



August 8, 2017

Dennis Faulkenberg, Executive Director
U.S. 31 Coalition, Inc.
One North Capitol, Ste 1050
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: U.S. 31 J-Turns

Dear Mr. Faulkenberg –

I write to you today to express our concerns and opposition to INDOT's proposed plans to construct J-Turn intersections along the U.S. 31 Corridor. According to INDOT's Traffic Count Database, the Corridor has seen a 26% increase in traffic volume since 2013, with approximately 25,000 vehicles traveling U.S. 31 through Miami County daily in 2017. The state-wide improvements to U.S. 31 have successfully promoted economic growth and development throughout the North Central region, and NCIRPC seeks to continue to encourage future growth through strategic, collaborative long-term solutions and investments along the Corridor.

U.S. 31 is highly traveled with semi-trailers, personal vehicles, school buses, farm equipment, recreational and emergency response vehicles. Interchanges must serve each vehicle class with safety and efficiency. With the traffic volumes and the highway speeds on U.S. 31, NCIRPC believes J-Turns do not effectively serve the travelers, residents, or businesses within the region. The North Central region seeks a comprehensive long-term solution over short-term measures. J-Turns will likely stall economic growth and ultimately lead to higher costs of future interchange construction.

Miami and Fulton County have developed local recommendations for interchange improvements along the Corridor. The local plans sought input from elected officials, school corporations, businesses and industries, residents and first responders. The Counties have prepared for the future of U.S. 31 and want to work collaboratively with INDOT to find an achievable long-term solution.

On behalf of the 225,000 North Central Indiana residents that NCIRPC serves, NCIRPC is strongly opposed to the proposed J-Turn plan. Thank you for your consideration of the most important matter.

Sincerely,

Christy Householder

NCIRPC Board President

Steven Ray

NCIRPC Executive Director