



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Michael Braun, Governor
Lindsay Quist, Commissioner

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

DES. #: 2300980

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Laporte District has developed preliminary plans for a small structure replacement project near Rensselaer in Jasper County, Indiana. The project is located on State Road (SR) 16, 8.80 miles west of United States Highway (US) 421 in Jasper County, Indiana. The structure carries SR 16 over Spurgeon Ditch.

The preferred alternative is to replace the existing structure with a 54-foot long, 7-foot-wide by 5-foot-rise reinforced concrete box structure with a 12-inch sump. Construction will include placement of revetment riprap on geotextiles for scour protection at the inlet and outlet. There is a 12-inch diameter metal pipe south of the project structure which will be removed and replaced with a 15-inch diameter pipe to meet minimum INDOT construction standards for this type of culvert. Temporary dewatering measures will involve the installation of cofferdams at the inlet and outlet of the structure for a pump-around and construction site dewatering. The existing guardrail on both sides of SR 16 will be removed. Guardrail will be placed back on the north side of SR 16 only.

The maintenance of traffic plan for this project is to close the road during construction. The official detour will utilize US 231, SR 114, and US 421. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. Project stakeholders including local school corporation(s) and emergency services will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction.

Construction of the project will require approximately 0.49 acre of new permanent right-of-way, 0.25 acre of reacquired right-of-way and 0.25 acre of temporary right-of-way. The cost associated with this project is approximately \$746,021 which includes preliminary engineering and construction. Federal and state funds are to be utilized for the construction of the project and state funds are to be used for right-of-way.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed the project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document with no significant impacts on the human and natural environment. Preliminary design plans, along with the CE are available for review at the following locations:

1. Rensselaer Library (208 W. Susan St., Rensselaer, IN 47978)
2. INDOT Laporte District Office (315 E. Boyd Blvd. LaPorte, IN 46350)
3. On the INDOT website, <https://secure.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-laporte-district/laporte-district-projects/>

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Kirk Roth, Corradino, LLC, 200 S. Meridian Street, Suite 330 Indianapolis, IN 46225, or kruth@corradino.com on or before Friday, September 5, 2025. 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), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT LaPorte District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact INDOT Project Manager, Shawna DeGraff, at 219-214-3442 or sdegraff@indot.in.gov.

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, "Providing 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."; 3) The *INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.