



LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed SR 11 Roadway Project in Harrison County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at the South Harrison Community Center, 5101 Main Street, Elizabeth, IN 47117.

The hearing will begin at 5:30pm, with a presentation at 6:00pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for the State Road (SR) 11 Roadway Project (DES. # 2001154) in Harrison County. The purpose of the project is to provide a roadway in the southern region of Harrison County that provides improved safety performance connecting SR 135 to SR 11 by designing and constructing a roadway that meets current design standards, which includes wider lanes, usable shoulders, clear zones, and adequate sight distances to reduce crash frequencies and crash costs. The need for the project is due to safety concerns with the current roadway network in southern Harrison County that connects SR 135 to SR 11.

As proposed, the project involves the construction of Refined Preferred Alternative 3 which begins at the intersection of SR 135 and Watson Road, following along Watson Road for 2.25 miles to Union Chapel Road. The alternative will then follow along Union Chapel Road for 0.6 mile before turning east on new terrain for 0.2 mile to provide access to the proposed new 0.2-mile bridge crossing of Buck Creek. After crossing Buck Creek, the Refined Preferred Alternative remains on new terrain alignment for 0.2 mile until it connects to an existing farm access road on the east side of Buck Creek where it follows the farm access road (gravel lane) for 0.75 mile to Melview Road. At Melview Road, the Refined Preferred Alternative follows along Melview Road for 0.9 mile to the eastern terminus where it connects to SR 11. Approximately 4.5 miles of the Refined Preferred Alternative will utilize existing roadway facilities (including 0.75 mile of gravel lane) and 0.6 mile will be constructed on new terrain. The total length of the project is approximately 5.1 miles. The preferred SR 11 roadway will be constructed as a two-lane Major Collector with 12 feet wide travel lanes with 6 feet wide shoulders. Additionally, the project includes a new bridge crossing over Buck Creek and several other smaller structures to convey roadside drainage and streams beneath the proposed roadway. The proposed roadway will have a design speed of 55 miles per hour and a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project is anticipated to be completed in six phases and requires road closures with detours. The length of detours depends on the phase of construction but varies from a minimum of 1.2 miles to a maximum of 15 miles. Specific MOT details will be presented during the public hearing. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible. The project will require approximately 132.75 acres of permanent new right-of-way, in addition to approximately 0.90 acre of temporary right-of-way needed during construction. Two residential relocations will be required for the project. Approximately 0.02 acre of wetland will be impacted as a result of this project. Construction is expected to begin in August/September 2025. The estimated construction cost is approximately \$55.62 million.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have agreed that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared

to determine the appropriate environmental document. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Harrison County Public Library – Corydon, 105 North Capital Avenue, Corydon, IN 47112
2. Harrison County Public Library – Elizabeth (Community Center), 5101 Main Street, Suite 109, Elizabeth, IN 47117
3. INDOT Seymour District Office, 185 Agrico Lane, Seymour, IN 47274; 855-INDOT4U (463-6848)
4. INDOT Seymour District Website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-seymour-district/s.r.-11-extension-project-in-harrison-county/>
5. SR 11 Project Website: <https://www.sr11extension.com/project-documents>

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to Nicole Minton, Lochmueller Group, Inc., 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715 or by email at Nicole.Minton@lochgroup.com. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Friday, September 15, 2023.**

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the views of the public are also being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4). Properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) include the Farm at 8265 SR 135, the Farm at 140 Watson Road SE, and the Farm at 2275 Melview Road. The proposed action impacts properties listed in or eligible for the NRHP. INDOT, on behalf of the FHWA, has issued a “No Adverse Effect” finding for the project because the project will not diminish the integrity of the characteristics that qualify the historic properties within the APE for inclusion in the NRHP. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(2), the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e) is available for inspection at the locations listed above. Additionally, this documentation can be viewed electronically by accessing INDOT’s Section 106 document posting website IN SCOPE at <https://erms12c.indot.in.gov/Section106Documents>. This documentation serves as the basis for the “No Adverse Effect” finding. The views of the public on this effect finding are being sought. Comments on the Section 106 finding will be accepted through Friday, September 15, 2023.

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact Nicole Minton, Lochmueller Group, Inc. at 812-759-4179 or at Nicole.Minton@lochgroup.com.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.” 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: “Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary.” approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.