

# Community signs petition opposing I-74 project

BY BRAD UNDERWOOD, WKRC SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH 2016

BRIGHT, Ind. (WKRC) - The debate over road infrastructure continues in Bright ahead of next week's final open house and recommendation from Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI).

OKI has been studying Bright and its roads for nearly a year.

Dearborn County asked OKI to come in and look at the 74 access and other road concerns and then present options to upgrade conditions.

Over the course of the study four concepts had been presented but one of them drew major opposition from the residents of Bright. It called for a new road to be built to take drivers to I-74. The other three options aren't being well received either. After public open houses and surveys, residents still didn't feel the OKI or the county government was listening so a petition was started in opposition of the Bright 74 Study. It now has more than 1,000 signatures on it.

"Most of the residents feel like all the proposals far from reasonable and out of touch with the infrastructure of the community," said Brian DeBruler.

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But it's not just that, many like DeBruler feel like the whole process has been fixed since the beginning.

DeBruler said, "A lot of the residents felt like the questions were slanted. There was no option to say I oppose this project directly. Everything was angled to we are going forward with this how would you like us to proceed?"

Robyn Bancroft of OKI says the council is listening to the residents and have scratched the idea of building a new road.

“This recommendation that we are forwarding is what the people are asking for and address the needs of the existing roadways,” said Bancroft.

That work would be done on North Dearborn Road and Whites Hill Road. The proposal includes widening both the road and shoulders of both streets from State Line Road West to Whites Hill Road and then north to State Route 46 and 52 to I-74.

As it stands the county doesn’t have the cash to fix current problems and many residents believe building new ones is not the way to spend federal dollars.

“We feel like to sit down at a table and talk about spending 50 million dollars for a project that’s 20-30 years projected down the road as opposed to talking about existing conditions that are here today just seems miss-prioritized,” said DeBruler.

OKI intends to present concept one and propose to fix current road conditions but nothing is set in concrete. After the open house, a 30-day public comment period begins.

[CLICK HERE for Bright I-74 Connector Project website](#)

[CLICK HERE for Bright 74 OKI study](#)