Moving on from a polluting past

Panelists:

--Michael Hicks, Director, Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University

--Natalie Johnson, Executive Director, Save the Dunes Council

--Mary Hess, Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life

--Tim Maloney, HEC – Moderator

Greening the Statehouse
November 20, 2021

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Saving a Unique Indiana Landscape

The Mid-States Corridor – a wrong turn for southern Indiana

- About the project
- Expected impacts
- Project status
- Next steps – coalition engagement

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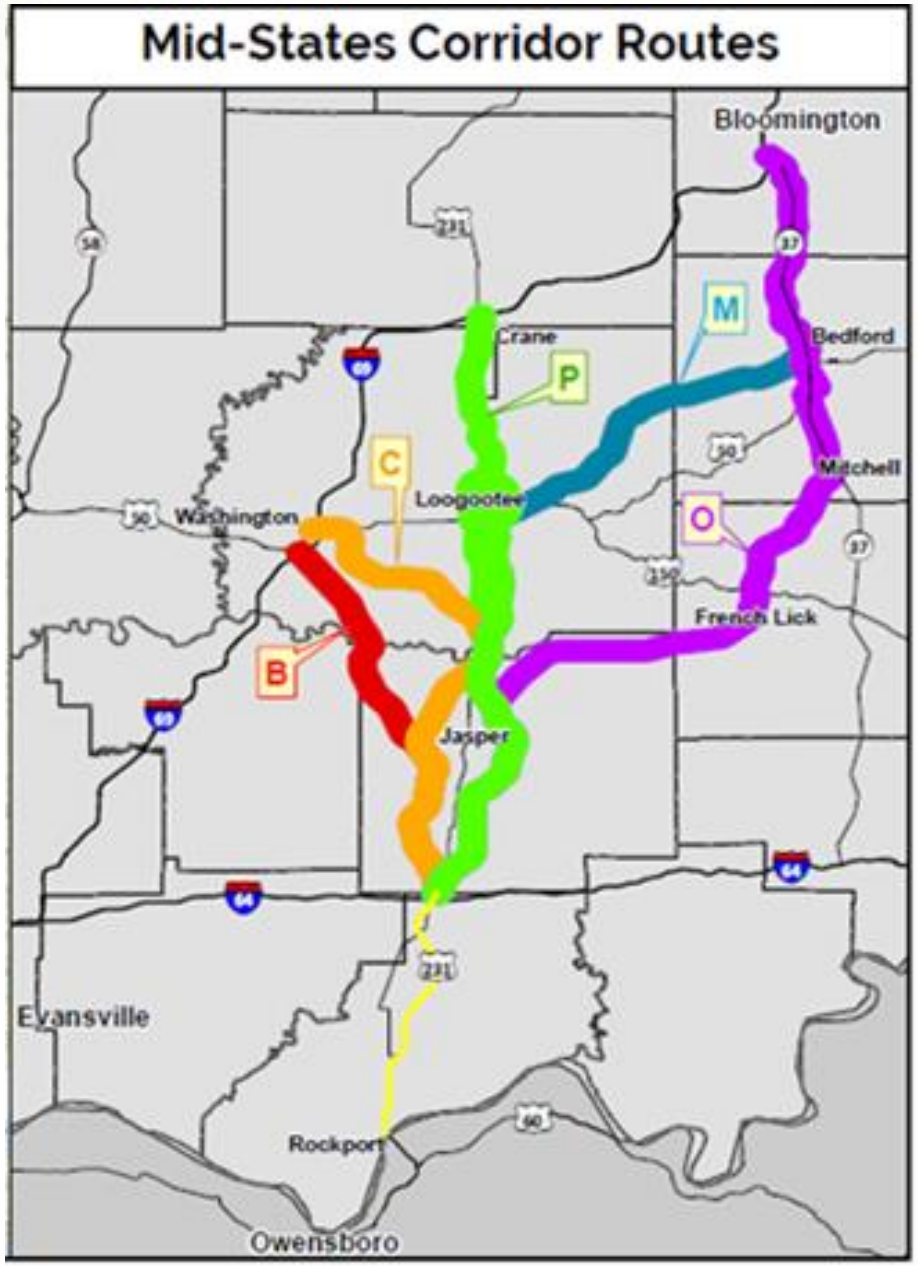

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What's at risk?

- Up to 2,000 acres of forestland cleared
- 800 acres of floodplain and 60 acres of wetlands filled
- Nearly 20 miles of streams disturbed or destroyed, including 500 acres of karst features in the Lost River watershed harmed or destroyed
- Over 1,500 acres of farmland paved
- As many as 255 homes and 51 businesses lost

Outdoor recreation areas: HNF, Martin State Forest, East Fork White River, hiking, biking and horse trails, caves, that contribute to a $16 billion outdoor recreation economy in Indiana

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Mid-States Corridor Highway Alternatives Comparison Chart - For Alternatives Carried Forward For Detailed Study

Summary of mileage, design, cost and impacts

Route Alternative	B-2	C-1	C-2	M-1	M-2	M-3	O-2	P-1	P-2	P-3
Miles (new construction)	34	42	42	62	62	62	51	54	54	54
Design	expressway	freeway	expressway	freeway	expressway	super 2	expressway	freeway	expressway	super 2
Construction cost (in millions)										
Roadway	$278.8	$474.6	$344.4	$1,178.0	$855.6	$465.0	$703.8	$610.2	$442.8	$372.6
Interchanges—number (estimated)	3.5	9.5	3.5	11.5	5.5	5.5	4.5	10.5	4.5	4.5
Interchanges—cost	$21.7	$194.8	$21.7	$235.8	$34.1	$34.1	$27.9	$215.3	$27.9	$27.9
Total roadway constructon cost	**$300.5**	**$669.4**	**$366.1**	**$1,413.8**	**$889.7**	**$499.1**	**$731.7**	**$825.5**	**$470.7**	**$400.5**
Impacts (acres)										
Total right-of-way	1,645	2,111	2,017	3,786	3,609	2,858	3,257	2,689	2,595	1,946
Forestland	221	406	378	1,998	1,935	1,554	1,677	878	850	633
Floodplain	234	243	217	801	769	602	542	525	499	375
Wetland	52	58	57	62	59	43	54	45	43	30
Farmland	1,321	1,512	1,476	1,544	1,488	1,155	1,407	1,583	1,547	1,158
Karst features area	0	0	0	163	183	152	482	0	0	0
Stream length (feet)	47,738	51,529	48,833	93,050	92,332	74,335	105,423	78,806	76,110	57,459
Homes	121	142	121	255	119	102	119	91	70	56
Businesses	0	12	4	51	7	5	10	11	3	2

Sources:
Mid-States Corridor Screening of Alternatives, February 2020
Mid-States Corridor Impact Calculation Appendix, February 2020
Construction Costs Estimates Appendix, February 2020

Notes:
1. *These listed stream impacts do not include impacts to the significant sub-surface "stream" drainage prevalent in these karst-intense areas.*
2. *Costs estimated based on per mile and per interchange costs contained in the Mid-States reports listed above.*
3. *The estimated costs exclude land acquisition, relocations, design/engineering, construction management, utility relocation, and contingencies.*
4. *Freeway Alternatives C-1, M-1, and P-1 include the added costs of upgrading at-grade intersections along the existing US 231 expressway in Spencer County to interchanges or grade separations.*

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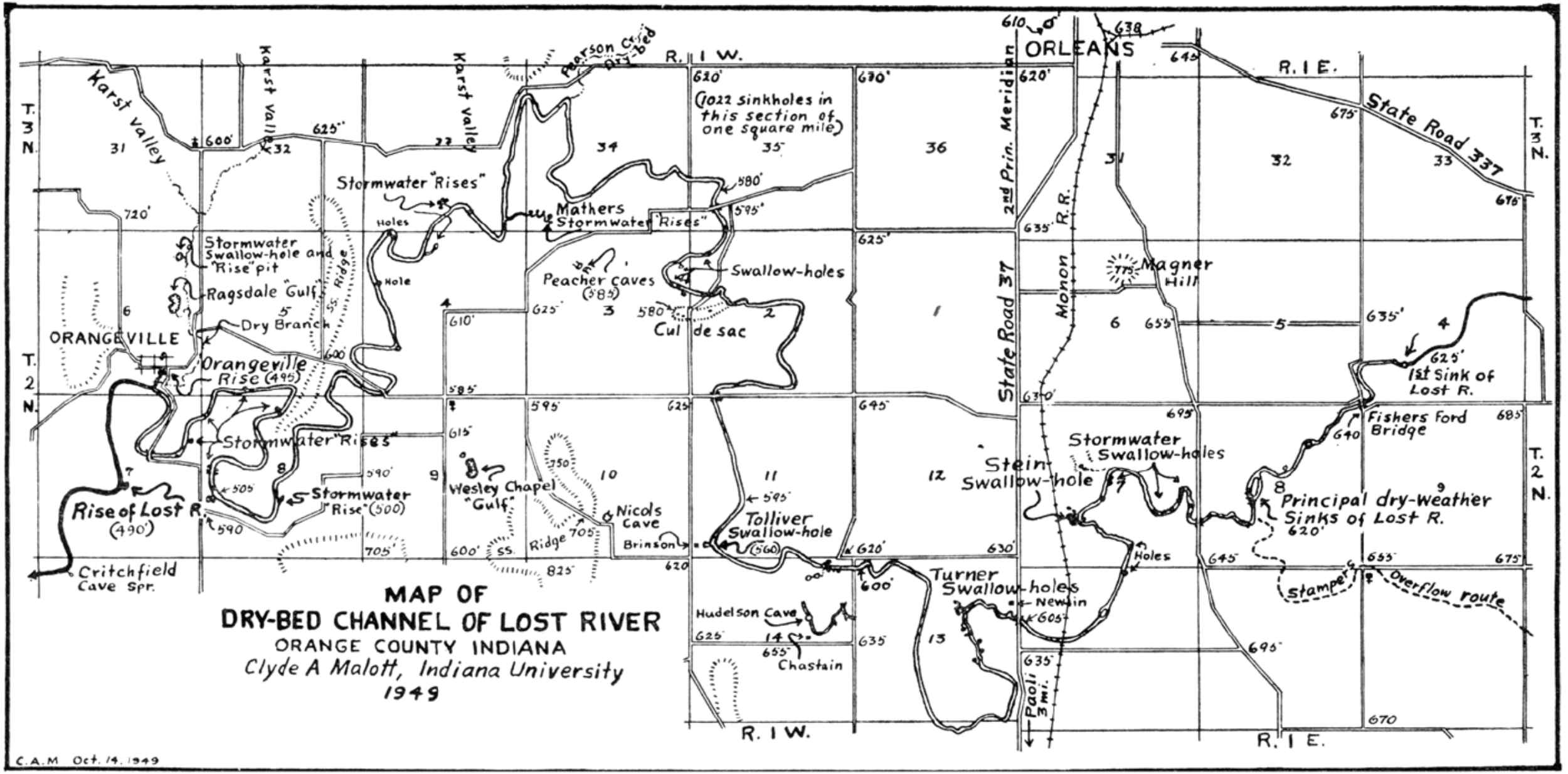
MAP OF
DRY-BED CHANNEL OF LOST RIVER
ORANGE COUNTY INDIANA
Clyde A Malott, Indiana University
1949
C.A.M Oct. 14. 1949
ORLEANS
ORANGEVILLE
Karst valley
Karst valley
Karst valley
Pearson Creek
Stormwater "Rises"
Mathers Stormwater "Rises"
(1022 sinkholes in this section of one square mile)
Stormwater Swallow-hole and "Rise" pit
Ragsdale "Gulf"
Dry Branch
Orangeville Rise (495)
Peacher caves (585)
Swallow-holes
Cul de sac
Stormwater "Rises"
Rise of Lost R. (490')
Stormwater "Rise" (500)
Wesley Chapel "Gulf"
Nicols Cave
Brinson
Tolliver Swallow-hole (560)
Critchfield Cave Spr.
Hudelson Cave
Chastain
Turner Swallow-holes
Newlin
Stein Swallow-hole
Stormwater Swallow-holes
Principal dry-weather Sinks of Lost R.
1st Sink of Lost R.
Fishers Ford Bridge
Stamper
Overflow route
Magner Hill
Monon R.R.
State Road 37
State Road 337
2nd Prin. Meridian
Paoli 3 mi.
Ridge
R. 1 W.
R. 1 E.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.

From Significant Features of the Indiana Karst--

"The pit-marked lands of southern Indiana, where placid streams disappear and riotous storm waters are swallowed up and disgorged from mysterious subterranean routes, constitute a singular geomorphic area of unusual lore and challenging inquiry. During the past 60 years the Indiana Academy of Science has held eleven field meetings in this area and at least 30 papers baring on the region have appeared in the Academy Proceedings."

-- Clyde Malott, Indiana University, 1944

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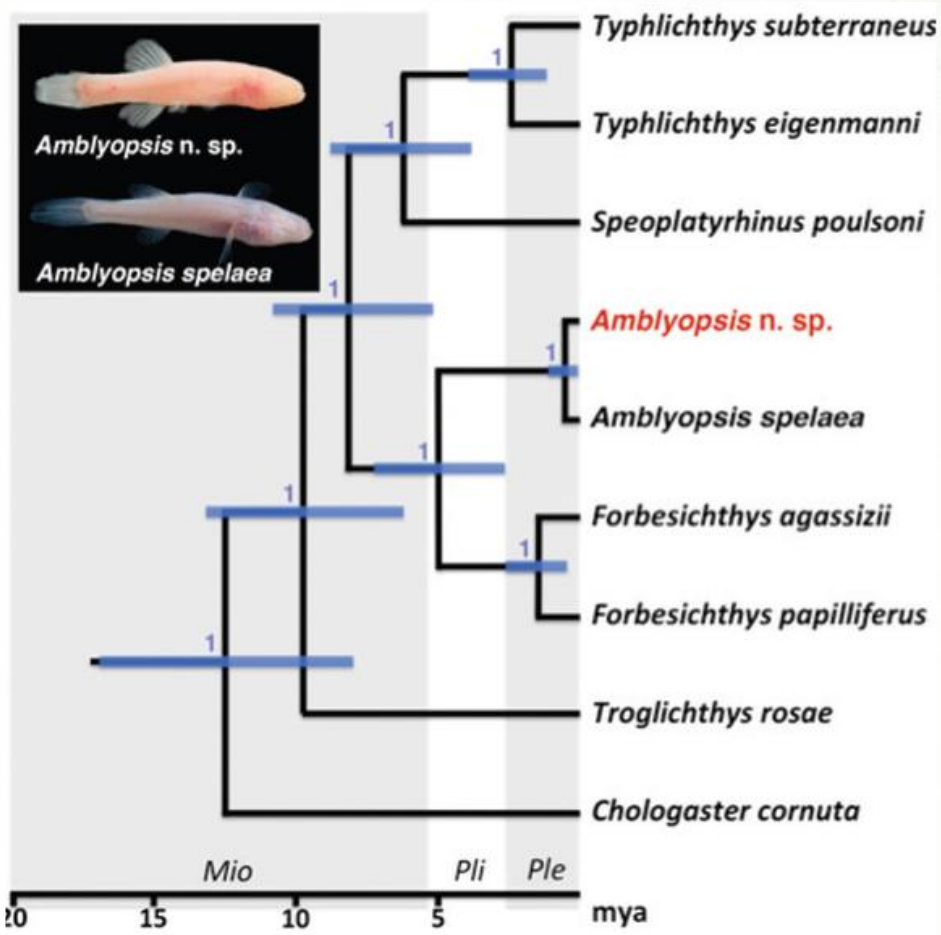
The Hoosier cavefish, a new and endangered species (Amblyopsidae, *Amblyopsis*) from the caves of southern Indiana

ZooKeys 412: 41–57 (2014)
doi: 10.3897/zookeys.412.7245
www.zookeys.org



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CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF EDUCATING & ADVOCATING

INDIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

SIERRA CLUB

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

Orangeville Rise

IKC
Indiana Karst Conservancy

Stop the Mid-states Corridor

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Next Steps

- Expanding the coalition
- Coordinating with local allies
- Technical and policy input to INDOT/highway planners
- Letter to Gov. Holcomb
- Town Halls

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A better path forward

- Fix the roads we have – improved safety
- Invest more in other essential infrastructure – broadband, safe drinking water, rural health care, schools, parks, trails and outdoor access
- Expand on the outdoor recreation economy & heritage tourism
- Improved quality of life as the key metric for progress

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Take action

- Email Governor Eric Holcomb eholcomb@gov.in.gov
- Email your state legislators http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/

www.nomidstates.org

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