

Tips For Making Public Comments

VERBAL

(time limit of 2 minutes)

1. Be respectful: use proper titles when addressing individuals
2. Be courteous: thank the group or representative for their attention
3. Make sure you introduce yourself 1st and say what town/county/district where you reside, then mention the issue you will be commenting on
4. **Tell a story: personal anecdotes are powerful.** How has the issue you are commenting on affect you? Why is this issue important to you?
5. Research your comment: use data to bolster your opinions when possible, but don't only talk data. Only use facts you are certain of.
6. Prepare a clear ask: act on the issue. What aspects of the project do you support or disagree with?
7. Be forward-thinking: offer new perspectives, solutions, or ideas.
8. Avoid informal language and cursing. Your comments will go on record and be accessible to the public.
9. Write down your comments (no more than 250 words total) and practice in advance; make sure you're under the 2-min. mark.

WRITTEN

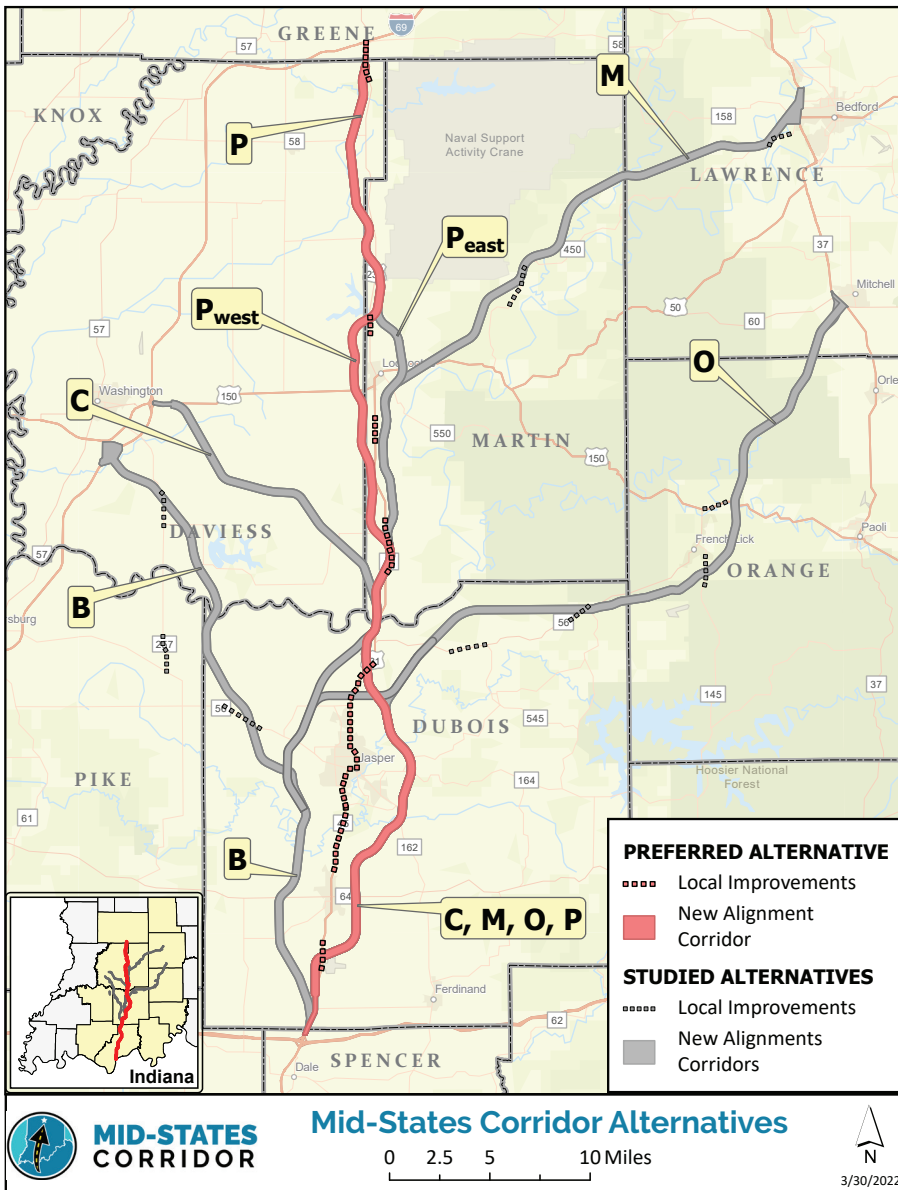
1. Identify, collect, and review background material – read the document and take notes
2. Understand the scope of the issue you want to write comments about
3. Define your objective for your comments
4. Use clear organization, formatting, and language
5. Include your name, address and phone number and/or email for any follow-up
6. Make the strongest points possible
7. Try to avoid hearsay
8. Pounding the facts – there could be three types of factual problems: facts are presented incorrectly, facts are left out, of facts are included but not given adequate consideration
9. If there are neither legal violations nor factual errors to address, you can critique the process or people involved in producing the document
10. Use specific examples to illustrate concerns
11. State what you support and what you disagree with
12. Provide supplemental information if you have access to any facts or articles that would be pertinent to the project that were not in the document
13. Whenever possible, offer suggestions on solving a problem
14. Organize your comments, categorize them as “major concerns” or “general comments”
15. Avoid dense blocks of text

Comment deadline for
the Mid-States Corridor is

MAY 31, 2022



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Send written comments to:

Mid-States Corridor Project Office

Vincennes University
Jasper Campus Administration Building
Room 216
850 College Ave.
Jasper, IN 47546

Send email comments to:

info@MidStatesCorridor.com

Send copies of your comments to:

Honorable Eric Holcomb

Governor
State of Indiana
Statehouse, Room 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-4567
www.in.gov/gov/ask-eric/

Michael Smith

Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 N. Senate, Room 755
Indiana Government Center North
Indianapolis, IN 46204
michael.smith@indot.in.gov

Jermaine Hannon

Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Indiana Division
575 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Jermaine.Hannon@dot.gov

Find more information and comment online here:

midstatescorridor.com/deis/

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MAY 31, 2022