**DES. # 1800224**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for enhanced safety measures at the intersection of US 41 and Elkhorn Road in Knox County.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety at this location on US 41 by reducing the number of traffic conflict points, which will reduce the likelihood of crash incidents at this intersection.

The preferred alternative will reconfigure the intersection of US 41 with Elkhorn Road by constructing a partial Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI).Westbound through traffic on Elkhorn Road will be directed to make a right onto US 41, then make a U-Turn across the US 41 median before making a right turn onto Elkhorn Road. Elkhorn Road west of US 41 will be modified to a right-in/right-out for US 41 southbound traffic. Construction activities will include the following:

* Construction of a median U-Turn for northbound US 41 to the north of the intersection of US 41 and Elkhorn Road
* Removal of the existing northbound left-turn lane at Elkhorn Road
* Addition of a northbound right-turn lane from US 41 to Elkhorn Road
* Construction of center curbs where Elkhorn Road intersects US 41
* Removal of the existing underdrains and construction of new underdrains at the new outside pavement limit
* Installation of new signage and street lighting

The preferred alternative of a partial RCI intersection improvement meets the purpose and need of the project because it will eliminate through traffic on and left turning movements from Elkhorn Road. Eliminating through traffic and left turning movements will improve safety because it reduces the number of crossing conflict points. A conflict point is a location approaching or within an intersection where vehicle paths can either merge, diverge, or cross, essentially creating opportunities for crash incidents. **Crossing** conflict points occur when vehicles travelling along opposing movement paths can intersect, such as when a vehicle travelling from east to west crosses in front of a vehicle travelling north. In its current configuration, there are 24 potential crossing conflict points at the intersection. Constructing a partial RCI will reduce the number of **crossing** conflict points from 24 to 2.

There are no public facilities within or adjacent to the project area. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction; therefore, no impacts are expected. Early coordination letters were sent to the Knox County Surveyor, Knox County Sheriff, Knox County Highway Department, Knox County Council, Knox County Board of Commissioners, Vincennes Township Fire Department, and the Floodplain Administrator on August 6, 2020. These agencies did not respond to this correspondence.

The MOT plan for this project will require closure of one lane for both northbound and southbound traffic on US 41. One lane in each direction will remain open during construction. A temporary closure of the east approach of Elkhorn Road would be utilized to construct the center curb at the intersection with US 41. Local traffic will have access to US 41 at the Decker Road interchanges to the north and the Industrial Park Boulevard intersection to the south. The closures/lane restrictions will pose a temporary inconvenience to traveling motorists (including school buses and emergency services); however, no significant delays are anticipated and all inconveniences will cease upon project completion. The proposed start of construction is Spring 2023.

The cost associated with this project is approximately $1,924,000, which includes preliminary engineering and construction with federal funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 1 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review on-line at XXX

**All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Rich Connolly, HNTB, 111 Monument Cir, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or rconnolly@hntb.com on or before XXX. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats or languages are encouraged to contact Rich Connolly at111 Monument Cir, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or by calling 317-917-5333.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.”; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(ix) stating, “Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate.”; and 3) The INDOT Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2012.