



DES. # 2000024

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

### Proposed Improvement at State Road (SR) 15 and County Road (CR) 146 in Elkhart County.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for an intersection improvement project at SR 15 and CR 146 in New Paris, Indiana in Elkhart County. More specifically, this project is located in Sections 9 and 16, Township 35 North, Range 6 East, Milford Quadrangle, in Jackson Township, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to reduce the total crashes by a crash reduction factor of at least 27 percent for each direction, northbound and southbound. The need is due to the above average number of crashes at the SR 15 and CR 146 intersection.

The project proposes to construct a northbound and southbound left turn lane and a southbound right turn lane along SR 15. Each turn lane will have 50 feet of storage, and 480 feet of a deceleration lane for a total length of 530 feet. The drive located on the west side of SR 15, approximately 45 feet north of the southern project boundary, will be reconstructed as a residential drive and guardrail within the project area will be replaced as needed. Additionally, SR 15 will be milled and resurfaced within the construction limits as part of this project. This project will impact approximately 5.25 acres of terrestrial habitat, which is primarily maintained roadside. No tree trimming or clearing will occur. Impacts have been minimized as much as feasible through environmental analysis and design. Impacts are unavoidable in order for the proposed work to meet the Purpose and Need of the project.

The proposed construction of this project will require 5.25 acres of new permanent right-of-way and 0.01 acre of temporary right-of-way.

The existing intersection of SR 15 and CR 146 is a two-way stop-controlled intersection. The existing intersection experiences a higher-than-average number of crashes when compared to intersections with similar volumes, roadway classifications, and control type throughout Indiana.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves Traffic will be maintained in phases and will utilize lane closures and lane shifts along SR 15. The MOT will require CR 146 to be closed to through traffic and will utilize a detour. Additional information can be found in the MOT During Construction section of the Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project The project is anticipated to costs approximately \$3,140,000 including engineering, right-of-way, and construction. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. No significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment were found during the creation of the environmental document. The CE-Level 2 environmental document describes the proposed project and potential impacts to environmental, social, and cultural resources, and contains preliminary project plans. The CE-Level 2 environmental document is available to view at the following locations:

1. Porter Charpie Library – Located in the New Paris Elementary School, 18665 County Road 46, New Paris, IN 46553. The library hours are Tuesday from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Telephone number is (574) 831-2196.
2. Goshen Public Library – Located at 601 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Goshen, IN 46526. Library winter hours are 9:30 am to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, and 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Sunday. Telephone number is (574) 533-9531.
3. On-line via the INDOT project webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/sr-15-and-cr-146-intersection-improvement-in-elkhart-county/>

All interested persons may request a public hearing or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Dan Syrus at HNTB, [dsyrus@HNTB.com](mailto:dsyrus@HNTB.com), 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204. **All comments must be received on or before November 10, 2023.** If a hearing is determined to be in the best interest of the public, additional notification will be prepared, and the public notified. Otherwise, any comments or material received will be considered in the decision-making process.

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 Project Manager, Miguel Tucker, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808, [mtucker2@indot.in.gov](mailto:mtucker2@indot.in.gov). 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 Project Manager. Special accommodations related to accessibility and auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print can be provided upon request.

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.