



August 9, 2017

Governor Eric Holcomb
State of Indiana
200 W. Washington St. Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Opposition to INDOT's Use of J-Turns on US 31

Dear Governor Holcomb:

At our public meeting this morning, the Miami County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) unanimously passed the attached Resolution in opposition to the construction of "J Turns" on US Highway 31.

The Authority is totally supportive of future improvements on US 31 similar to those already completed by INDOT both to the north and south of Miami County. We believe the current and future amount of traffic on US 31 cannot be safely and efficiently handled by the installation of J Turns. Therefore, the Authority contends that the use of J Turns will not improve safety on US 31 as suggested and will have a negative impact on economic growth due to the lack of efficiency in the movement of goods and services along this valuable corridor.

We would appreciate your assistance in convincing INDOT to work with Miami County and the other counties along the corridor for longer term solutions such as interchanges that will increase safety while providing the opportunity for long term economic growth for Central Indiana.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Yates", is written over a white background.

James Yates
Chairman

Cc: Commissioner McGuinness/INDOT
US 31 Coalition

Building the Future of Miami County

RESOLUTION NO. 8-9-2017

**RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OPPOSING
THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (INDOT) PLAN TO INSTALL J-TURNS ON US
HIGHWAY 31.**

WHEREAS, the Miami County Economic Development Authority (the “Authority”) has been recently informed of INDOT’s Plan to construct J-Turns at certain intersections along US 31 within Miami County and other Counties along the Highway’s Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the volume of traffic, to include tractor trailers, school buses, box trucks, fuel trucks buses, campers, and recreational vehicles on US Highway 31 has significantly increased due to INDOT’s improvements to the Highway both north and south of Miami County; and

WHEREAS, none of INDOT’s improvements recently constructed to the north and south of Miami County included the use of J-Turns; and

WHEREAS, The Authority is sole entity in Miami County charged with economic development to include the former Grissom Air Force Base, and was established under I.C. 36-7-14-12.5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Miami County Economic Development Authority strongly opposes INDOT’s funding and construction of any J-Turn intersection on US Highway 31 in Miami County or anywhere along the US 31 Corridor.

1. Although J-Turns may have their place in more rural areas within the State of Indiana or the Midwest, the Authority believes the current and future volume of traffic on the US 31 corridor is beyond the capacity to be safely and efficiently handled by the installation of J-Turns.

2. Two (2) of the three (3) school corporations in Miami County currently use US 31 as a main artery for taking students to and from school. J-Turns will require school buses, loaded with children, to make U-Turns on US 31 and get back up to speed quickly as to avoid accidents.

3. The same U-Turn requirement would exist for every tractor-trailer, camper, RV, farm equipment, etc that needs to change direction on US 31.

4. Grissom Air Reserve Base employs over 2,000 people on the installation. There must be safe and efficient access for personnel, shipment of supplies to include Jet Fuel, and military vehicles on and off the installation. One of the intersection currently being proposed for a J-Turn is US 31 and SR 218W. Currently this intersection handles most of the installation’s traffic. J-Turns will not accommodate both current and future operations of Grissom ARB.


5. Anticipating INDOT’s future plans to continue to make improvements along the US 31 Corridor, Miami County updated its Comprehensive Plan which included a recommendation for intersection improvements on US 31 throughout Miami County. The Plan included inputs from elected officials, schools, emergency response, Grissom ARB personnel, and citizens. The construction and use of a J-Turn at any intersection was not recommended or approved.

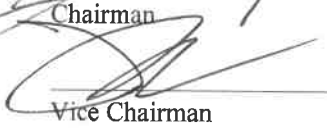
6. The Authority recognizes that J-Turns are less expensive than interchanges that have already been installed by INDOT both north and south of Miami County. The Authority also understands that these proposed J-Turns may be viewed by INDOT as “short term” improvements. However, the Authority encourages INDOT to not spend critical highway funds on non-effective solutions or short term projects and instead work with Miami County

and other Counties along the Corridor to prioritize intersections of concern towards a long term solution such as interchanges as funds become available.


ADOPTED by the Miami Economic Development Authority this 9th day of August, 2017.

MIAMI COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Chairman


Vice Chairman

Secretary



Treasurer



Member



Member



Member



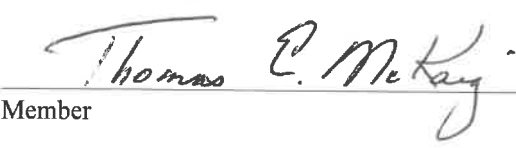
Member



Member



Member



Member