



Regional Reach. Community Commitment.

THE BEACON

Beacon Publishing Co., Bright, Indiana

02-18-2016

Over 21,000 distribution in Dearborn, Ripley, Franklin and Ohio Counties in Southeast Indiana; Harrison, Ohio and other nearby Ohio communities

[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [OUR COMMUNITIES](#) [BEACON BUSINESS](#) [ABOUT](#) [ADVERTISING INFORMATION](#) [OUR ADVERTISERS](#) [PAST EDITIONS](#) [CONTACT](#)

UPDATE: Good turnout for 1st Bright, I-74 connector study Open House

FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION



NDES students honor veterans
February 13, 2016



Volunteer opportunities at Dearborn parks
February 13, 2016



Jim Scott: Retired from radio, as busy as ever
February 13, 2016

- OPINION

- FROM THE PUBLISHER
- GUEST COLUMN

- ROAD WATCH

- IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

- COMING HOME

- YARD & GARDEN NOTES

- SPORTS

- BEACON VACATION

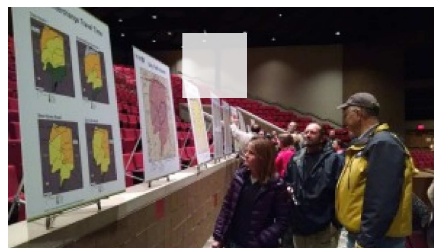
- A LOOK BACK: 1990 TORNADO

- SALUTE TO THE MILITARY 2015

- LITTER WATCH



The first of Bright-Interstate 74 Connector Study Open Houses held tonight (Feb. 17) at the East Central High School Performing Arts Center drew at last 150 people. The study is being conducted by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI).



"We are very excited about the turnout," said Dearborn County Commissioner Kevin Lynch, the president of OKI.

"We are very pleased with the public interest," said Lorrie Platt, OKI Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs.

Those attending clustered around exhibits with information on land use, traffic, and

other data as OKI staff members answered questions. Groups of people took turns participating in an electronic survey, while others already answered the survey online at <http://bright74.oki.org/>. The survey is open until midnight March 18.



The purpose of the Open House and two others that are planned for the coming months is to gather input from residents, property owners and businesses in the study area about the possibility of a connector linking the Bright area with I-74.

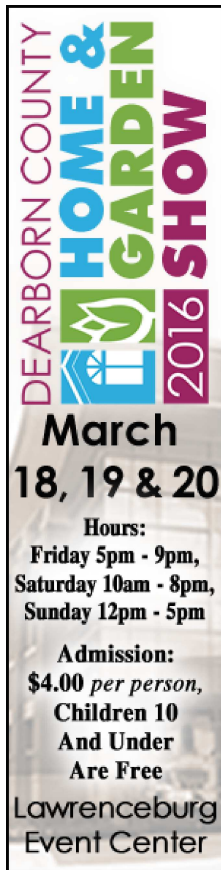
(Check back for updates on the survey and for information on future meetings.)

ORIGINAL STORY 1/12/2016

The first in a series of three Public Open House meetings on the Bright-Interstate 74 study will be held Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 4-7 p.m. at the East Central High School Performing Arts Center.

The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) is performing the study

DISTRIBUTION AREA



as part of its 2040 Transportation Plan.

Those interested can attend anytime between 4 and 7 and will have an opportunity to participate in a survey to provide feedback. There will be exhibits related to traffic and safety in the study area, along with other information, and OKI staff will be available to answer questions.

Those who cannot attend may take the survey online, which will be posted at Bright74.oki.org beginning at 4 p.m. Feb. 17 and will remain until midnight March 18. Other public Open Houses throughout the year will be announced.

Dearborn County Commissioner Kevin Lynch, president of OKI, has said a connector may facilitate more growth and more convenience for residents, business owners and commuters; and cut the response time substantially for emergency-services to the I-74/U.S. 52 area, which is being developed.

Officials emphasize that the study is to determine whether such a connector would even be feasible, and estimated that it would be at least six years before the project could begin.

At a meeting last month of the 20-member Bright-74 Advisory Committee, member Dale Lutz said a question he hears frequently is where the route of the connector would be.

"The assumption is that it extends from State Line to U.S. 52," he said.

"We know this is a concern," OKI project manager Robyn Bancroft said. She noted that a line drawn on preliminary maps related to the project is "just a bookmark."

"We don't have a road. We don't know where it is," she said, adding that a purpose of the study is to determine "where it should go, if it goes."

Mr. Lynch has said he wouldn't be surprised if several alternative designs are presented to determine the best options for the roadway.

(Check back for updates on this story and for dates of upcoming meetings. For links to documents related to the project, visit: <http://bright74.oki.org/>)

12/2015 Beacon story:

A proposal for a connector road linking the Bright area with Interstate 74 is progressing, as the first meeting of a 21-member community advisory board has taken place and more details emerge.

The idea has been in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments' 2040 Transportation plan for nearly a decade and came to the forefront earlier this year when Dearborn County Commissioner Kevin Lynch was elected the first president of OKI from Indiana.

The advisory board consists of residents and business owners in the Bright and West Harrison area.

"There was good interaction, even though we are just starting out," Mr. Lynch said of the group's first meeting with OKI staff and consultants.

Mr. Lynch said the rationale for the potential project is that "the Bright area is being choked off because of lack of really good access."

"Connecting Bright to the interstate would facilitate more growth and more convenience for residents, business owners and commuters," he said. "As the U.S. 52 TIF (tax increment financing district) is developed, employees looking for places to live may be drawn into the Dearborn tax base."

Another important aspect is faster response time for fire and EMS and helping to strengthen local departments such as Bright and St. Leon. Mr. Lynch estimated that the usual 20-minute Bright response time to the area could be cut by about 15 minutes.

"There is no easy way to get there (Interstate 74, U.S. 52 corridor)," Mr. Lynch said, noting that Dearborn County contracts with Harrison, Ohio to help cover the area. "Harrison is a great partner. Without them we wouldn't have paramedics out there. But I would rather see that money spent to build our fire and EMS, and we could become a better partner with Harrison and repay them for their help."



Mr. Lynch noted that Harrison Fire Chief William Hursong had “great input” at the advisory board meeting regarding traffic patterns, accidents and other areas of concern.

OKI staff and consultants presented information on current roadway conditions, traffic volumes, crash data, land use, utilities, community resources and environmental resources in the Bright area at the advisory board meeting. As more information is collected, other meetings will be held, and public comment meetings will be advertised.

The next step is to “figure out the best option, or options, for the roadway,” Mr. Lynch said. “Ideally it would begin somewhere around State Line and N. Dearborn Road and come out on U.S. 52 near the current interchange, but all of this is up in the air pending further analysis. It is not an easy project; a lot of different things come into it. I would not be surprised if there are several proposed designs.”

He acknowledged that even if everything were to be on schedule — including the important factor of funding — it could be around six years before it the project could even begin.

“It comes down to funding and permits,” Mr. Lynch said, noting that OKI would be funding 80 percent of the approximately \$50 million project. The rest would come from Dearborn County, but Mr. Lynch said there is important support from state and federal representatives and that a collaboration is a possibility.

“They believe this is an important regional project,” Mr. Lynch said.

(Check back here for updates on this story and for public-meeting schedules. For additional details on the project, visit: <http://bright74.oki.org/>)

PREVIOUS STORY

UPDATE: SE Indiana riverport ‘will happen’

NEXT STORY

St. Leon January 2016



Regional Reach.
Community Commitment.
Serving The Community
Since 1994

24486 Stateline Rd. Ste F

Bright IN 47025

Phone : 812.637-0660

Email:

brightbeacon1@comcast.net



Over 21,000 distribution in
Dearborn, Ripley, Franklin and
Ohio Counties in Southeast
Indiana; Harrison, Ohio and
other nearby Ohio communities

Website Design by: Beyond Cyber Concepts