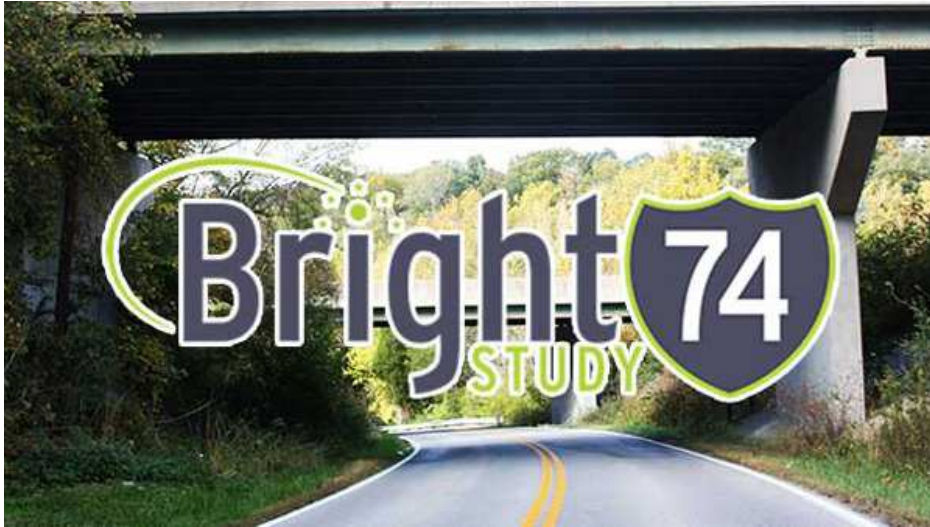


Bright 74 Survey Results: Most Think New Road Idea Can Hit The Highway

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By Mike Perleberg



<https://eaglecountryonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/brights-74-study-logo-12182015.jpg>

(Bright, Ind.) – Results of the latest round of surveys for the Bright 74 Study show that there isn't much appetite for a new road in northeastern Dearborn County.

The study being conducted by the OKI Regional Council of Governments is investigating possibilities for improving transportation in the Bright area, particularly quickening access to Interstate 74 in West Harrison, over the next one through three decades.

A second open house (<http://eaglecountryonline.com/local-article/take-a-new-road-concepts-revealed-at-second-bright-74-study-open-house/>) held by OKI on June 22 at East Central High School marked the start of a 30-day public comment period. Four conceptual solutions were introduced to the public. Three of them included building new roads to the area of the Interstate 74 exit 169 – one from Whites Hill Road, one from Carr Road, and another from Stateline Road. A fourth proposal was to simply upgrade existing roads in the Bright area.

The conceptual solutions can be viewed on the official study website, bright74.oki.org (<http://bright74.oki.org/>).

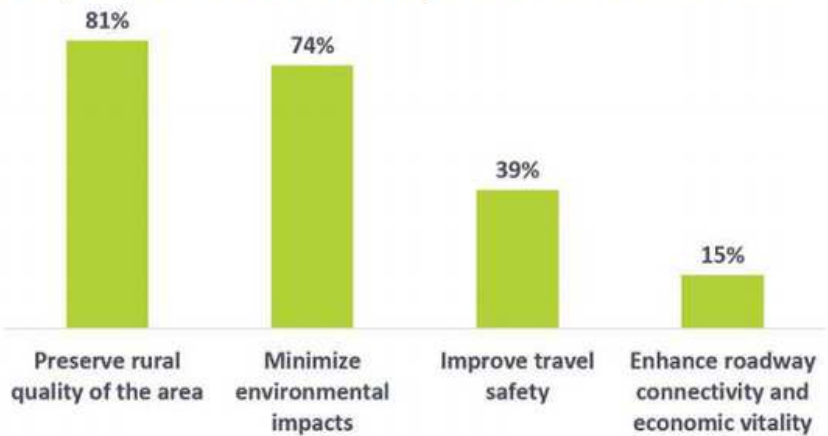
OKI released a public comment summary report (<http://bright74.oki.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/FINAL-Public-Comment-Summary-Report.pdf>) on Friday, July 29. Among the 506

surveys received prior to the July 22 deadline, 469 were completed online.

The first question in the survey asked people where they lived. Seventy-five percent were residents of the Bright 74 Study area, 17 percent Dearborn County residents outside the study area, three percent were from the City of Lawrenceburg, three percent were from Hamilton County outside of Harrison, and one percent were from the City of Harrison.

The next question asked respondents which goals of the study were important to them. Looking at the responses, it may have been easier to simply ask “yes” or “no” on whether a new connector road is desired. “No” would probably have been the runaway choice.

Percent of the public that stated the Study Goal was IMPORTANT to them:



<https://eaglecountryonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/oki-bright-74-study-survey-2-bar-graph-08022016.jpg>

Bar graph via Bright 74 Study Public Comment Summary Report.

Eighty-one percent of the respondents rated preserving the rural quality of the area an important goal. About 74 percent indicated that minimizing environmental impacts was important. Only 15 percent said enhancing road connectivity and economic vitality was important to them while 53 percent rated the idea as unimportant. Results were mixed on the question of improving travel safety, but 198 people – or 39 percent – said that the goal was important.

The next four questions in the survey asked survey takers how they perceived each of the conceptual solutions would meet the study goals. Concept 1, which proposes improving existing roads and no new ones, had 64 percent of responses state that is met the most important goal of preserving the area’s rural quality. The other three concepts, all of which include new roads, were viewed as not meeting the same goal.

Percentages showing the public's view on the level to which each concept addressed the Study Goals:

Concepts	Preserve Rural Quality of the Area			Minimize Environmental Impacts			Improve Travel Safety			Enhance Roadway Connectivity & Economic Vitality		
	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes	No	Somewhat	Yes
1 - Improve Existing Roads	20%	16%	64%	21%	18%	62%	19%	29%	52%	39%	33%	27%
2 - Whites Hill Connector	60%	24%	17%	61%	25%	14%	44%	32%	24%	52%	32%	16%
3 - Carr Road Connector	79%	14%	7%	79%	15%	6%	62%	24%	14%	61%	22%	17%
4 - State Line Connector	77%	13%	10%	78%	14%	8%	56%	23%	21%	56%	20%	24%

*All percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

(<https://eaglecountryonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/oki-bright-74-study-survey-2-table-08022016.jpg>)

Table via Bright 74 Study Public Comment Summary Report.

The survey also asked citizens for their additional comments and suggestions and 276 of the 506 surveys obliged. The main themes identified in those comments, according to the summary, included no new roads, priority for improving and straightening existing roads, preserving the quiet and rural feel of the Bright area, improvements are not worth the financial costs, opposition to more traffic and noise, and several other ideas concerning safety, property values and the environment.

Next, the Bright 74 Study will progress to a preliminary alternative development phase. A third Bright 74 Study public open house is planned for the fall before OKI makes a final recommendation.

Opposition to the idea (<http://eaglecountryonline.com/local-article/online-opposition-forming-to-bright-74-study/>) of a new road in Bright has surfaced in places other than the survey results. An online petition at Change.org titled “[No to Bright Indiana I-74 road project](https://www.change.org/p/robyn-bancroft-aicp-no-to-bright-indiana-i-74-road-project)” (<https://www.change.org/p/robyn-bancroft-aicp-no-to-bright-indiana-i-74-road-project>)” has 663 supporters as of August 2.

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