



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT – DES. # 1400195 Proposed Intersection Improvement at SR 66 and Epworth Road in Warrick County

May 2022

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) held a public hearing in March 2022 for a proposed improvement project located at SR 66 and Epworth Road in Warrick County. This public hearing was held as part of the environmental analysis phase as required per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public involvement is an important element of a comprehensive decision-making process. The purpose of the project is to reduce the number of crashes within the intersection. The need for this project stems from a high number of crashes along SR 66. The crashes are predominantly rear-end with a considerable amount of eastbound (EB) and westbound (WB) left turn crashes. There were approximately 141 collisions at the intersection between 2014 and 2016. Approximately 76% of the crashes occurred along SR 66. The intersection is located approximately 1,500 feet east of the exit ramp from northbound (NB) I-69, which results in an undesirable weaving situation for vehicles exiting the interstate and turning left onto NB Epworth Road.

The INDOT Preferred Alternative will replace left turning movements along SR 66 with displaced left turns in both directions. The NB ramps to I-69 will be realigned as part of the project. The project will include some redesign of traffic signals. The potential area of impact extends approximately 2,900 feet west and 2,600 feet east of the intersection along SR 66; approximately 900 feet south of the intersection along Epworth Road; and approximately 1,000 feet north of the intersection along Epworth Road. New 44-foot tall lights will be placed near the displaced left turns and at the Epworth intersection. Several small structures will be replaced or extended throughout the project area including two culverts under the NB I-69 to EB SR 66 exit ramp, one under the WB SR 66 to NB I-69 entrance ramp, and a 36-inch pipe beneath SR 66 on the eastern side of the SR 66/Epworth Road intersection. None of the small structures have structure numbers due to their size. In order to provide adequate separation from the reconstructed Epworth Road intersection, the NB I-69 to EB SR 66 exit ramp will be changed to a signalized "T" intersection and the WB SR 66 to NB I-69 entrance ramp will be changed to reduce the curve radius which will create separation from the Epworth Road intersection. On Epworth Road north of SR 66, an additional auxiliary lane will be added in order to create enough width for dual left turn lanes. On Epworth Road south of SR 66, a southbound (SB) right turn lane will be added between SR 66 and the Deaconess Hospital entrance and an auxiliary lane will be added along the NB lanes to create enough width for dual left turn lanes. Grading and drive construction will likely be required along SR 66 and Epworth Road. Additional details regarding the DES. # 1400195 project are available via the INDOT District webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-vincennes-district/>.

The purpose of this notice is to communicate the status of this project to community members. As part of INDOT's commitment to public involvement, it is important to keep the community informed of project developments. This is also an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase and transition to the next phase of development.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the public hearing held at the Friedman Park Event Center on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022, **INDOT will advance this project to the next phase of development with construction anticipated to take place in 2022.** Environmental analysis

documentation will remain available for public inspection during normal office hours at the Newburgh Chandler Public Library (4111 Lakeshore Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630) and the INDOT Vincennes District Office (3650 S US Highway 41, Vincennes, IN 47591). The documentation is also available online via the Vincennes District page (<https://www.in.gov/indot/2707.htm>).