

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Des. No. 2003098
Intersection Improvement Project

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on October 1, 2024, for a proposed intersection improvement project located at US 41 and 151st Avenue in Lake County, Indiana. Specifically, the project is located approximately 3.8 miles north of SR 2 in Sections 4 and 5, Township 33 North, Range 9 West, in West Creek Township, as illustrated on the Cedar Lake, Indiana USGS topographic map.

There will be an open house session beginning at 5:00 pm and the public hearing presentation will begin at 6:00 pm. The hearing will be held at the Hanover Central High School auditorium; 10120 West 133rd Avenue, Cedar Lake, Indiana, 46303. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the preliminary design plans and draft environmental document.

The need for this project is based on the high crash rate at the intersection of US 41 and 151st Avenue. Specifically, the occurrence of right-angle crashes at the intersection is attributed to eastbound and westbound traffic from 151st Avenue failing to yield the right-of-way to US 41 traffic. The purpose of this project is to address the high crash rate and improve the operational values of the intersection.

The preferred alternative would redirect the left-turn movements from eastbound and westbound 151st Avenue through the installation of U-Turns on US 41, located north and south of the intersection (Reduced Conflict Intersection). The 151st Avenue approaches to US 41 would become right-turn only movements onto US 41. The existing mainline left-turn movements onto eastbound and westbound 151st Avenue from US 41 would be maintained with the addition of concrete curb islands. The existing U-Turn access located south of the project intersection that provides access to John's Flea Market would be removed and relocated further south as part of the proposed project. This access drive would be reconstructed to provide only right-turn ingress and egress to the flea market from northbound US 41. The existing U-Turn access located north of the intersection would be reconstructed at approximately the same location. New overhead lighting would also be installed. Existing roadside ditches would be reconstructed, and small drainage structures would be replaced to maintain existing drainage needs.

Project limits would extend approximately 2,110 ft. along US 41 and approximately 100 ft. east and 100 ft. west along 151st Avenue for a total project length of 0.38 mile. Traffic would be maintained on US 41 utilizing phased construction and alternating single lane closures. There would be short term closures for the eastbound and westbound approaches of 151st Avenue. Coordination with the Lake County Highway Department would be conducted to determine the preferred local detour route(s). Approximately 0.34 acre of additional permanent right-of-way would be required to complete the project. The additional permanent right-of-way consists of approximately 0.25 acre of agricultural land and 0.09 acre of commercial land. No temporary right-of-way would be required.

This project falls within the guidelines of a Level 1 Categorical Exclusion (CE-1) environmental document. Prior to the public hearing the preliminary design plans along with the Draft CE-1 will be available for review at the following locations:

1. Cedar Lake Branch of the Lake County Public Library; 10010 West 133rd Avenue, Cedar Lake, Indiana 46303.
2. INDOT LaPorte District website [on.in.gov/des200309](https://www.in.gov/des200309)

Copies of project information may be mailed upon request. Written comments will be accepted before the hearing, during the hearing, and for two weeks following the hearing. The final date for acceptance of written comments after the hearing is **October 16, 2024**. Written comments prior to and after the public hearing should be sent to Mr. Dan Delgado, Project Manager, Lawson-Fisher Associates (LFA); 525 W. Washington Ave., Southbend, Indiana 46601 or ddelgado@lawson-fisher.com. Comments can also be submitted to Ms. Elayna Stoner, Metric Environmental; 6958 Hillsdale Court, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250 or elaynas@metricenv.com. The opportunity to present verbal statements for the official hearing transcript will be offered at the hearing. All comments will be considered and evaluated, and formally addressed in the final environmental document. Representatives from INDOT, LFA and Metric Environmental will be available at the hearing to address questions.

In accordance with the "Americans With Disabilities Act" if you have a disability and/or Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion for which INDOT needs to provide accommodations, please contact Mr. Adam Parkhouse, INDOT Director of Stakeholder Services, 315 East Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, Indiana 46350 or aparkhouse@indot.in.gov at least 48 hours before the hearing for services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print material. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact the INDOT LaPorte District Office. The location of the hearing is ADA accessible.

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 July 7, 2021.