
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY MASTER PLAN



U.S. 131 ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP

FANNING HOWEY

PCT


WIGHTMAN PETRIE

US-131 ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP

Introduction

This report is one of several documents prepared in the process of updating the St. Joseph County Master Plan.

The County Planning Commission Master Plan Steering Committee determined the future of US-131 was essential to the determination of the pattern of future land use in St. Joseph County.

With this in mind, the Steering Committee engaged local units of government along the US-131 Corridor in a process to select a preferred alignment. Using data and information prepared by the Michigan Department of Transportation in the *US-131 Improvement Study*, a workbook was prepared showing each alternative alignment. This workbook was given to each member of the US-131 Corridor Master Plan Committee on December 20, 2006. Each member of the Corridor Committee was requested to discuss the alignments with their local government officials and indicate their preference.

Results were tabulated and presented during a workshop January 31, 2007 at which time participants were requested to confirm the use of the designated alignment within the proposed Generalized Future Land Use Plan Map of the updated St. Joseph County Master Plan.

A majority of the local governments selected Alignment A, connecting with Alignment C at the north end of the study area, as shown on the attached map.

In response to the question concerning inclusion of this alignment in the countywide Generalized Future Land Use Map, 94% of the participants indicated agreement.

Several participants indicated no preference for an alignment and others indicated no preference but that a limited access highway is preferred.

This report contains each ballot as submitted, a map showing the alignment and the results of the “real time” electronic voting.

For additional information, please contact Brad Neumann at 269- 467-5522 or via email at neuman36@msu.edu.

St. Joseph County
 Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot
 Summary of Votes

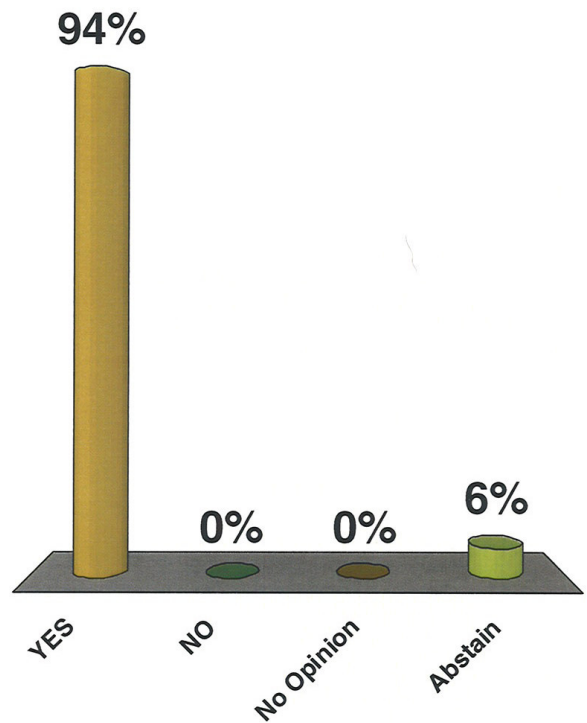
Unit	Ballot/Communication Received	SEGMENT "A"					SEGMENT "B" (South Portion)				SEGMENT "B" (North Portion)					SEGMENT "C"					SEGMENT "D"				
		1. Alignment A	2. Alignment C	3. Alignment F	4. Alignment G	5. No Preference	1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route	2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route	3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route	4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route	5. No Preference	1. Alignment A	2. Alignment C	3. Alignment E	4. Alignment F & C	5. No Preference	1. Alignment A & C	2. Alignment E, H & C	3. Alignment C	4. Alignment C & I	5. No Preference	1. Alignment C	2. Alignment H & I	3. Alignment I	4. No Preference
Constantine Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
Constantine, Village	N				X																				
Fabius Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
Florence Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
Flowerfield Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
Lockport Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
Moitville Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
Park Twp.	Y	X				X										X						X			
St. Joseph County Commissioners	Y	X				X										X						X			
Three Rivers, City of	Y																								
White Pigeon Twp.	N																								
White Pigeon, Village of	Y	X				X										X						X			
TOTALS		7	1	0	0	2	6	1	0	0	3	7	1	0	0	9	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	1

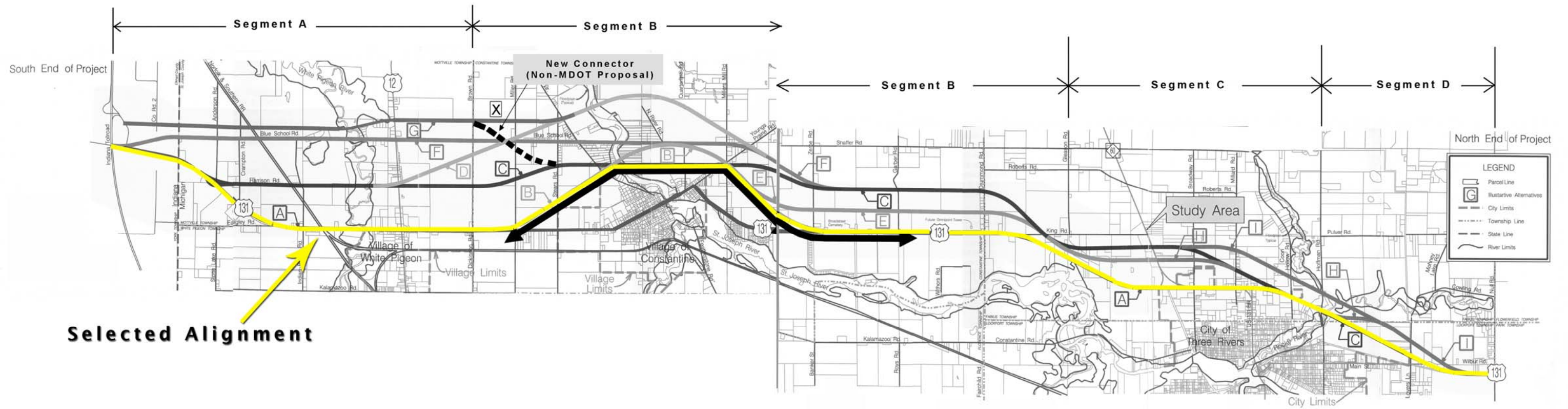
Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce did not submit a ballot but indicated a preference for a limited access highway

Corridor Alternatives

I agree with using the chosen alignment (A&C) within the County Master Plan

1. YES
2. NO
3. No Opinion
4. Abstain





St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government <i>Constantine Township</i> This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government <i>Raymond Schmidtendorf</i> Elected Official

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

Carl H. Baxmeyer
Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.
905 S. Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4808 [Fax]

St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G
- 5. No Preference

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 5. No Preference

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C
- 5. No Preference

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government <i>FABUS TOWNSHIP</i>
<i>This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government</i>
<i>Robert T. McDonough, Supervisor</i>
Chief Elected Official

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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(219) 872-4808 [Fax]

St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government
<u>Florence Township</u>
<i>This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government</i>
<u>Glenn Lovejoy</u>
Chief Elected Official

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Alignment B - Bypass

Local Unit of Government
<u>FLOWERFIELD TOWNSHIP</u>
<i>This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government</i>
<u>Sally Hackenberg, Clerk</u>
Chief Elected Official

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- Our Vote!*
- 1. Alignment A & C
 - 2. Alignment E, H & C
 - 3. Alignment C
 - 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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(219) 872-4808 [Fax]

St. Joseph County
Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot *January 08, 07*

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government
LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP
 This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government
MARTY BARTH - SUPERVISOR
 Chief Elected Official

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.
905 S. Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4808 [Fax]

St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government <i>MOTTVILLE TOWNSHIP</i>
<i>This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government</i>
<i>(Sandra) Leger, Supervisor</i> Chief Elected Official

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.
905 S. Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4808 [Fax]

**St. Joseph County
Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot**

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

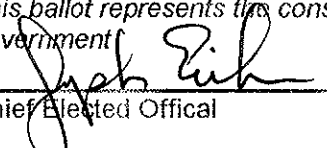
In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government PARK TOWNSHIP
<i>This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government</i>
 JOSEPH EICHORN
Chief Elected Official

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

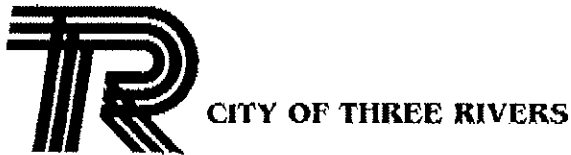
In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government <i>St. Joseph County Commissioner</i> This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government <i>Robin Ryan / Chairperson</i> Chief Elected Official
--

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

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Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.
905 S. Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4808 [Fax]



333 West Michigan Avenue
Three Rivers, Michigan 49093

January 29, 2007

Phone: (269) 273-1075
www.threeriversmi.org

Mr. Carl H. Baxmeyer
Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.
905 S. Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360

Fax #219-872-4808

Dear Mr. Baxmeyer,

To reiterate our conversation this morning, the Three Rivers City Commission affirmed by unanimous motion on April 18, 2000 that it would prefer that US-131 remain in the existing footprint through the City. I have excerpted that portion of the motion below:

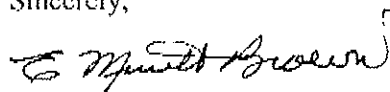
“ It was moved by Commissioner Baker and seconded by Commissioner Schneider to leave US-131 where it is if MDOT was just going to improve and widen the road; and if US-131 was to become a limited access highway from the State line to Portage then the City would want it to stay within the one-mile corridor west of Three Rivers.

The motion passed 7-0.”

The City Manager declined to bring the question before the Commission again in the 2007 timeframe. Since the Mayor and 5 of the 6 Commissioners are now the same persons as at that time I believe that the decision would remain the same.

Concerning the alignment ballot: As the above excerpted motion does not address alignment in other areas and since this would not be readdressed by the Three Rivers City Commission, it is evident that the City of Three Rivers has no expressed opinion on these proposed locations.

Sincerely,



E. Merritt Brown
Special Projects Engineer

EMB/tm

C: Joe Bippus, City Manager

St. Joseph County Master Plan - U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot

As stakeholder and local government representatives you have the opportunity to voice your preference for the alignment by segment.

Segment A -

In Segment A, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment F
- 4. Alignment G

Segment B -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment from Brown Road to the MDOT Chosen Alignment should be:

- 1. A to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 2. C to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 3. F to H to the MDOT Chosen Route
- 4. G to X to the MDOT Chosen Route

Segment B (continued) -

In Segment B, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A
- 2. Alignment C
- 3. Alignment E
- 4. Alignment F & C

Segment C -

In Segment C, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment A & C
- 2. Alignment E, H & C
- 3. Alignment C
- 4. Alignment C & I

Segment D -

In Segment D, the preferred alignment is:

- 1. Alignment C
- 2. Alignment H & I
- 3. Alignment I

Local Unit of Government <i>White Pigeon Village</i>
<i>This ballot represents the consensus of the local unit of government</i>
<i>[Signature]</i> Chief Elected Official <i>PRESIDENT</i>

Please mark the ballot; list the name of the local unit of government; have it signed by the chief elected official and return it no later than January 29th, 2007 by mail or fax to:

Carl H. Baxmeyer
Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.
905 S. Woodland Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-4808 [Fax]

57 N. Main Street, Three Rivers, MI 49093
269/278-8193 FAX: 269/273-1751
E-mail: bruce@trchamber.com
Web site: www.trchamber.com



Fax

To: Carl H. Baxmeyer **From:** Bruce Snook, General Manager

Fax: (219) 872-4808 **Pages:** 1

Phone: **Date:** 1/29/2007

Re: St. Joseph County Master Plan – U.S. 131 **CC:**
Alignment Ballot

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

• **Comments:**

In conjunction with the current U.S. 131 "alignment consensus" process led by the St. Joseph County Planning Commission, the Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors went on record during its meeting on January 19, 2007 in support of a limited access highway, rather than expressing a preference for a particular route. Accordingly, the Chamber has not completed nor signed the "Master Plan – U.S. 131 Alignment Ballot" that was distributed during the meeting in Constantine on December 20, 2006. Although the Chamber Board chose not to express a preference for a specific route, there was a desire to indicate the belief that a limited access freeway is critical to economic development in the Three Rivers/St. Joseph County area.

Chamber Board consideration of this matter also yielded conversation about encouraging the Michigan Department of Transportation to assess "short-term fixes" for improvement of the highway, rather than only a long-term approach. In particular, projects to eliminate the need for traffic signals at N. Main Street and M-216, thus reducing the barriers to travel on U.S. 131, were suggested as examples of ways to improve the flow of traffic on the highway.

I hope this input from the Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors proves helpful to the planning process now underway.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Bruce Snook

FANNING HOWEY

Carl H. Baxmeyer
800/872-0635



Charles Eckenstahler
219/861-2077



Ken Jones
574/293-7762