Indiana Department of Transportation

nty Cass	Route	US 24	Des. No1383622
	CATEGORICA	Environmental Document LEXCLUSION FOR OUT OF THE PROPERTY OF T	RM
Road No./County:	US 24, Cass	County	4
Designation Number:	1383622		
Project Description/Ten	Δ1	Improvement, at Logan	sport Rd.
After completing this form, I co review/approve if Level 4 CE):	nclude that this project qual	ifies for the following type of C	Categorical Exclusion (FHWA must
			eria for Categorical Exclusion Manual nvironmental Scoping Manager)
			eria for Categorical Exclusion Manual nvironmental Scoping Manager)
			eria for Categorical Exclusion Manual S (Environmental Services Division)
		posed action meets the criter quired Signatories: ESM, ES	ia for Categorical Exclusion Manual , FHWA
Note: For documents prepared by o located to release for public involves Approval ESM Signature		ES Signature	SM of the district in which the project is Date
	*		
	FHWA Signature	Date	
Release for Public Involven	nent	Ashley A Digitally signed by A Sharkey Dict cn=Auhley A Sharkey	inley A New, - De District,
		Sharkey CeUS Date: 2017.07.28 10.4	7/28/17
ESM Initials	Date	ES Initials	Date
Certification of Public Invo		ic Involvement Da	te
Note: Do not approve until after			al requirements have been satisfied.
INDOT ES/District Env. Reviewer Signature:		Date:	
Name and Organization of CE/EA Preparer:	Jessica Spiess, INL	OOT-LaPorte District Environment	al Section
is page 1 of 2 Project nam	e: Intersection Impr	ovement	Date: July 25, 2017

PROJECT INFORM		Des Number	1383622				
County, Route							
Purpose and Need:	This project is needed to improve the safety at the inter		IC 24 of				
	The purpose of this project is to create a safer route for Logansport Road.	tramic to cross t	JS 24 at				
Project	The project location is US 24 at the intersection of Loga	ansport Road, ne	ear the town of				
Description:	Logansport, Cass County, Indiana. More specifically this project is located in the Twelve Mile Quadrangle, Section 27, Township 27N, Range 3E and Section F GODFROY, Township 99, Range 99. See Appendix B for location maps. The project length is approximately 0.29 miles. The entire project is located in a rural area. US 24 is classified as a principal arterial roadway and handles four lanes of traffic, two eastbound and two westbound. The lanes are 12 feet wide with 10 foot outside shoulders.						
	The existing intersection of US 24 at Logansport Road has had 42 crashes over a span of 6 years (2010-2016). 4 crashes resulted in incapacitating injury crashes. 18 resulted in non-incapacitating injury crashes. 20 resulted in only property damage crashes. There were no fatalities at this intersection. The proportion of injury crashes is extremely high at this intersection compared to other similar intersections. 32 of the 42 crashes (76%) involved traffic from Logansport Road failing to yield at the intersection and being hit by traffic traveling on US 24. 23 of the 32 crashes (73%) involved traffic from Logansport Road getting hit after they crossed the median of US 24. Furthermore, this was the case in 16 of the 22 injury crashes.						
	The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) intend to proceed with the following proposed project. The project is the US 24, at the intersection of Logansport Road, Other Intersection Improvement – J-Turn. The project will be modifying the existing intersection from a standard county road yield crossing at a divided highway. The J-Turns will prevent traffic crossing US 24 from crossing all four lanes of US 24 in one movement. Instead of directly crossing all four lanes, a driver merges to the right in the same direction as traffic then again merges via a U-turn going the same direct as traffic before turning onto the county road. Traffic trying to cross US 24 on Logansport Road will be forced to cross one section of US 24 at a time through the use of concrete barrier at the existing intersection and added left turn lanes. Typically injury crash reduction after the installation of a J-turn is over 50%. Installing the J-Turn will require the addition of acceleration and deceleration lanes and J Turn crossings in what is currently the median of US 24. Because of this work, a Rule 5 permit will be needed as ground disturbance will exceed more than 1 acre. All of the surrounding area is considered agricultural. There are no residential properties within the project area. The project will not require the purchase of right-of-way. No						
*	wetlands or waterways will be impacted by this project. Maintenance of traffic will be shifting lane closures to allow for work on one side of the roadway at a time.						
Other Alternatives	Five other alternatives were considered:	-					
Considered:	1) Traffic Signals						
	2) Realign the crossroad						
	3) Build a bridge						
	4) Build an interchange						
*	5) Do Nothing						
*	Alternative 1: This alternative would be to install intersection. Traffic signals are currently not warra						

Categorical Exclusion	Level 1 Form	Project:	Other 1	Intersection	n Improveme	nt	Des No:	1383622
	Unwarranted signals typically cause addition crashes, especially on a high speed four lane divided highway. Since this alternative does not clearly reduce the current safety issues present at this intersection, this alternative was not selected.							
	to inter becaus will occ alterati	Alternative 2: This alternative would be to realign the crossroad (Logansport Rd.) to intersect at a 90 degree angle. Currently the intersection is at a slight skew, because of this right-of-way would be need to be purchased and greater impacts will occur environmentally and with traffic restrictions through road closures. This alternative would likely reduce crashes by as much as 20%. However, due to the added impacts this alternative was not chosen.						
	on Log This alt local ro traffic r	ansport Rd. ernative wo ads. This a estrictions t	This al ould redu alternativ hrough i	Iternative uce the m ve would o road clost	would requi obility of loc cause greate ures. Althou	I a bridge to care the purchass al traffic betweer impacts to tage this alternative to alternative to	sing of right een US 24 he enviror ative would	nt-of-way. and other nment and d greatly
4	Alternative 4: This alternative would be to build an interchange. This alternative would building two new intersections where the ramps from US 24 would meet the local road. This would greatly reduce crashes, but only as much as a J Turn would. This alternative will have greater impacts to the environment and traffic restrictions through road closures. Although this alternative would greatly reduce crashes, the added impacts caused this alternative to not be chosen.							
	Alternative 5: This alternative would not address the safety issues that are currently present at this intersection. Therefore it does not meet the purpose and need of the project.							
Project Termini:	La Porte Distr	ict, Cass Co	unty, US	24, at Log	gansport Rd.			
Funding Source(s):	X Federal	X Stat	te	Local	Other	Estimated Co		7,000
Project Sponsor:	INDOT-India	na Departme	ent of Tra	ınsportatio	n	Project Leng	th 0.29	miles
Name and organization of CE Level 1 Preparer: Jessica Spiess – INDOT, La Porte District, Environmental Manager								
INDOT ES/District Env. Reviewer Signature:								

SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION						
Public Invol	vement*	No:	Yes: X	Possible:		
	Since the project is a new type of intersection improvement for this area of the state, the In Department of Transportation (INDOT) decided to provide a public information meeting for local community. The public information meeting was held on June 27, 2017 at the Logan Public Library. Please see Appendix G for a sign in sheet from the meeting as well as confrom the public submitted after the meeting.					
Comments:	Department of Transportation (INDOT) Public Involvement Manual 2012 which would requipe project sponsor to offer the public an opportunity to submit comment and/or request a public hearing. Therefore, a legal notice will appear in a local publication contingent upon the release this document for public involvement. This document will be revised after the public involvements are fulfilled.			ould require the st a public on the release of		
Right-of-wa	tight-of-way (permanent and temporary, in acres) No: X Yes: Possible:					
Comments:	The project will not require the purchase of right-of-way. Existing right-of-way ranges from approximately 65 feet east and west of the US 24 roadway from the edge of pavement to 230 feet from the edge of pavement at the southern section east of the intersection with Logansport Road The area surrounding the project is primarily agricultural lands. There are no residential properties within the project area.					
Disruption t service)	o public facilities/services (such as schools, emergency	No:	Yes:	Possible: X		
Comments:	The project will not require a full closure of US 24. Ma single lane closures. This may cause possible delays Emergency services and schools should be notified tw construction. This has been included as a firm commit	to public facilit o weeks in ad	ies and servi	ces.		
Involvement	with existing bridge(s) Include structure number(s)	No: X	Yes:	Possible:		
Comments:	No existing bridge structures will be impacted by this p	roject.	2			

* Limited public involvemen	t, CE-1 level projects will	typically have no	public hearing opportunity offer	red.

INVOLVEMENT WITH RESOURCES							
Streams, Ri	vers, and Watercourses Impacted (linear feet)	No: X	Yes:	Possible:			
Comments:	No waterways were identified on the NWI maps or topolinspection completed on October 3, 2016 by INDOT-E of waterways. There will be no impacts to waterways.	nvironmental	Services also	showed no sign			
Wetlands (a	cres)	No: X	Yes:	Possible:			
Comments:	No wetlands were identified on the NWI maps within the completed on October 3, 2016 by INDOT – Environme was no longer located within the project area. There we Appendix E for Waters Resources.	ntal Services	revealed tha	t the wetland			

Other Intersection Improvement

Des No:

1383622

INVOLVEMENT WITH RESOURCES							
Disturbance	Disturbance of Terrestrial Habitat (acres) No: X Yes: Possible:						
Comments: The scope of the project has no tree removal or earth disturbance taking place outside of the previously disturbed soil. No terrestrial habitat will be impacted. However, due to the type of work being done and more than 1 acre of ground disturbance will occur. A Rule 5 permit will be required for this project.							
Karst Featu	res	No:	X	Yes:	Possible:		
Comments:	This project is located outside of the designated karst a October 13, 1993 Memorandum of Understanding (MC INDOT. No karst features were noted by INDOT - Environment field visit.	OU) betw al Servi	een	IDEM, IDNR,	USFWS, and		
	The Indiana Geological Survey (IGS) response dated National geological features at the project site. See Appendix Communications	viarch 1. 215 for r	7, 20 espo	17 dia not ide nse.	ntiry any		
Threatened	and Endangered Species	No:	X	Yes:	Possible:		
Comments:	An early coordination letter was sent out on February 13, 2017 by INDOT – Environmental Services. The IDNR responded to the letter on March 14, 2017 stating, "The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. To date, no plant or animal species listed as state or federally threatened, endangered, or rare have been reported to occur in the project vicinity." See Appendix C14. This project falls under the Memorandum of Understanding with USFWS. As such, coordination was not conducted for this project. The project is within the range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat. However, a review of the USFWS database did not indicate the presence of endangered bat species in or within 0.5 miles of the project area. Utilizing the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website of USFWS, it was determined this project will have "No Effect" on the endangered bat species. See Appendix C25-C32 for the Consistency Letter from USFWS. Impacts to						
endangered species are not anticipated. Drinking Water Resources No: X Yes: Possible:							
The proposed project is located in Cass County; therefore, the project is not located within the area of a legally designated sole source aquifer. The FHWA/EPA sole source aquifer MOA is not applicable to this project, and a groundwater assessment is not required. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Wellhead Proximity Determinator website (http://www.in.gov/idem/pages/wellhead/) was accessed on July 25, 2017 by INDOT-Environmental Services. The required project location data was provided and it was determined that this project is not located within a Wellhead Protection Area. This project lies outside of municipal water facilities and does not infringe on any residential wells, therefore no impacts will occur to any drinking water resources as a result of this project.							
Flood Plains	(note transverse or longitudinal impact)	No: X		Yes:	Possible:		
Comments:	This project is not located within a floodplain. IDNR star- "Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resour administered by the Division of Water is not required for those will be no impacts to any floodplain as a result of	ces und or this pr	er th	e regulatory p	rograms		

Other Intersection Improvement

INVOLVEMENT WITH RESOURCES

Des No: 1383622 Possible: Yes: Possible:

Possible:

Possible:

Possible:

Comments:

Farmland (acres)

The land within the project area is primarily mowed median vegetation. Furthermore, this project does not require a conversion of agricultural land to new permanent right-of-way. Early coordination was sent to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on February 13, 2017. NRCS responded on March 3, 2017 stating, "The proposed project to construct a restricted U-Turn intersection located at US 24 in Cass County, Indiana (Des No 1383622), as referred to in your letter received February 13, 2017, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland." No further coordination is necessary. See Appendix C16 for response.

Cultural Resources

The project falls within the guidelines of Category A, Type 2 under the (MPPA) Minor Projects Programmatic Agreement. No further consultation is required. This fulfills the requirements of the Section 106 process.

Comments:

Category A consists of projects that, by their nature, have little to no potential to cause effect to historic properties and do not require review by INDOT Cultural Resources Staff. A-2: All work within interchanges and within medians of divided highways in previously disturbed

soils.

Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Resources

There are no Section 4(f) resources located in or near the project area. The Land and Water

X

Yes:

No: X

No:

No:

No:

No:

X

X

Yes:

Yes:

 \mathbf{X}

Comments:

Conservation Fund (LWCF) list by county was checked on July 25, 2017 by INDOT-Environmental Services for Section 6(f) resources. There will be no impacts to any Section 4 (f) or Section 6(f) resources.

Air Quality Impacts

Possible: X Yes: No:

Yes:

Comments:

This project is located in Cass County, which is currently in attainment. No air quality studies are required for this project. This project has been identified as being exempt from air quality analysis in accordance with 40 CFR 93.126 and this project is not a project of air quality concern (40 CFR 93.123). It can therefore be concluded that the project will have no significant impact on air quality. This project is of a type qualifying as a categorical exclusion (Group 1) under 23 CFR 771.117(d), or exempt under the Clean Air Act conformity rule under 40 CFR 93.126, and as such, a Mobile Source Air Toxics analysis is not required. See Appendix F for STIP.

Community/Economic Impacts

No major impacts are anticipated for the established communities adjacent to the project area.

Hazardous Materials

Comments:

A red flag investigation was completed by La Porte District-INDOT Environmental Section and approved by INDOT Central Office - Environmental Services on April 11, 2017. The result of the red flag investigation did not identify hazardous material concerns within the project area; therefore, no further hazardous materials investigations are required. See Appendix D for Red Flag Investigation.

Comments:

Permits

Yes: X Possible: No:

Comments:

More than an acre of ground will be disturbed, as such, a Rule 5 permit will be required for this project.

Des No:

1383622

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS:

Firm:

- 1. All appropriate permits must be obtained before construction may begin. INDOT Firm
- 2. Emergency services and schools should be notified two weeks in advance to the beginning of construction. INDOT Firm

For Consideration:

- 3. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue) and legumes as soon as possible upon completion; low endophyte tall fescue may be used in the ditch bottom and side slopes only. IDNR For Consideration
- 4. Minimize and contain within the project limits all tree and brush clearing. IDNR For Consideration
- 5. Do not cut any tree suitable for Indiana bat or Northern Long-eared bat roosting (greater than 3 inches dbh, living or dead, with loose hanging bark, or with cracks, crevices, or cavities) from April 1 through September 30. IDNR For Consideration
- 6. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized. **IDNR For Consideration**
- 7. Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas. **IDNR For Consideration**

THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CANNOT BE PROCESSED AS A LEVEL ONE IF YES IS SELECTED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS*:					
Formal noise analysis required?	No: X	Yes:			
Environmental Justice analysis required?	No: X	Yes:			
Right-of-Way acquisition greater than 0.5 acre?	No: X	Yes:			
Relocation of residences/businesses/etc.?	No: X	Yes:			
Added through-traffic lanes?	No: X	Yes:			
Facility on new location or realignment?	No: X	Yes:			
Permanent alteration of local traffic pattern?	No: X	Yes:			
Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) resource impacts?	No: X	Yes:			
Sole Source Aquifer Groundwater Assessment required?	No: X	Yes:			
Is the project "Likely to Adversely Affect" Threatened and Endangered Species?	No: X	Yes:			
Stream impacts greater than 300 linear feet, or work beyond 75 feet from pavement?	No: X	Yes:			
Wetland impacts greater than 0.1 acre?	No: X	Yes:			
Does the project have historic bridge involvement, or a Section 106 finding of No Adverse Effect / Adverse Effect?	No: X	Yes:			

^{*}Please note, this table is not applicable for state funded CE's.

Project: Other Intersection Improvement

Des No: 1383622



INDIANA DEPARMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LAPORTE DISTRICT

Appendix A INDOT Supporting Documentation

Categorical Exclusion Level Thresholds

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Relocations	None	≤ 2	> 2	> 10
Right-of-Way1	< 0.5 acre	< 10 acres	≥ 10 acres	≥ 10 acres
Length of Added Through Lane	None	None	Any	Any
Permanent Traffic Pattern Alteration	None	None	Yes	Yes
New Alignment	None	None	< 1 mile	$\geq 1 \text{ mile}^2$
Wetlands	< 0.1 acre	< 1 acre	< 1 acre	≥ 1 acre
Stream Impacts*	≤ 300 linear feet of stream impacts, no work beyond 75 feet from pavement	> 300 linear feet impacts, or work beyond 75 feet from pavement	N/A	N/A
Section 4(f)	None	None	None	Any impacts
Section 6(f)	None	None	Any impacts	Any impacts
Section 106*	"No Historic Properties Affected" or falls within guidelines of Minor Projects PA	"No Adverse Effect" or "Adverse Effect"	N/A	If ACHP involved Or Historic Bridge Involvement ⁷
Noise Analysis Required	No	No	Yes ³	Yes ³
Threatened/Endangered Species	"Not likely to Adversely Affect", or Falls within Guidelines of USFWS 9/8/93 Programmatic Response	N/A	N/A	"Likely to Adversely Affect" ⁴
Sole Source Aquifer Groundwater Assessment	Not Required	Detailed Assessment Not Required	Detailed Assessment Not Required	Detailed Assessment Required
Approval Level ESM ⁵ ES ⁶ FHWA	Yes 2011	Yes	Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes

^{*}These thresholds have changed from the March 2011 Manual.

¹Permanent and/or temporary right-of-way.

²If the length of the new alignment is equal to or greater than one mile, contact the FHWA's Air Quality/Environmental Specialist.

³In accordance with INDOT's Noise Policy.

⁴ If the project is considered Likely to Adversely Affect Threatened and/or Endangered Species, INDOT and the FHWA should be consulted to determine whether a higher class of document is warranted.

⁵Environmental Scoping Manager

⁶Environmental Services Division

⁷ Any involvement with a bridge processed under the Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement

Project: Other Intersection Improvement

Des No: 1383622

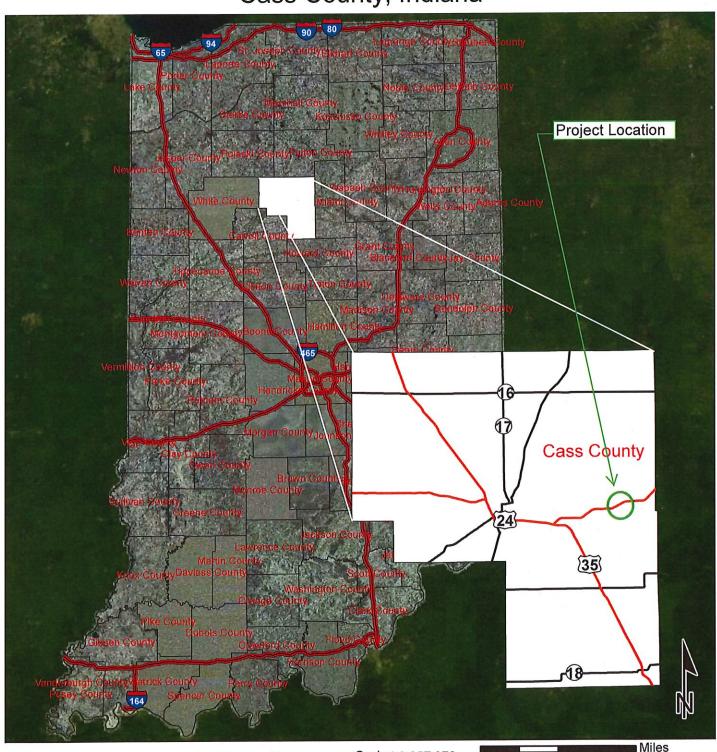


INDIANA DEPARMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LAPORTE DISTRICT

Appendix B Graphics

General Location US 24 at 600 E

Des. No. 1383616, Other Intersection Improvement Cass County, Indiana

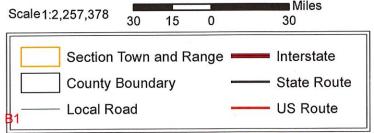


This map is intended to serve as an aid in graphic representation only. This information is not warranted for accuracy or other purposes.

Sources: Non Orthophotography <u>Data</u> - Obtained from the State of Indiana Geographical Information Office Library

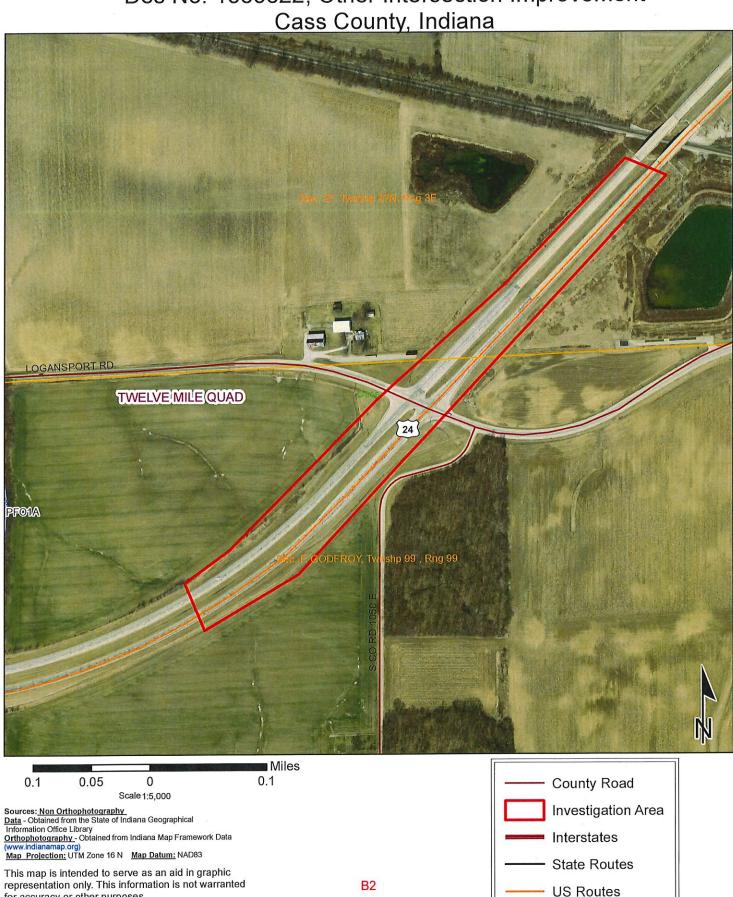
Orthophotography - Obtained from Indiana Map Framework Data (www.indianamap.org)

Map Projection: UTM Zone 16 N Map Datum: NAD83



Waters of the U.S. Determination - Project Location Map US 24 at Logansport Rd

Des No. 1383622, Other Intersection Improvement



for accuracy or other purposes.

Waters of the U.S. Determination - Topography Map US 24 at Logansport Rd

Des No. 1383622, Other Intersection Improvement

Cass County, Indiana PEO1A PFO1A PFO1C New Waverly E DIVISION RD DIVISION UBGX LO PEMA 8 COUNTY LINE PEO1A C Miami Waverly LOGANSPORT ROAD 670-PF01A RD MPFO1AL Ġ B PFO1A 680 DLD STONE RD LEVOSBORG RD ■ Miles 0.3 County Road 0.3 0.15 0 Scale 1:15,000 Investigation Area Sources: Non Orthophotography
<u>Data</u> - Obtained from the State of Indiana Geographical
Information Office Library
<u>Orthophotography</u> - Obtained from Indiana Map Framework Data Interstates (www.indianamap.org)
Map Projection: UTM Zone 16 N Map Datum: NAD83 State Routes This map is intended to serve as an aid in graphic representation only. This information is not warranted **B3 US Routes** for accuracy or other purposes.