

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Des. No. 2200043
Intersection Improvement Project

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on November 17, 2025, for a proposed intersection improvement project located at State Road (S.R.) 2 and County Road (C.R.) 500 West (W), approximately 3.27 miles west of S.R. 39 in LaPorte County, Indiana.

There will be an open house session beginning at 5:30 pm and the public hearing presentation will begin at 6:00 pm. The hearing will be held in the EX-Classroom at LaPorte County Public Library Exchange; 904 Indiana Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana, 46350. 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 evidenced by the high frequency of car crashes at the intersection of S.R. 2 and C.R. 500 W. A total of 22 crashes occurred during the study period of 2017 to 2019. The highest frequency of crash types that occurred at the intersection consisted of right and left turn or right-angle crashes. The purpose of this project is to improve the safety and efficiency of the intersection.

The preferred alternative will modify the existing intersection by constructing a single-lane roundabout with a truck apron. The roundabout will consist of a 140 foot (ft.) diameter roundabout with one 19 ft. circulatory travel lane and an inscribed diameter of 51 ft. providing a 38 ft. interior grass area and a 13 ft. truck apron bordered by concrete curb and gutter. The roadway cross-section will provide 12 ft. entry and exit lanes from the approaches of S.R. 2 and C.R. 500 W. The approach roads along S.R. 2 will have approximately 3 ft. paved shoulders with an additional 8 ft. gravel shoulder in a few locations. The approach roads along C.R. 500 W will have approximately 2 ft. paved shoulders. The proposed drainage infrastructure includes installation of new roadside ditches along with enclosed drainage and underdrains that will direct runoff into a detention basin that will be constructed in the southwest quadrant of the intersection. Other features of the roundabout will include raised medians on each leg of the roundabout of varying width up to 5 ft. Specialized pavement markings will include directional and yield arrows to assist motorists with lane direction.

The project will also provide new overhead lighting throughout the interchange, consisting of seven 160-watt type II LED lights. The lights will be installed in a staggered orientation and will extend approximately 230 ft. along the east approach and 175 ft. along the west approach of S.R. 2 and 80 ft. along the north approach and 30 ft. along the south approach of C.R. 500 West.

Project limits will extend approximately 1,640 ft. west and 820 ft. east along S.R. 2 and 297 ft. north and 389 ft. south along C.R. 500 West. This project will require a detour as the intersection will be closed during construction. The detour will utilize S.R. 39, U.S. 6, and U.S. 421.

Approximately 2.02 acres of additional permanent right-of-way, 2.35 acres reacquired right-of-way, and 0.119 acre temporary right-of-way will be required to complete the project, as a result of the expanded roadway footprint for installation of the proposed roundabout, paved and gravel shoulders, medians and drainage improvements. The proposed new permanent ROW consists of 0.57 acres of residential land, 0.26 acre of commercial land, and 1.19 acres of agricultural vacant land. The reacquired ROW will consist of 1.17 acres of residential land, 0.50 acre of commercial land, and 0.68 acre of agricultural vacant land. The temporary ROW for the project will require 0.023 acre of residential land and 0.096 acre of commercial land for driveway construction.

This project falls within the guidelines of a Level 2 Categorical Exclusion (CE-2) environmental document. Prior to the public hearing the preliminary design plans along with the Draft CE-2 will be available for review at the following locations:

1. LaPorte County Public Library; 904 Indiana Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana 46350.
2. INDOT Northwest District website: bit.ly/SR2CR500W

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 **December 1, 2025**. This comment period also includes Section 4(f) determination. Written comments prior to and after the public hearing should be sent to Mr. Dmitri Adams, Project Manager, Lawson-Fisher Associates (LFA); 525 West Washington Avenue, South Bend, Indiana 46601 or dadams@lawson-fisher.com. Comments can also be submitted to Mr. Joshua Netherton, Metric Environmental; 6958 Hillsdale Court, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250 or joshuan@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.

Notice of Livestreamed Public Meeting/Hearing: In accordance with Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-2.9, INDOT is offering livestreams of all public meetings and hearings. You must register at the following link in order to participate in the livestream: bit.ly/SR2CR500WLivestream. During the hearing, comments from livestream attendees will only be accepted in written electronic format, not verbally. A recording of the livestream and the presentation will be posted on INDOT's website following the

meeting/hearing. The livestream recording will also be available on the INDOT YouTube page. The recording will be available online for at least 90 days.

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. Dmitri Adams, Project Manager, LFA; 525 West Washington Avenue, South Bend, Indiana 46601 or dadams@lawson-fisher.com. 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 Americans with Disabilities Act (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.