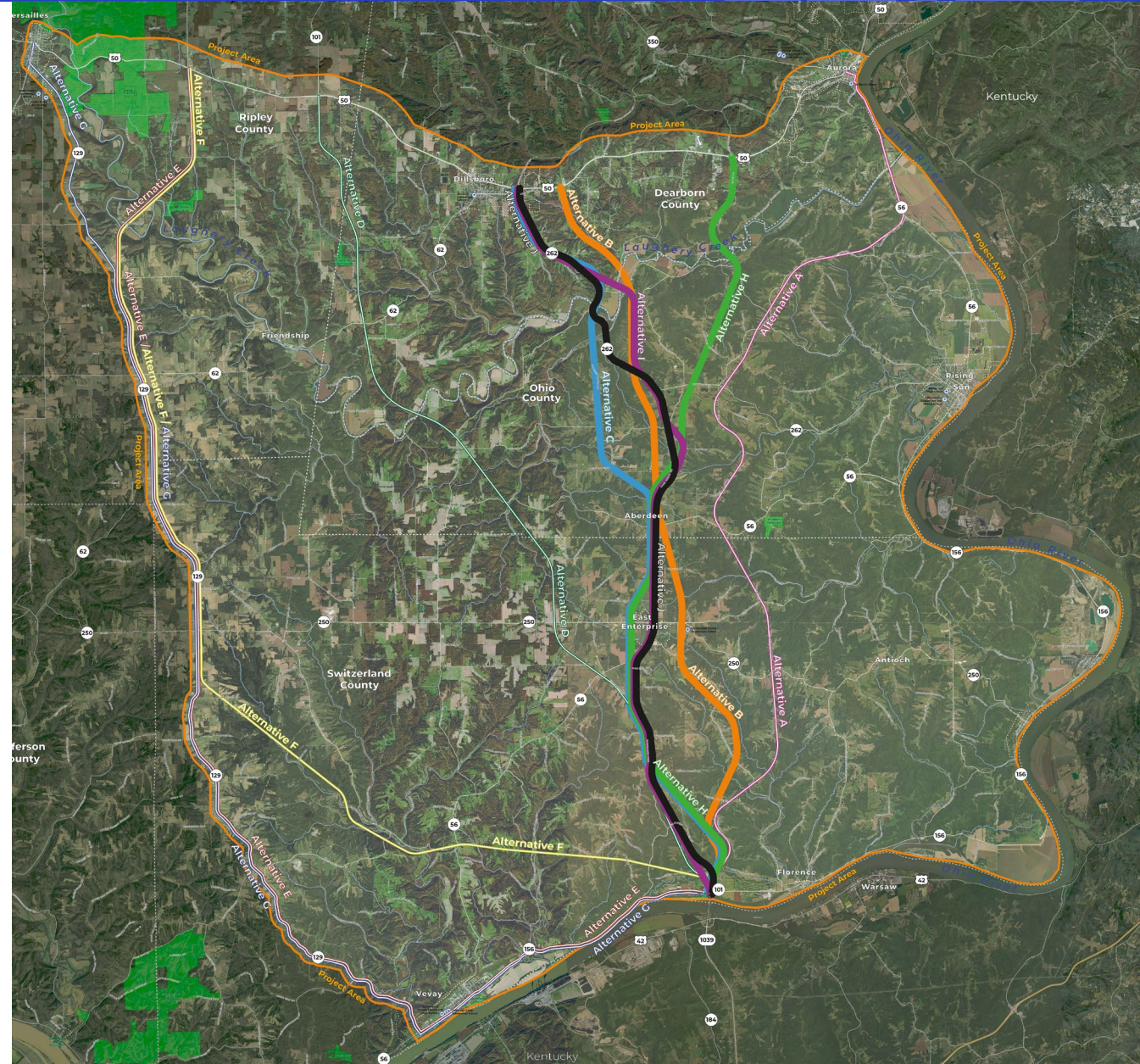
- Connects to Aurora



# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

## Alternatives B/C/H/I/J

- These alternatives provide Dillsboro connection
- Alternatives C, H, I, and J use a combination of existing roads and new alignment
- Alternative B uses all new alignment (only alternative)
- Laughery Creek crossings are generally in the area of SR 262 or Nelson Road.



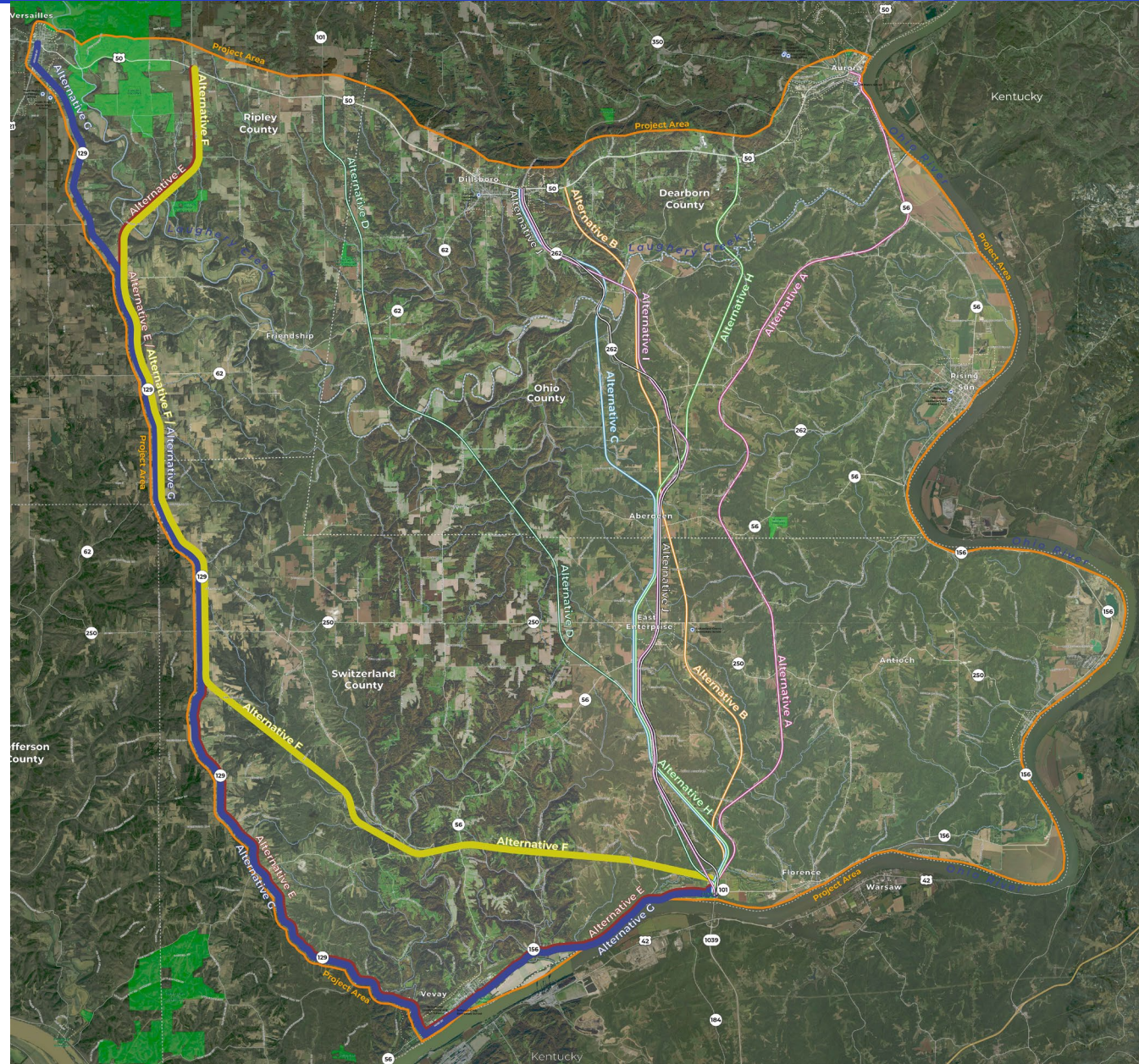




# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

## Alternatives E/F/G

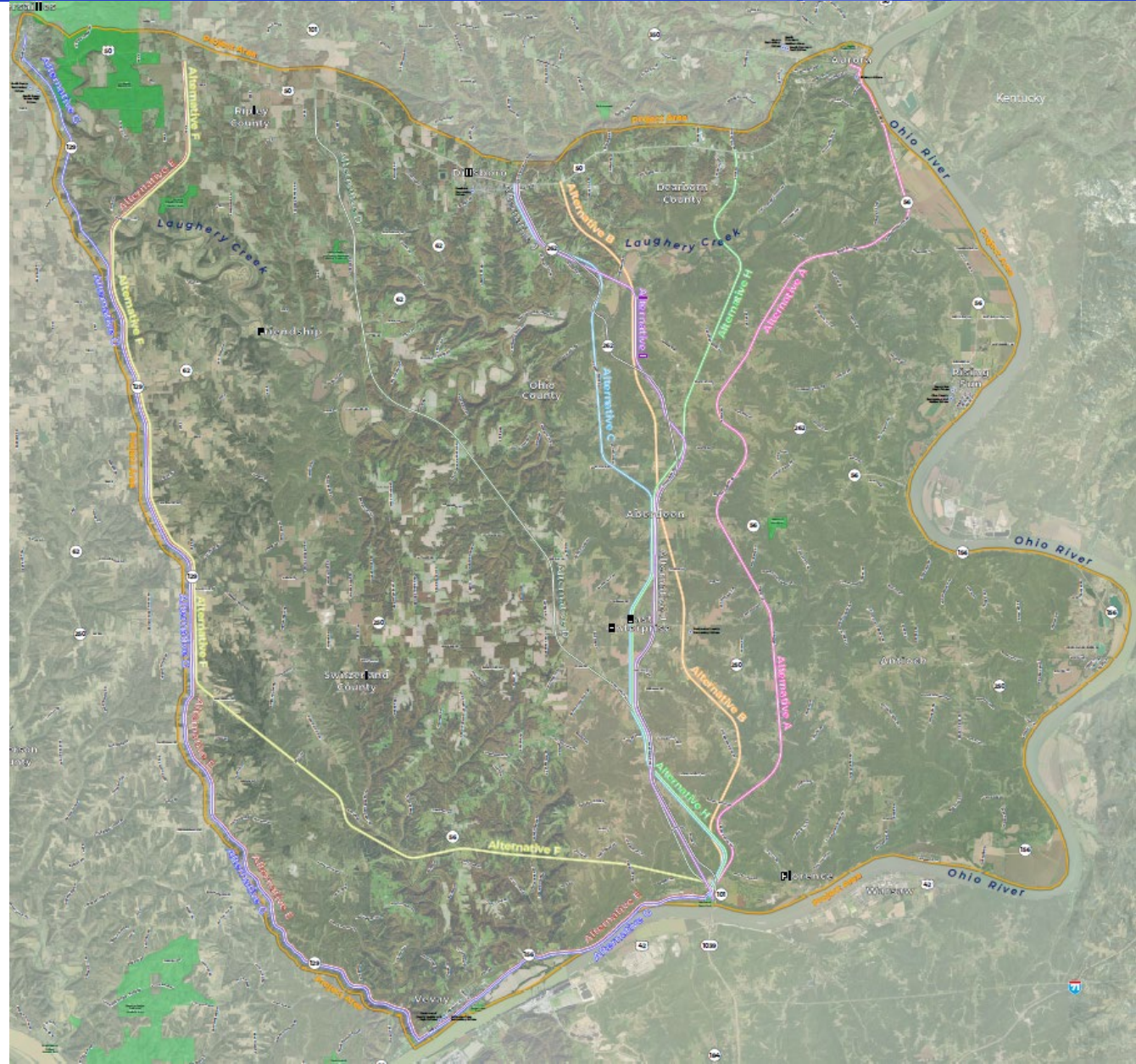
- Use portions of SR 156/56/129
- Connect to US 50 in/near Versailles
- Options to travel through or bypass Vevay and Versailles



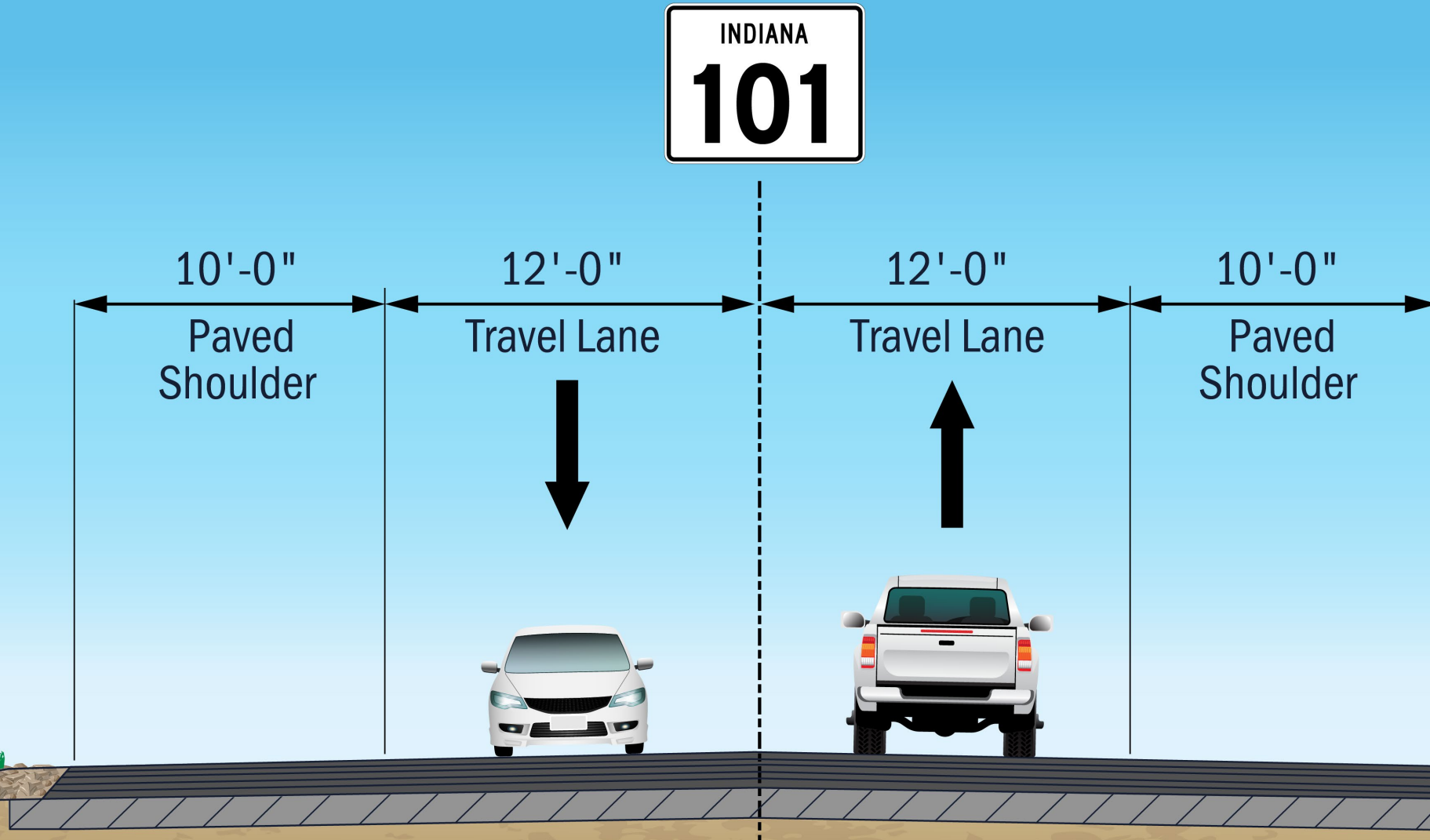
# PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES FEEDBACK

## We want your input!

- Which preliminary alternatives meet the needs of the project area and why?
- Which connection location along US 50 best meets the needs of the project area?
- Do you have suggestions for improving any alternatives?



# PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION



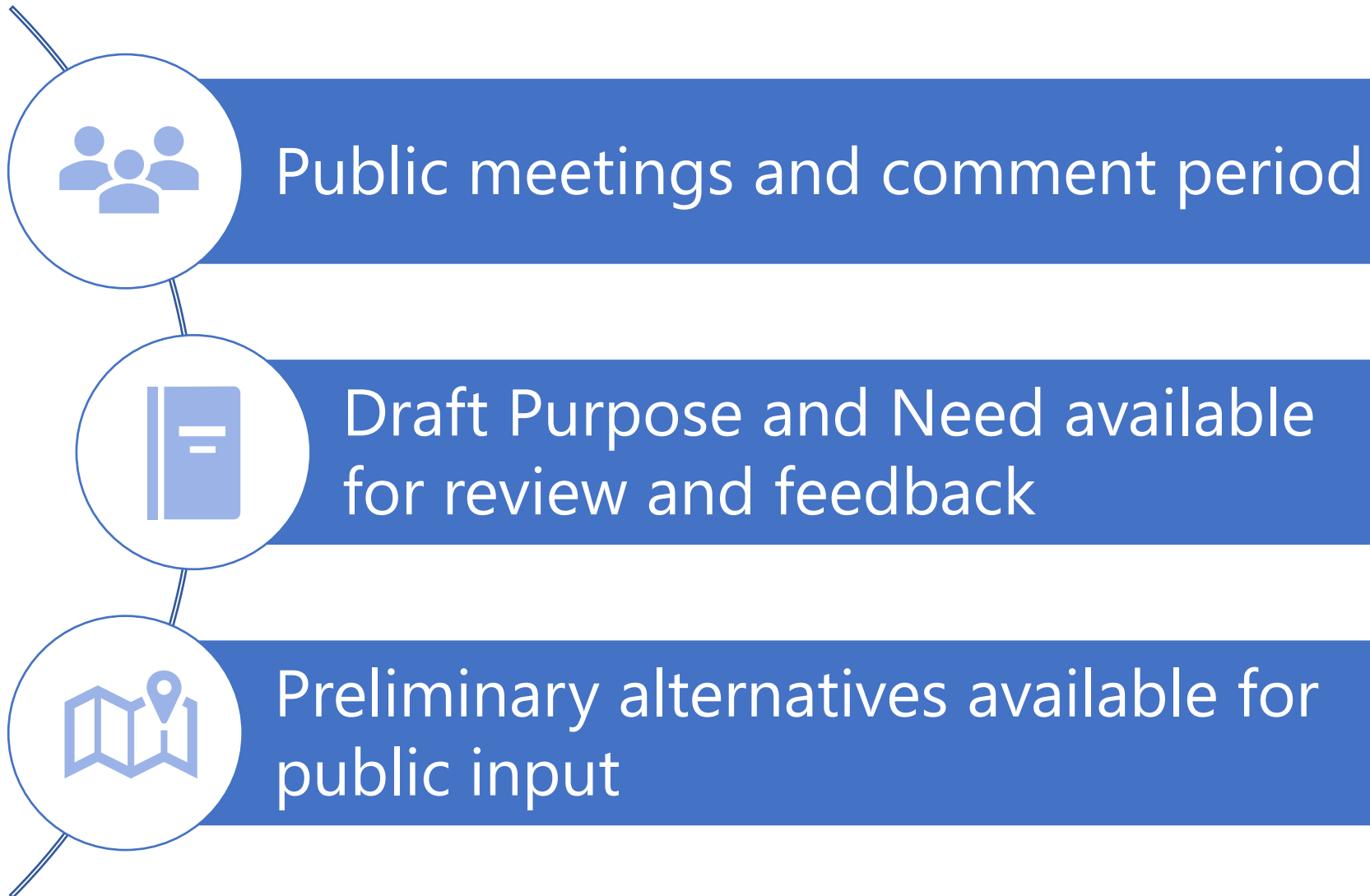
Proposed 2-lane roadway | One lane in each direction





# PROJECT PROCESS

# WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW



# ROUTE TO A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



**Develop broad routes** based on community feedback and analysis

**WE ARE HERE**



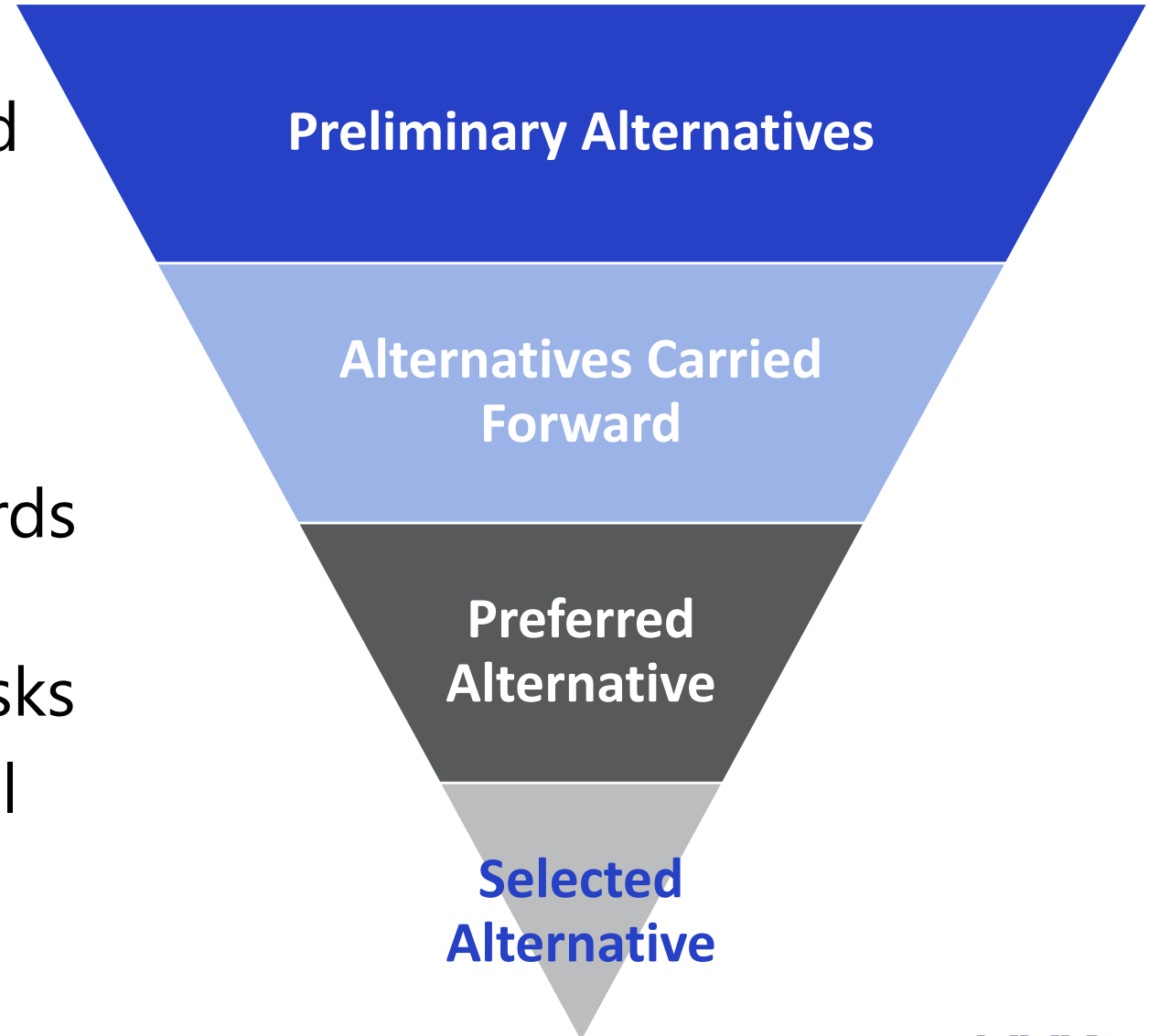
**Alternatives emerge** from broad routes to be studied in greater detail



**Preferred alternative** identified after detailed analysis

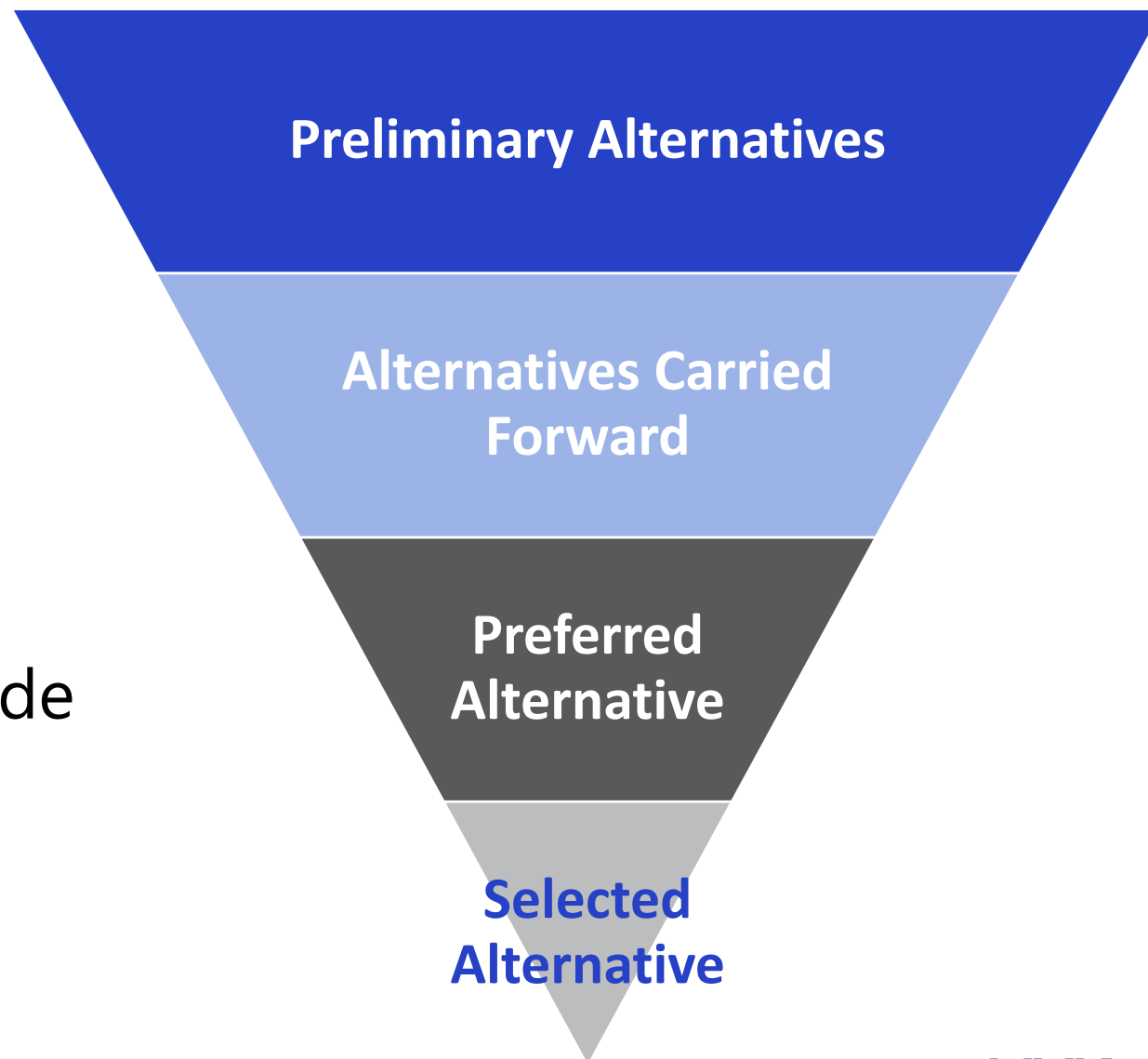
# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Alternatives are screened based on Purpose and Need
  - Reduce travel time
  - Improve safety
  - Meet current design standards
  - Above Laughery Creek floodplain; minimize slide risks
- Alternatives carried forward will be developed further



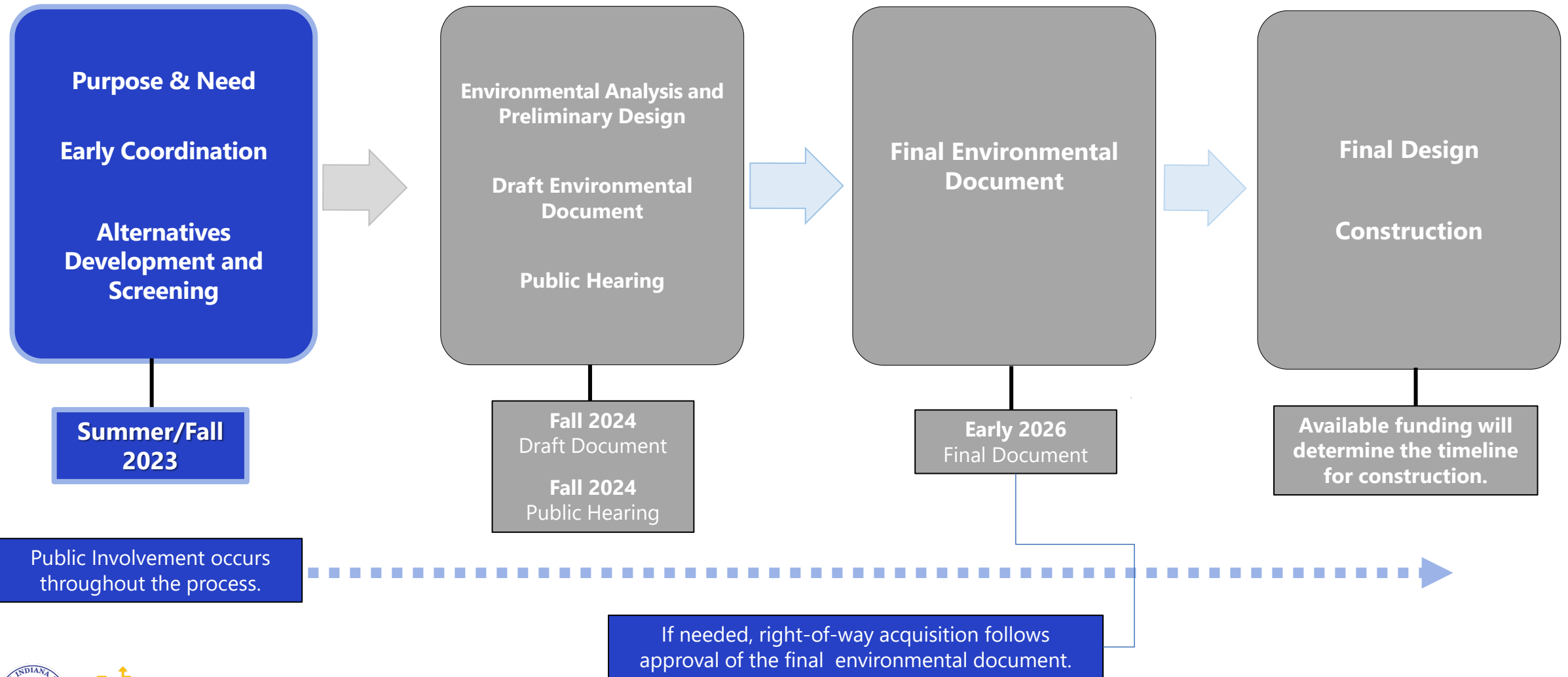
# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- Feedback from the public and agencies guides alternative refinements.
- Elements from different alternatives may be combined or new routes may emerge.
- Detailed field surveys will provide additional data to help screen alternatives.





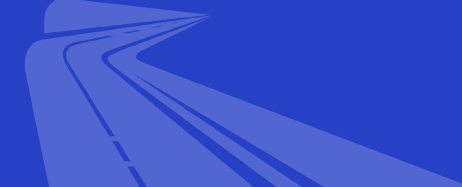
# ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PROCESS





# NEXT STEPS

# WHAT TO EXPECT



## LINK 101

### PROJECT TIMELINE

**EARLY 2023**

**Project Introduction**

*Public Information Meeting*

**FALL 2024**

**Draft Environmental Document**

*Public Hearing*

**EARLY 2026**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

2023

2024

2025

2026

**SUMMER 2023**

**Alternatives Development**

*Public Information Meeting*

**SUMMER 2024**

**Preferred Alternative Identified**



# WE'RE LISTENING

- Community Advisory Committee
- Environmental Justice Working Group
- Resource Agency Committee
- Section 106 Consulting Parties
- Small group presentations
- Public meetings at milestones
- Social media and project website
- Project office in Vevay
- Mobile Office Hours in Dillsboro



# PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

- **Public meetings** coming soon
- **South Dearborn High School**
  - Wednesday, Aug. 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. | 6 p.m. presentation
- **Switzerland Co. Middle/Jefferson-Craig Elementary**
  - Thursday, Aug. 3, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. | 6 p.m. presentation
- **Virtual meeting** | Aug. 8 at 6 p.m.
  - Register at [bit.ly/VirtualMeetingLink101](https://bit.ly/VirtualMeetingLink101)

# MOBILE OFFICE HOURS

## Dillsboro Public Library

- Open house format
- Stop by with questions, share feedback
- **August 8<sup>th</sup>** and **15<sup>th</sup>**  
from **11 a.m.** to **5 p.m.**
- Review maps and materials, complete a comment form and talk with the Project Team.



**Dillsboro Public Library**  
10151 Library Lane  
Dillsboro, IN 47018

# PROJECT OFFICE

## Link 101 Project Office

Switzerland County Technology  
and Education Center, 2nd floor



**844-Link101** (844-546-5101)



**Link101Corridor.com**



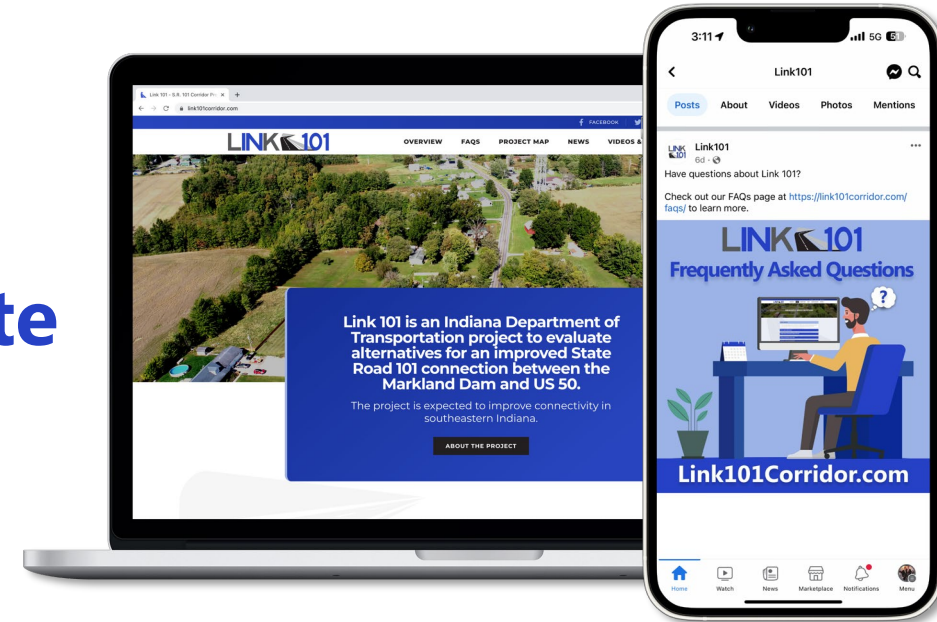
**info@Link101Corridor.com**

We're open **Monday** and **Wednesday** from  
**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** and by appointment.



# FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

- [Link101Corridor.com](https://link101corridor.com)
- Text “**INDOT LINK101**” to **468311**
- Sign up for **email updates** on **website**
- Social Media
  - **Facebook:** Link 101 Corridor
  - **Twitter:** @Link101Corridor







**THANK YOU**

**July 27, 2023**

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) WORKING GROUP MEETING

July 27, 2023 | Switzerland County Technology and Education Center

### PROJECT OVERVIEW



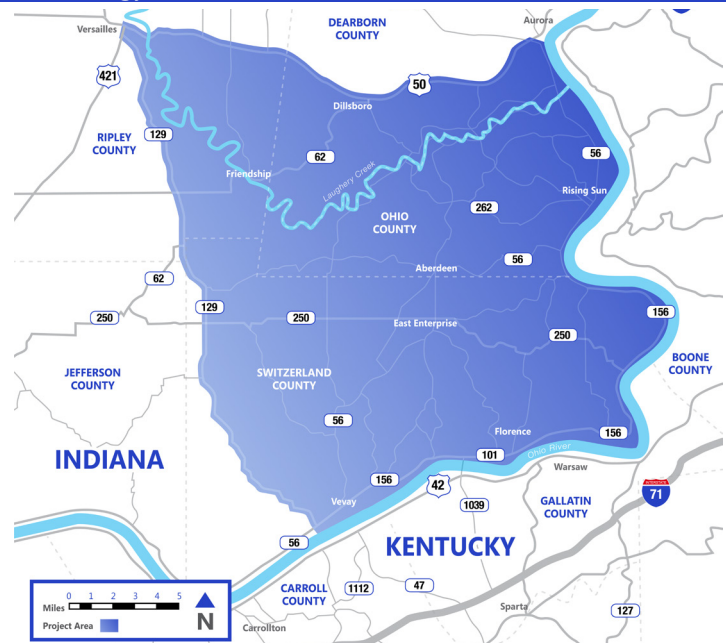
- The Link 101 project area includes portions of Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn and Ripley counties.



- The project is in the environmental and preliminary design stage.



- The Project Team has been identifying needs in the area, collecting data, reviewing feedback, and developing potential solutions.



### DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED - THE WHY FOR THE PROJECT

- Reduce travel time within the project area by improving connectivity.
- Improve safety within the project area by reducing vehicle miles traveled on roadways with elevated crash locations.
- Provide a roadway that meets current design standards.
- Provide a roadway that is above the Laughery Creek 100-year floodplain elevation and minimizes the risk of slides.

The full Purpose and Need report is available at [Link 101Corridor.com](http://Link101Corridor.com).



Ten preliminary alternatives have been developed by the Project Team and based on feedback from the public. All alternatives are shown on the map inside this handout and can also be reviewed on the project website ([Link101Corridor.com](http://Link101Corridor.com)) and at the project office.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

- Discuss issues with the potential to affect low-income or minority populations
- Serve as a liaison between the community or organization and Project Team
- Learn more about the project, share views and identify local concerns
- Engage in two-way communications with Project Team
- Serve in an advisory role and share project information with others
- Take part in up to four EJ Working Group meetings during the project

## NEXT STEPS

- The ten preliminary alternatives will go through a preliminary screening process.
- A smaller number of alternatives will be carried forward for more detailed analysis.
- Benefits, impacts, and costs, along with public and agency input, will help to determine a single preferred alternative.
- The preferred alternative is expected to be identified in the draft environmental document in summer 2024.
- A public hearing and formal comment period on the draft environmental document are expected in fall 2024.
- All comments will be reviewed and considered by the Project Team.
- The final environmental document, which will respond to public and agency comments and identify a selected alternative, is expected in early 2026.
- A timeline for construction will be determined at the end of the environmental study.

## SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

**Comments associated with the draft Purpose and Need and preliminary alternatives are due September 8, 2023. Comments can be shared in a variety of ways:**



**In person** at public meetings  
(August 2 and August 3)



**Via mail** to the  
project office



**In writing** at area locations  
(see list on the project website)



**Via email** to the  
project office



**Online** at  
Link101Corridor.com



**In person** at  
the project office

## CONTACT US



[Link101Corridor.com](http://Link101Corridor.com)



[Info@Link101Corridor.com](mailto:Info@Link101Corridor.com)



**844-Link101**  
**(844-546-5101)**



**Switzerland County Technology  
and Education Center**  
708 W. Seminary St., 2nd Floor | Vevay, IN

## FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



Text "INDOT LINK101"  
to 468311



Sign up for email updates  
on the project website.



Facebook: Link 101 Corridor  
Twitter: @Link101Corridor

**Para Preguntas En Español:** Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o le gustaria más información sobre este proyecto en Español, contacta al señor Robert Walker, al teléfono **801-553-3347** o correo electrónico **robert.walker@parsons.com**.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS IN AUGUST

Preliminary alternatives to be shared for review and comment.

### IN-PERSON MEETINGS

**Wednesday, August 2**  
**5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

6 p.m. presentation  
 South Dearborn High School  
 5770 Highlander Pl., Aurora, IN

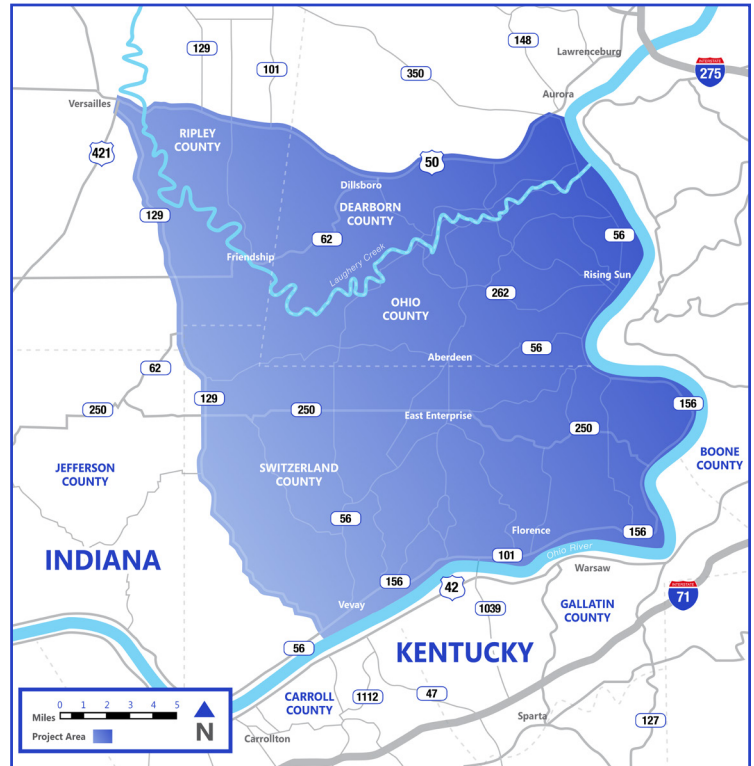
**Thursday, August 3**  
**5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

6 p.m. presentation  
 Switzerland County Middle School/  
 Jefferson-Craig Elementary School  
 1004 W. Main St., Vevay, IN





### VIRTUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, August 8 | 6 p.m.**

Meeting via Microsoft Teams  
 Register in advance:  
[bit.ly/VirtualMeetingLink101](https://bit.ly/VirtualMeetingLink101)



Link 101 is evaluating alternatives for an improved State Road 101 connection between the Markland Dam and US 50. The project includes portions of Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn and Ripley counties.

-  **Draft Purpose and Need will be shared.**
-  **Preliminary alternatives will be shared.**
-  **Comments from the public are encouraged.**
-  **Materials will be posted on the project website.**



**Scan with your phone camera to visit our website.**

**Special Accommodations:** With advance notice, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) can provide special accommodation for persons with disabilities and/or limited English speaking ability and persons needing auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, signers, readers or large print. Should special accommodation be needed, please contact Berry Craig, public involvement specialist, Parsons, at [berry.craig@parsons.com](mailto:berry.craig@parsons.com) or 270-705-1640.

**Para Preguntas En Español:** Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o le gustaria más información sobre este proyecto en Español, contacta al señor Robert Walker, al teléfono 801-553-3347 o correo electrónico [robert.walker@parsons.com](mailto:robert.walker@parsons.com).