**DES. # 2000025**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Proposed Intersection Improvement Project on United States (US) 24 at Wabash Street in Wabash County.**

**The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on October 29, 2024, at the Honeywell Center located at 275 W. Market Street in Wabash, IN 46992. The open house portion of the public hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m., and the presentation will begin at 6 p.m.** The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for the intersection improvement project on US 24 at Wabash Street in the city of Wabash in Wabash County (DES. # 2000025). The proposed project is located at the intersection of US 24 and Wabash Street, 1.15 miles east of State Road 15.

The proposed project is needed due to the high number of crashes occurring between high-speed vehicles on US 24 and lower-speed vehicles coming from Wabash Street. There were 16 total crashes from 2016 to 2019, and more than one-third of those crashes resulted in an incapacitating injury or fatality. There are 42 potential locations within the existing intersection for accidents to occur. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety by reducing the number of traffic conflict points and occurrences of right-angle crashes resulting in a fatality or injury and reduce fatal and incapacitating injuries by 25% in 10 years.

The current preferred alternative is a reduced conflict intersection (RCI) that will reconstruct the median island to restrict left turns and through-traffic movements from Wabash Street but allow left turns from US 24. Left-turn lanes will be extended along US 24 with U-turn access points located approximately 800 feet east and west of the main intersection. Mountable curbs will be used in the median to allow emergency vehicles traveling through the intersection to turn left onto US 24. The existing left-turn lanes will be closed by installing pavement markings, and the right-turn lanes will be extended to accommodate turning movements from trucks using the U-turn. Lighting also will be installed at the U-turn access points. No permanent or temporary right-of-way will be required.

Traffic will be maintained using lane closures while the project is constructed. Through traffic on
US 24 will be open at all times during construction. The intersection with Wabash Street will be closed during the final phase of construction, and turning movements will be limited during the construction of the center of the intersection.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 1 environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior to the hearing at the following locations:

1. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 188 W. Hill St., Wabash, IN 46992
2. INDOT Fort Wayne District Office, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808
3. Online via the INDOT project webpage at [https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/us-24-at-wabash-st.-intersection-improvement-project/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.in.gov%2Findot%2Fabout-indot%2Fcentral-office%2Fwelcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district%2Fus-24-at-wabash-st.-intersection-improvement-project%2F&data=05%7C02%7Ccahunter%40HNTB.com%7Cce24dc6c397144f9035508dca0f8860b%7Cbf1bfd0531074bf684cd92ce598ea9cd%7C0%7C0%7C638562236471521920%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NILzS2KzUHDEiV4CIlYJFlIAgZbqIBHGN7n9JvHffdc%3D&reserved=0)

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 the attention of Cassidy Hunter at HNTB,
111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or via email at cahunter@HNTB.com.
**All comments must be received on or before November 12, 2024.**

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the public information 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 accommodations be required, please contact Cassidy Hunter, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis IN 46204,
317-636-4682, or cahunter@HNTB.com by **October 22, 2024**.

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 450.212(a)(7) stating: “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.” 3) The INDOT Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the FHWA, U.S. Department of Transportation, on July 7, 2021.