

# Overview of Highway Project Development

John W. Brossart, Chief, Division of Land Acquisition  
Indiana Department of Highways

Mr. Brossart opened the presentation by welcoming the attendees, giving a brief overview of the Division, and introducing the speakers.

Mr. Davis discussed the abstracting unit's role in the acquisition process. He gave an overview of the unit, discussed the use of staff and fee abstractors, and explained the abstracting process, from receipt of preliminary plans to searching the courthouse records.

Mr. Best reviewed the right-of-way engineering process. He explained the plotting of property lines, calculating acquisition areas and residues, drawing land plats, writing legal descriptions, and preparing conveyance instruments.

Mr. Gordon discussed the appraisal function, which begins upon the completion of right-of-way engineering. He explained the various approaches of estimating the value of property. He reviewed the market approach to appraising in some detail, explaining how data is compiled, how the before and after values are calculated, and how a value for the acquisition is established. He also discussed the appraisal review process.

Mr. Terwilliger discussed the buying section's role in the land acquisition process. He discussed the buyer's initial negotiating contact with the owners, the review of the highway plans, the presentation of the offer, and the purchasing or condemning of the property. He also briefly explained the Attorney General's role in acquiring property through the process of eminent domain.

Mrs. Wilson reviewed the relocation section's function. She discussed the relocatee contact, the computation of benefits, the advisory assistance that is offered, and how moving payments are handled. She also explained the requirements a person must meet to qualify for relocation benefits.

Mr. Brossart gave a brief summary of the discussions and answered several questions from the audience.