

### 3.21 Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

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Short-term uses of the environment would generally be those associated with construction of the proposed project. Construction of the proposed project would involve the short-term use of resources such as labor and land for construction staging and storage of materials. As with any major construction activity, temporary disturbances are expected to occur. Such disturbances would consist of temporary construction noise, vibration, and visual impacts, temporary disruption of local traffic, and disruption to business and residential access within proposed construction areas.

The negative short-term effects stated above are of minor concern when compared with the positive effects of the proposed project. The long-term effects would be a shorter and safer route connecting I-55 in Illinois with I-65 in Indiana, and the creation of an environment that is supportive of economic growth that would include the potential for increased tax revenues and employment in the Study Area. The long-term benefits of the proposed Illiana Corridor are consistent with the use of resources and the short-term impacts upon the areas involved, and far outweigh the negative aspects.

The proposed project would contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity for the communities in the Study Area by providing improved local and regional accessibility and reduced traffic congestion on area roads. Increased travel speeds would save motorists time and lower vehicle operation costs.

### 3.22 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

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Constructing the Illiana Corridor would involve an irreversible commitment of many irretrievable resources. Some of these resources include land, natural resources, construction materials, energy, and manpower. Land used in the construction of the proposed project is considered an irretrievable resource along with everything below the surface.

Construction of a new transportation facility would require the permanent and irreversible removal of various natural resources located within the project right-of-way. These natural resources include trees, vegetation, wetlands and floodplains. Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce the impacts over time. Large amounts of other natural resources such as fossil fuels, aggregate cement, asphalt, sand, iron, and carbon would also be required to construct the proposed project.

Resources in the Study Area that are in the category of irretrievable resources include sand, gravel, limestone deposits, and farmland. These resources are generally viewed as income producing commodities. While the land above the deposits is used for a transportation project, or other secondary development, these deposits would not be available for use; unless these deposits are extracted using relatively new below ground