

**Proposed new interchange construction at  
S.R. 49 & C.R. 400 N / Vale Park Road**

**Valparaiso High School cafeteria**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**6:00pm Presentation**



# WELCOME

- Rickie Clark, INDOT Office of Public Involvement
- Purpose/Explanation of Public Hearing
- Public Hearing Format
- Visit our sign-in table
- Informational Handouts
- Submitting public comments for hearings transcript
- Project display area



# WELCOME

- Tim Muench, Project Manager
- Project Introduction / Opening Remarks
- Informal Q & A in project display area with project engineers and INDOT project officials prior to and following formal presentation and comment session



# Public Hearing

- Sign-in at attendance table to be added to project mailing list
- A public hearing notice was mailed to known property owners within project area
- Announcement of this hearing was posted to INDOT website. A media release was also issued
- Legal notice of public hearing published in Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Northwest Times newspaper



# Project Team

- Introduction of INDOT Project Officials
  - Project Management
  - LaPorte District
  - Public Involvement
- Design – Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
- Porter County
- City of Valparaiso
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)
- Recognition of Elected Public Officials

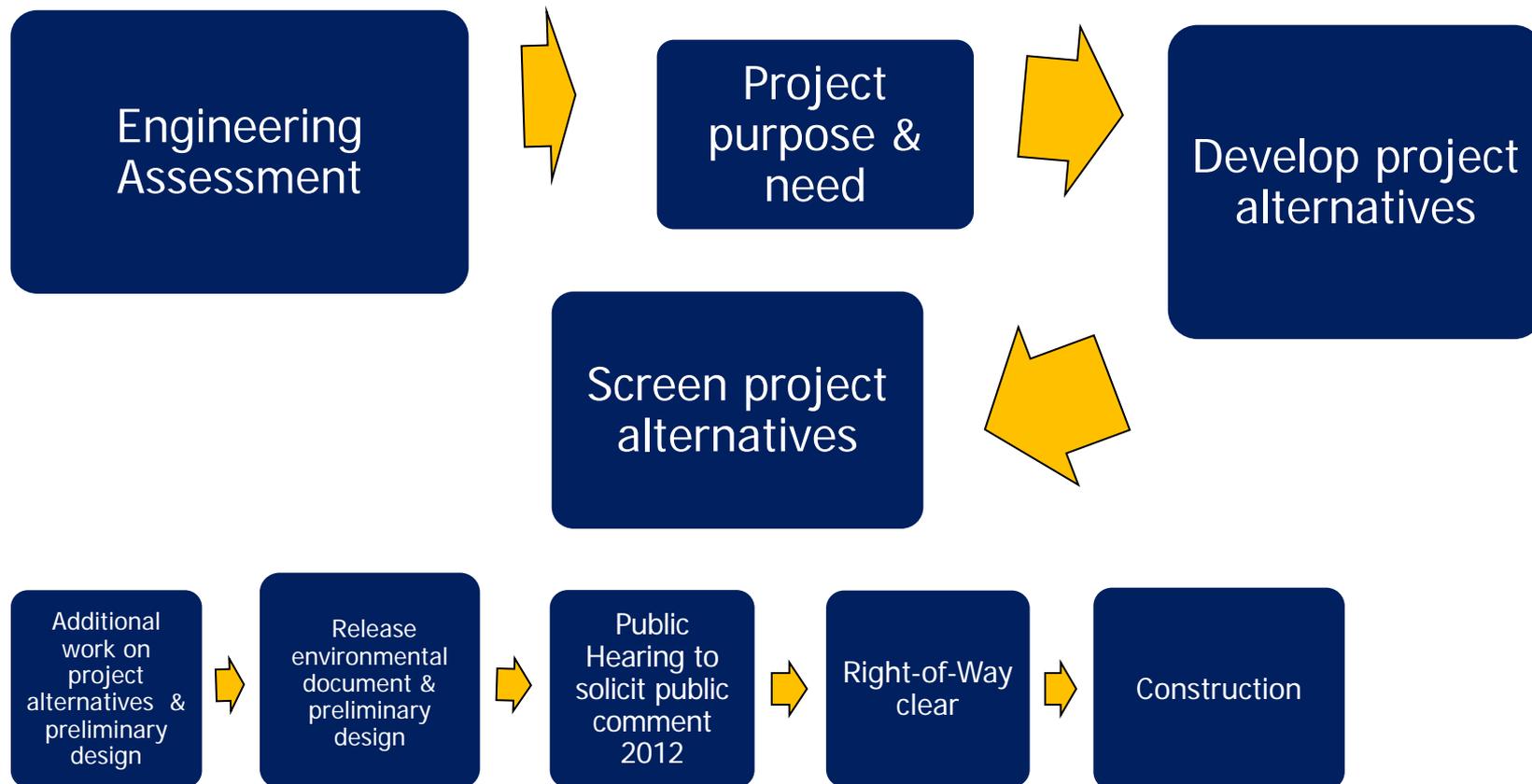


# Project Stakeholders

- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highways Administration
- Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)
- Porter County
- City of Valparaiso and local communities
- Elected Public Officials
- Community residents and citizens
- Commuters
- Trucking industry
- Schools



# Project Development Process



# Environmental Document

- Requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  - Requires INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
  - Impacts are described in environmental document
  - Environmental document was released for public involvement January 2012



# Environmental Document

- Development of document begins once purpose of need for the project has been clearly identified
- Develop a number of possible alternatives including a “Do Nothing” alternative as a baseline for comparison
- Screen alternatives to identify a preferred alternative
- Solicit public comment on environmental document and preliminary design plan
- Solicit, address, and fully consider public comments as part of decision making process



# Elements of Environmental Document

- Community Impacts
- Noise, Air Quality
- Farmland, Floodplains
- Hazardous Materials, Real Estate Impacts
- Historic / Archaeological Impacts
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Wetlands & Waterways



# Environmental Document

- INDOT Website at:  
<http://www.in.gov/indot/2366.htm> “Public Involvement” page, select “**Project Documents**”
- Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, Indiana (219) 462-0524
- INDOT LaPorte District Office, Planning & Programming Department, 315 East Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, Indiana (855) 464-6368



# Purpose & Need

- Address expected development and increased traffic volumes
- Enhance the connection between SR49 & CR400N/Vale Road
- Upgrade a portion of SR 49 to function as a freeway



# Preferred Alternative

- **Diamond Interchange with roundabouts** at the ramp intersections with CR 400N/Vale Park Road
- Sometimes known as Dogbone Interchange
- Features two roundabouts instead of traditional 4 legged, signalized intersections



# Alternatives Considered

- Do-Nothing Alternative
  - Would leave at-grade intersection in place
  - No improvements to operations or increases in safety
  - Does not address purpose and need of project



# Alternatives Considered

- Other alternatives considered
  - Partial Cloverleaf Interchange
  - Modified Partial Cloverleaf Interchange
  - Diamond Interchange with Signal Control at ramp intersections
  - Diamond Interchange with Roundabout Intersections at the ramp intersections with CR 400 N.



# Alternatives Considered

- Other alternatives considered
  - Single Point Urban Interchange with one signal controlling all of the conflicting movements
  - Diverging Diamond Interchange
  - Transportation System Management (TSM) such as traffic signal optimization



# Historic Properties

- INDOT Cultural Resources Office coordinated with several agencies regarding historic properties
- Section 106 “consulting parties” provided input during environmental document development
- Determination “No Historic Properties Affected” finding issued by INDOT



# Project Design

- A diamond interchange with roundabouts where the ramps intersect Vale Park Road (CR 400N)
- Vale Park Road will be built higher, on embankment, with a 2-span bridge over SR 49
- The west end of re-built Vale Park will connect to the east end of the new Vale Park Road roundabout intersection with Silhavy Road



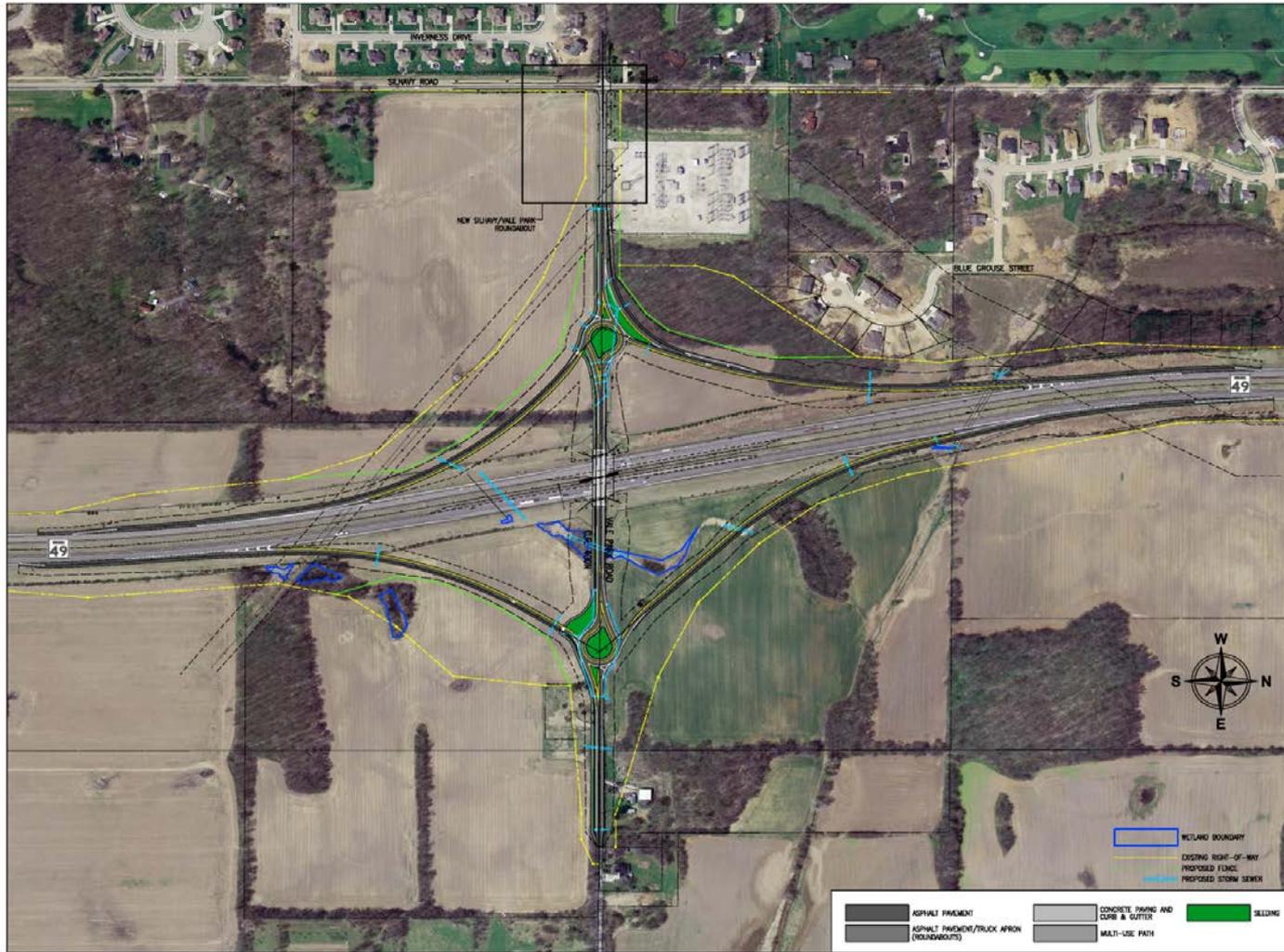
# Project Design

- SR 49 will remain as-is, except the traffic signal and turn-lanes will be removed
- A paved multi-use path will be constructed from end to end, across the bridge, at the south edge of Vale Park Road
- New signing and lighting will be installed

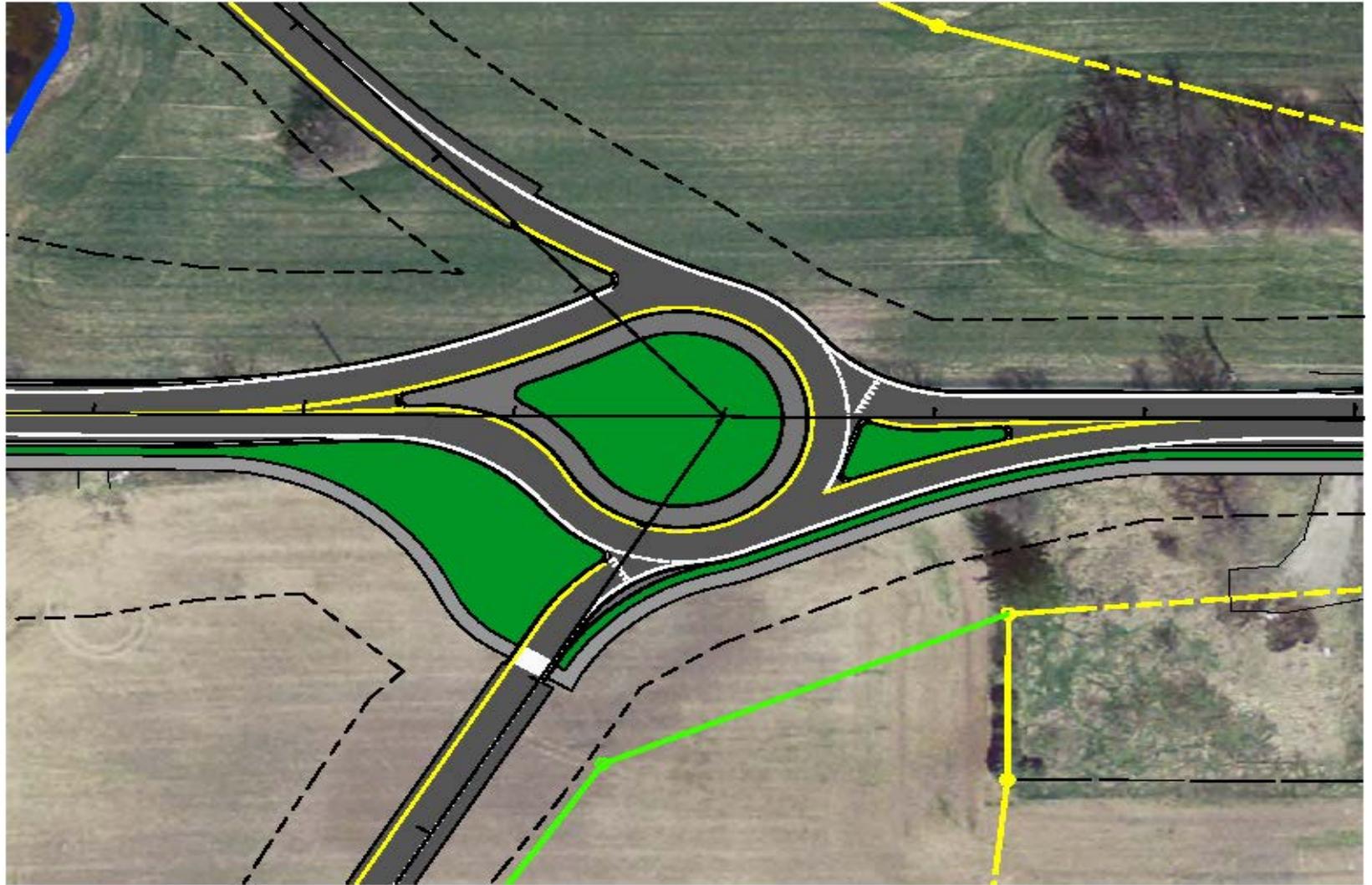




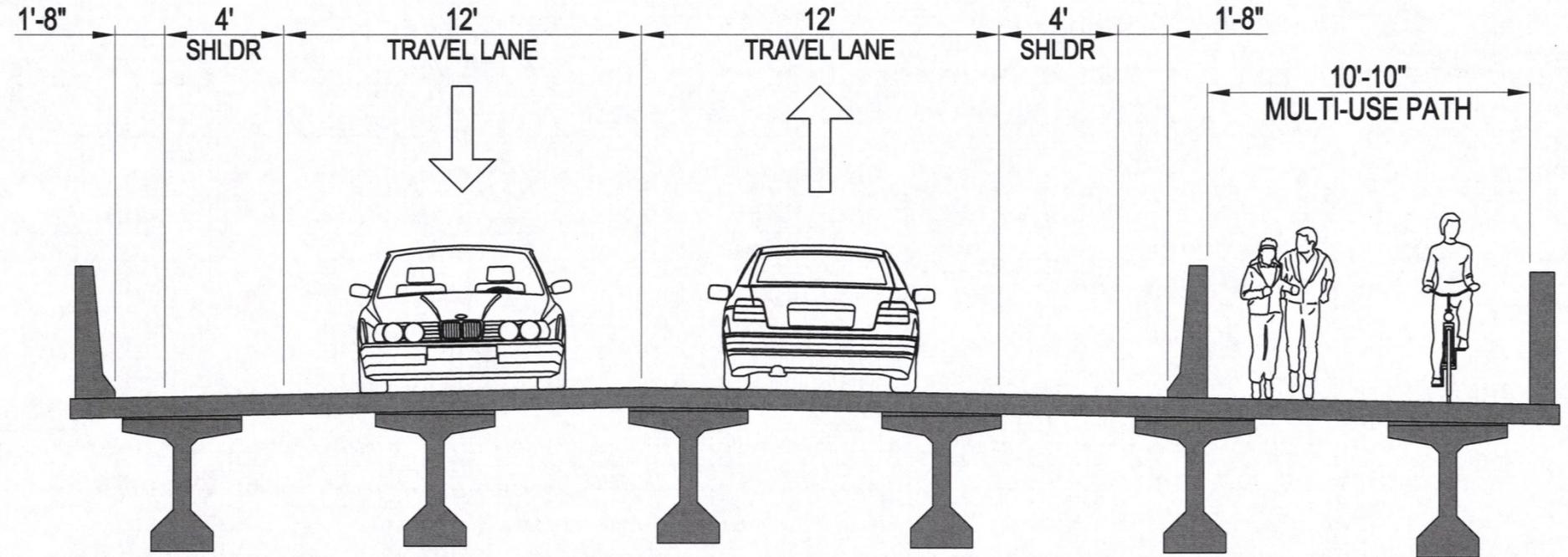
# Interchange Plan



# Roundabout Plan



# Typical Cross Section



CR400N - VALE PARK ROAD BRIDGE  
OVER SR 49

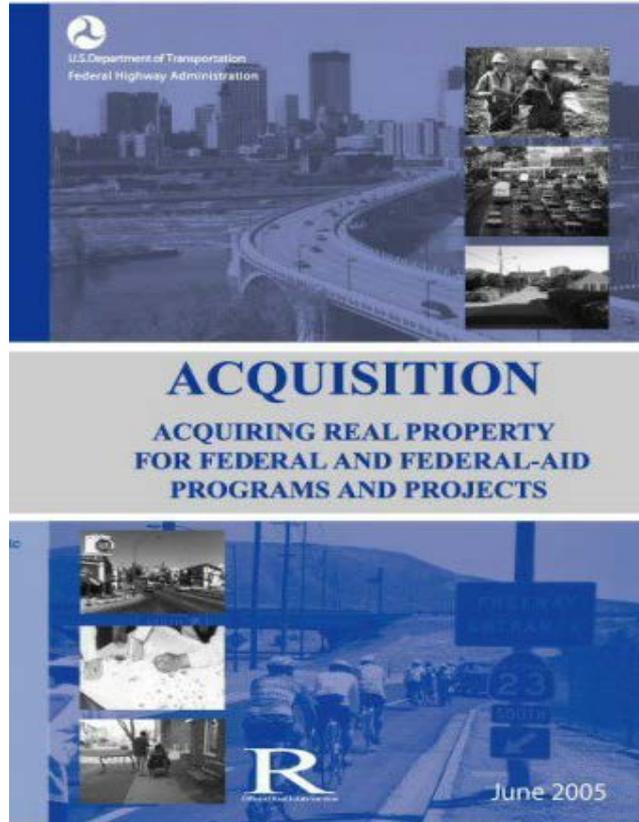


# Maintenance of Traffic

- SR 49 will remain open to traffic except for brief (20 min.) closures while bridge beams are erected
- Vale Park Rd. will be closed to through traffic for most of construction
  - The temporary detour will be over Silhavy Rd., SR 2, Evans Ave., and CR 325E
  - Local drivers will find their own best route



# Real Estate Acquisition Process



# Real Estate Acquisition

Residential	1.5 Acres
Commercial	0.5 Acre
Agricultural	39.7 Acres
Forest	6.1 Acres
Wetlands	1.0 Acre
<u>Permanent R/W</u>	<u>3.9 Acres</u>

- R/W needed for project was acquired previously in accordance to project footprint
- Approximately 49 acres of permanent r/w was acquired



# Project Schedule & Cost

- Public Hearing today: Feb. 23,2012
- Design phase of project: Essentially complete
- Anticipated Project Start: Spring 2012
- Anticipated Project Completion: Fall 2012
- Estimated project cost: 8 million
  - Includes preliminary engineering & project construction



# INDOT Would Like To Hear From You

- Talk with INDOT project team members
- Comment sheet in information packet
- E-mail or Mail comments to INDOT
- Sign-in sheet to be added to project mailing list
- INDOT website at [www.in.gov/indot/2366.htm](http://www.in.gov/indot/2366.htm)  
“Public Involvement” page then select “Project Documents”
- All comments are very much appreciated and will be given full consideration by project team



# Public Involvement Team

- Rickie Clark, INDOT Office of Public Involvement  
(317) 232-6601 [rclark@indot.in.gov](mailto:rclark@indot.in.gov)
- Jim Pinkerton, INDOT LaPorte District Media  
Relations Director (855) 464-6368  
[LaPorteDistrictCommunications@indot.in.gov](mailto:LaPorteDistrictCommunications@indot.in.gov)
- Tim Muench, INDOT Project Manager  
[tmuench@indot.in.gov](mailto:tmuench@indot.in.gov)



# Project Resource Location

- INDOT LaPorte District Office, 315 East Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, Indiana
- Responsible for transportation construction, maintenance and development activities in Northwest Indiana
- Customer Service Center (855) 464-6368  
[LaPorteDistrictCommunications@indot.in.gov](mailto:LaPorteDistrictCommunications@indot.in.gov)
- Robert Alderman, Acting District Deputy Commissioner
  - Jim Pinkerton, Media Relations Director



# Submit Public Comments

- Submit public comments using the options described in 1<sup>st</sup> page of information packet
  - Public Comment Form
  - Via e-mail
  - Participating during public comment session via microphone
  - Verbal comments recorded and transcribed for inclusion into public hearings transcript
- **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Monday, March 12, 2012**
- All comments submitted will become public record, entered into transcript, reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during decision making process



# THANK YOU

- Please visit with INDOT project officials following the public comment session
- Project Open House
  - Project maps, displays, informal Q & A
- Thank you for your attendance this evening

