



PUBLIC HEARING

**US 31 Limited Access Project
SR 38 to 286th Street, Hamilton County**

Des No 1900096 et. al.

Tuesday, September 28th, 2021

Welcome



- **Meeting Format**
 - A. Presentation
 - B. Public Comments
- Informal Q and A in project display area with project engineers and environmental professionals following the meeting
- Information Packets

Project Team



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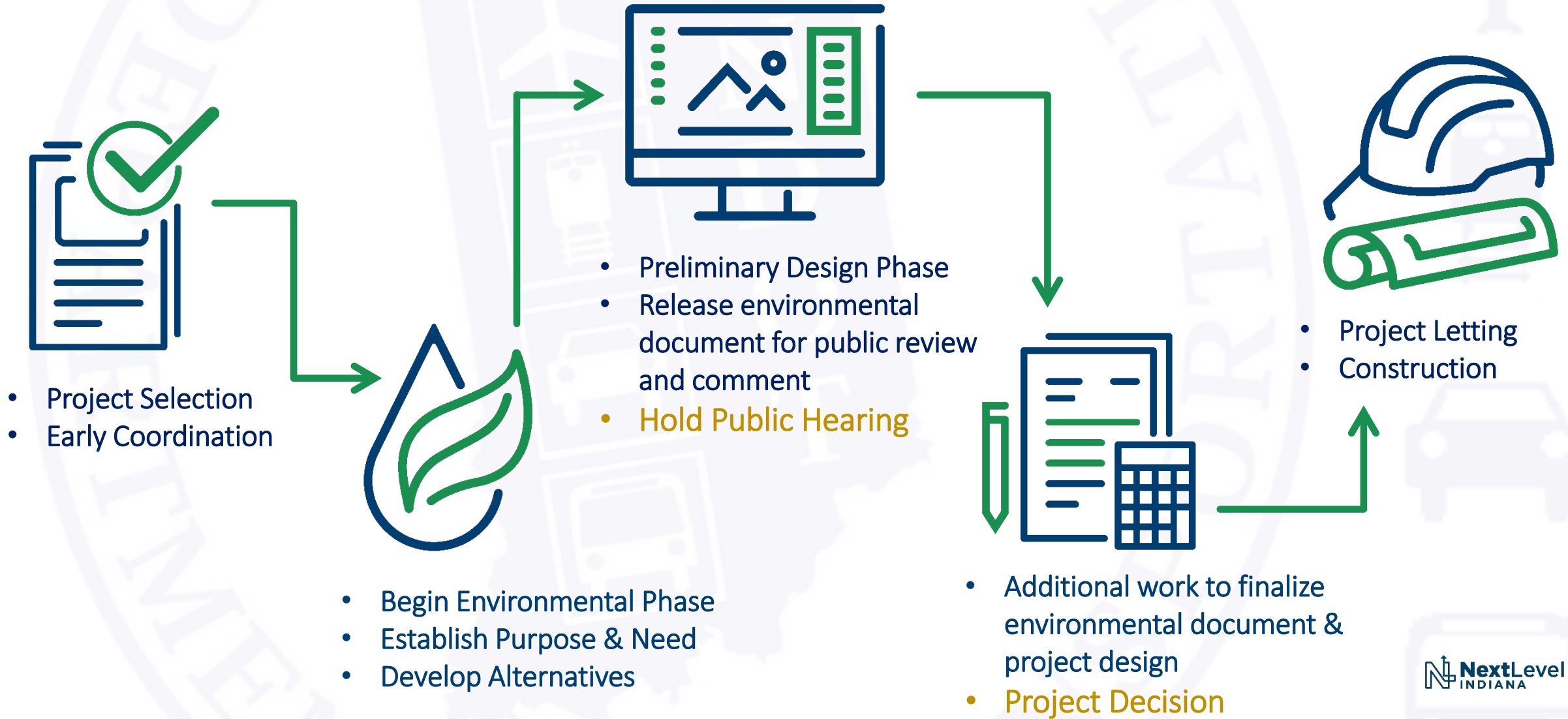
317-492-9159

Purpose of the Hearing



- Introduce this project to the community
- Explain how a project is developed
- Discuss purpose and need for the project
- Explain the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process
- Present a preliminary proposal for consideration
- Solicit input from the community

Project Development



Need and Purpose



Need

- High Vehicle Crash Rates

Purpose

- Reduce the overall number of vehicular crashes along US 31 by up to 40% while maintaining access to US 31 and cross community connectivity at select locations

US 31 Crash Data Summary for Hamilton County		
	2014-2016	2018-2020
Number of Crashes	152	296
Number of Injuries	53	57
Number of Fatalities	0	3
Number of Deer	34	33
Crash Rate		
(crashes per mile per year)	5.96	11.61



Environmental Document



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Federal guidelines require INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of the project to the natural and socio-economic environments including:
 - Right-of-way
 - Streams, Wetlands, and other Waters
 - Floodplains
 - Sole Source Aquifers
 - Source Water Protection
 - Endangered Species
 - Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges
 - Farmland
 - Cultural Resources (historic/archaeological)
 - Parks and Recreation Lands (trails)
 - Property Impacts
 - Air Quality
 - Noise
 - Community Impacts
 - Environmental Justice
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Public Facilities and Services

Environmental Document



- NEPA is a decision-making process
 - Establish Purpose and Need
 - Develop and Evaluate Alternatives
 - The “Do Nothing” alternative is a baseline for comparison
 - Determine Preferred Alternative
 - Impacts are analyzed, evaluated and described in the NEPA document
 - What impacts will there be?
 - Can these impacts be avoided or minimized?
 - If not, what mitigation will be required?
 - The Draft Environmental Document released for public involvement
 - Date: August 17, 2021
 - Available for review and comment via public repository

Environmental Document



- Hold Public Hearing
- Solicit public comment of environmental document
- Address and consider public comment as part of decision-making process
- After comment period, the environmental document will be finalized with the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) request to FHWA
- The NEPA process will be completed with the issuance of the FONSI by FHWA

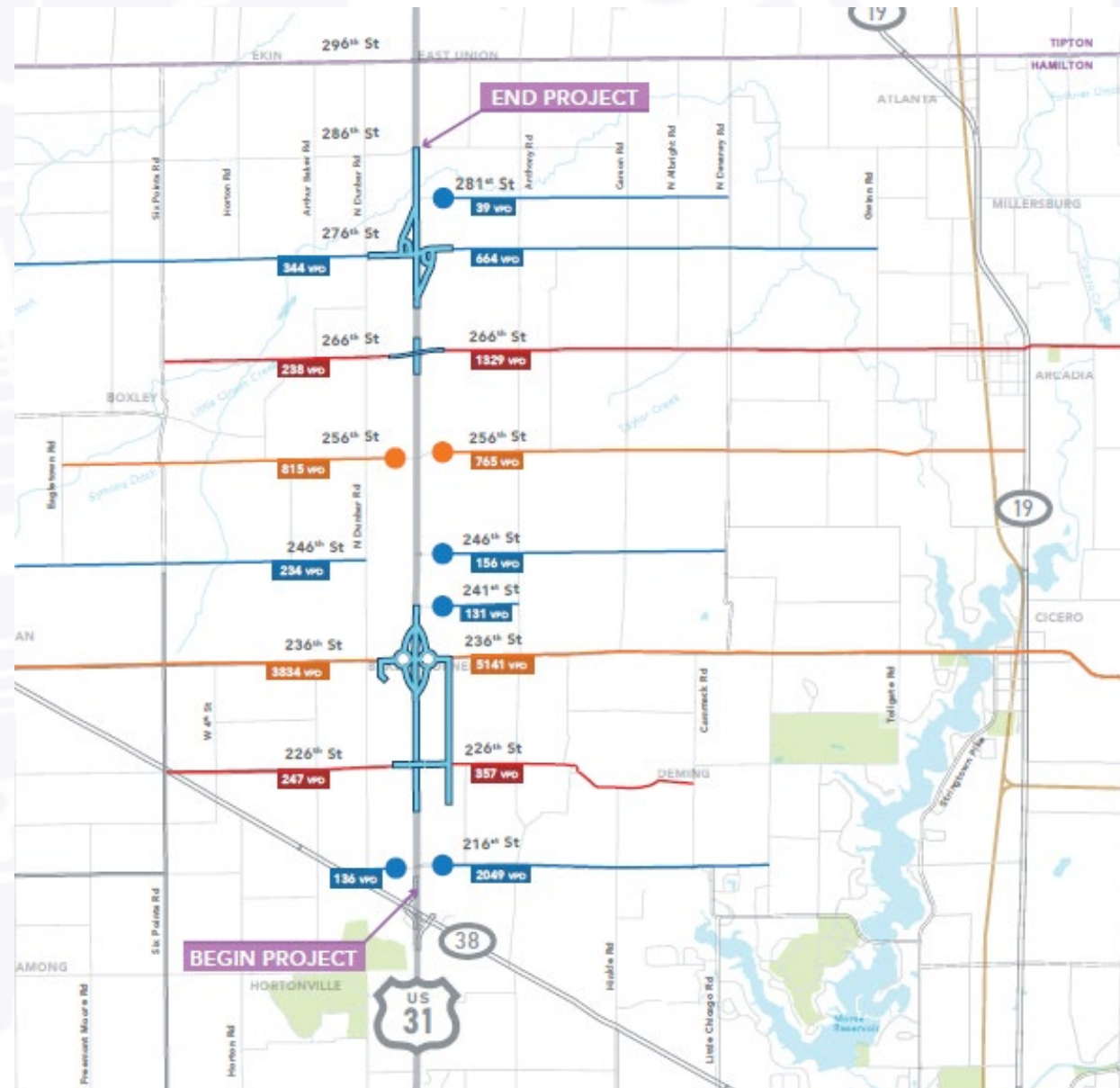
Alternatives Considered



Alternatives Analyzed

Three alternatives were evaluated for each of the seven intersections. Those three alternatives were intersection treatment options:

- overpass
- interchange
- cul-de-sac



Advisory Committees



Section 106 Consulting Parties

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prescribes consideration of historic properties
- Consulting parties group consisting of numerous stakeholders to provide input on preferred alternative

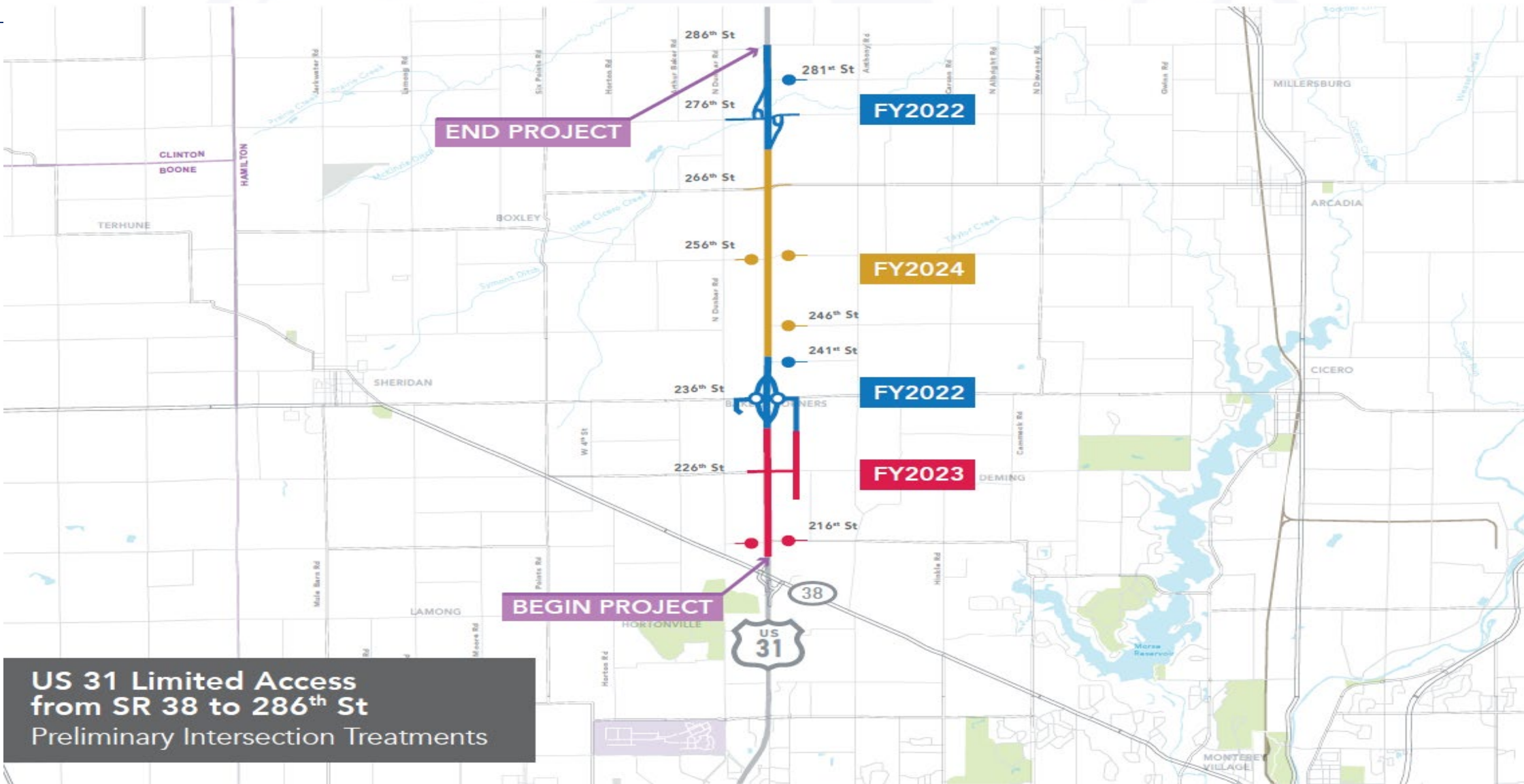
Community Advisory Committee

- Group of diverse community background to provide community input/opinions
- Two meetings held to discuss project alternatives

Public Information Meetings

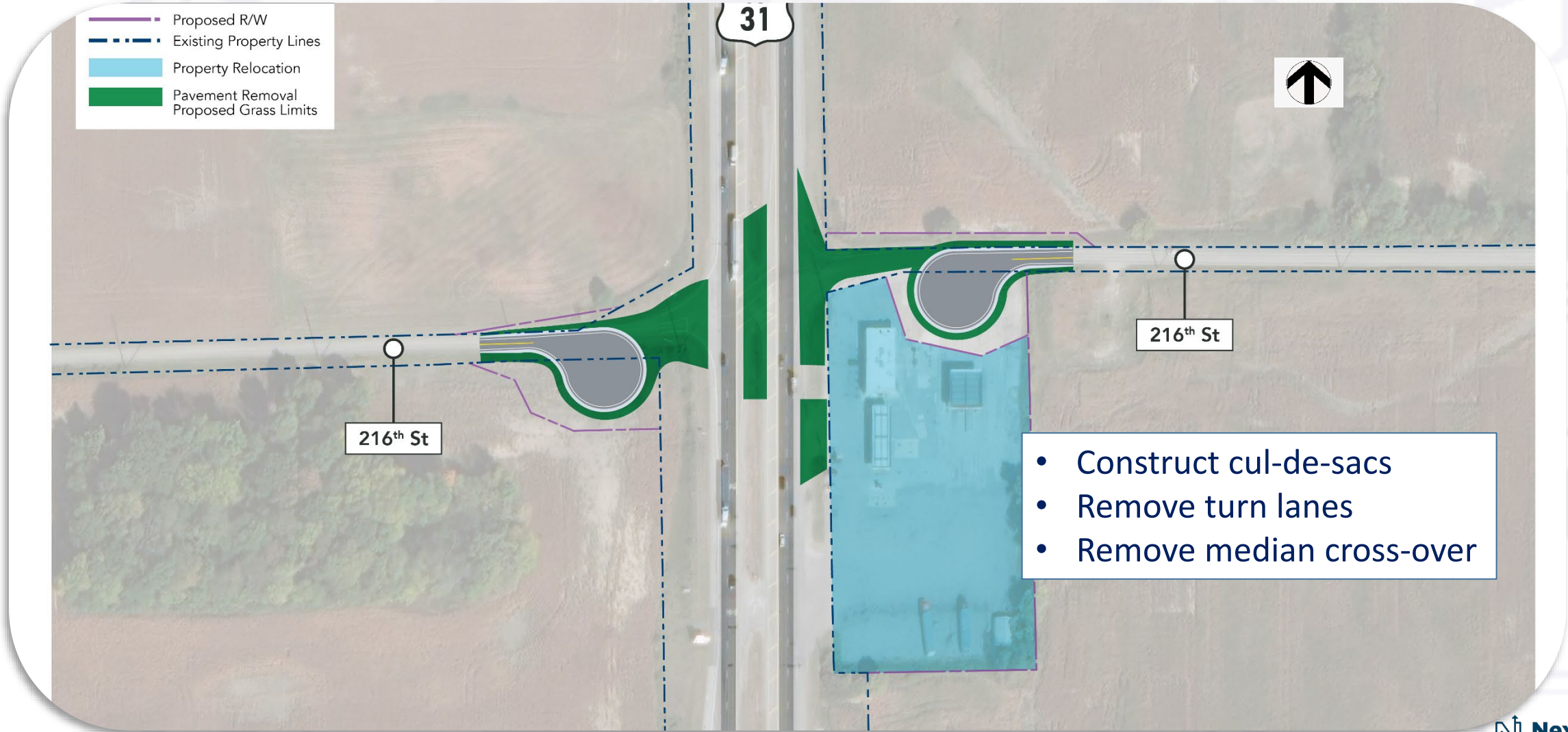
- Two meetings held (Sept. 1, 2020 and April 21, 2021)
- 70 – 75 people attended each and comments provided were evaluated

Preferred Alternative

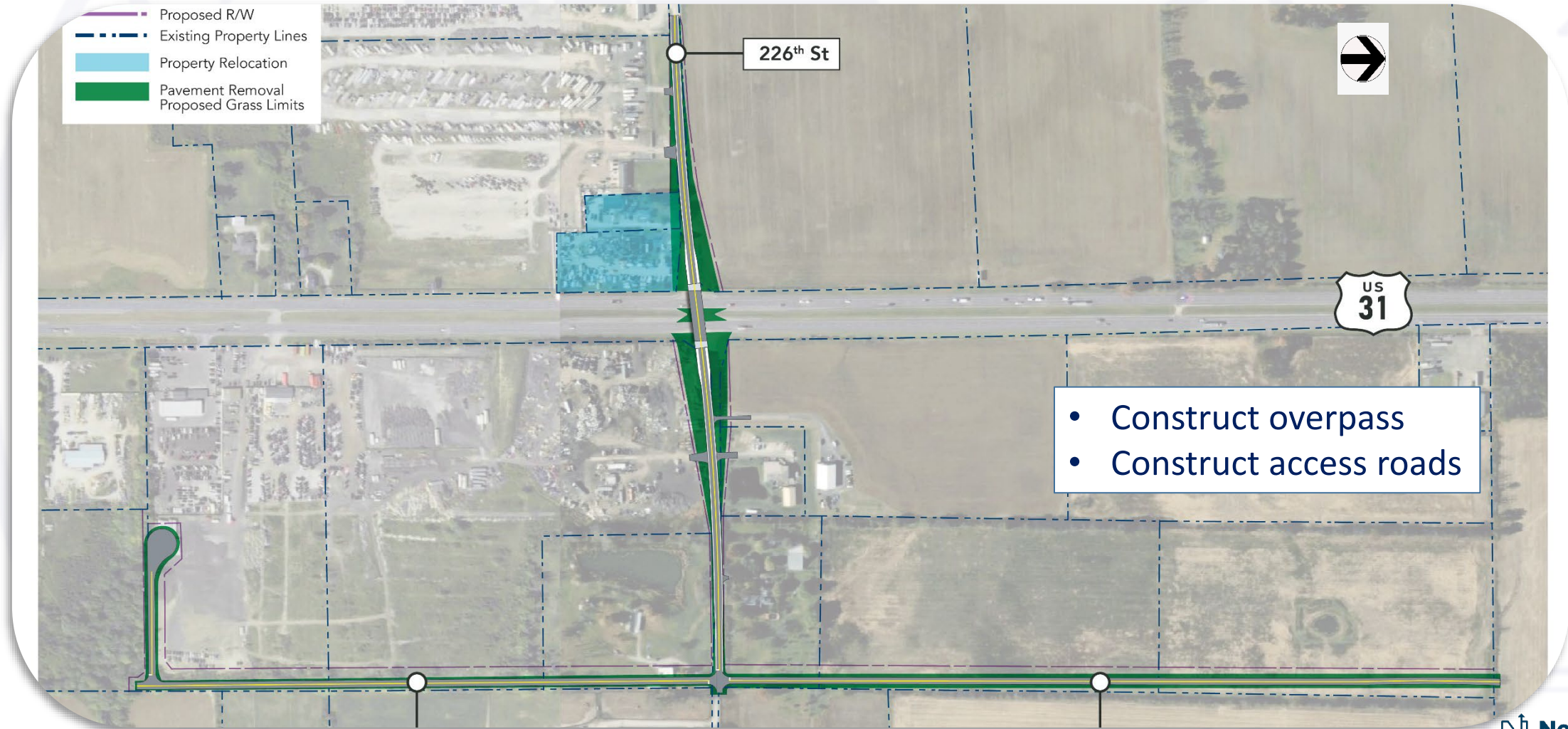


**US 31 Limited Access
from SR 38 to 286th St**
Preliminary Intersection Treatments

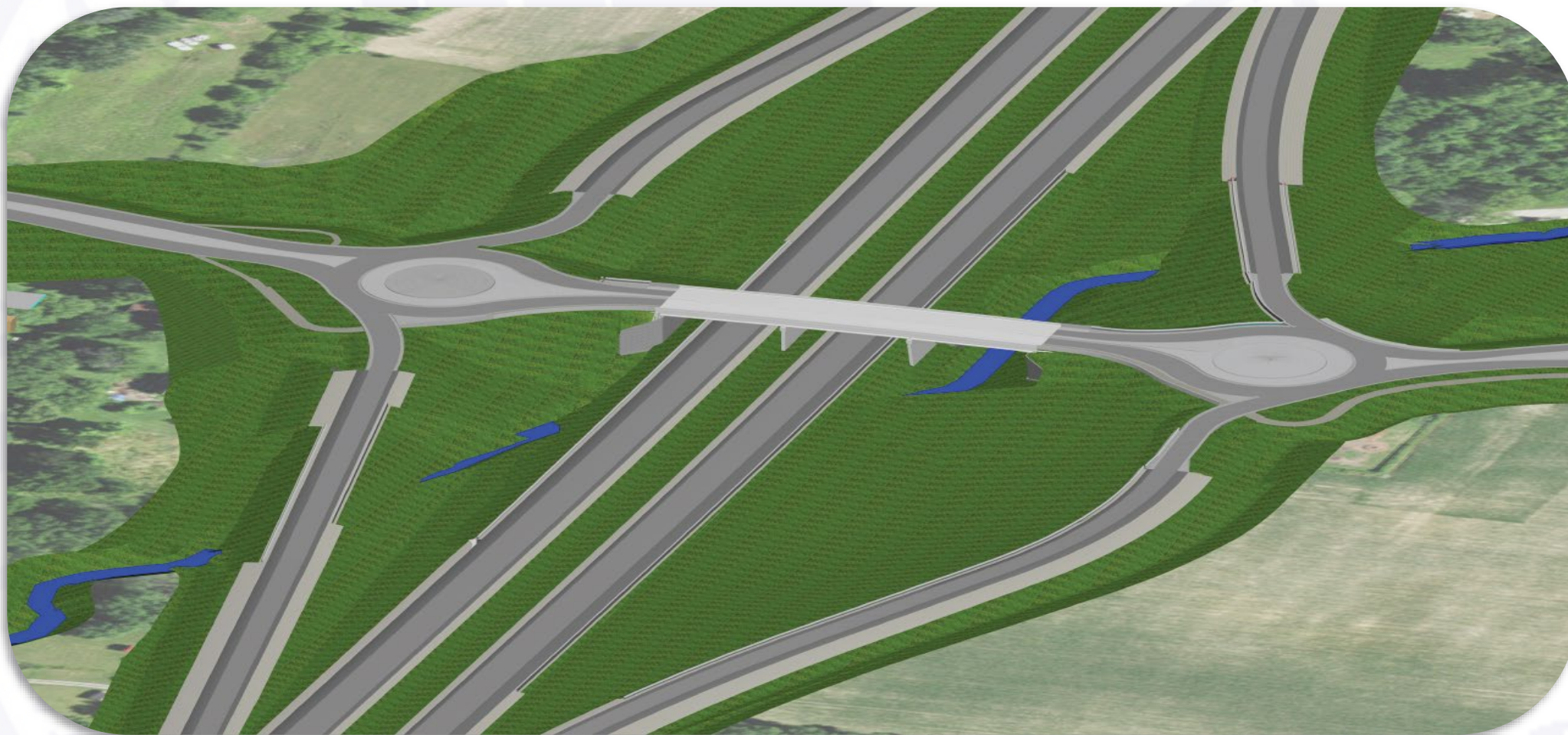
216th Street



226th Street



236th Street Interchange



246th Street



- Proposed R/W
- Existing Property Lines
- Property Relocation
- Pavement Removal
Proposed Grass Limits

- Construct cul-de-sac
- Remove turn lane
- Remove median cross-over

31



246th St

256th Street



- Proposed R/W
- Existing Property Lines
- Property Relocation
- Pavement Removal
Proposed Grass Limits

31

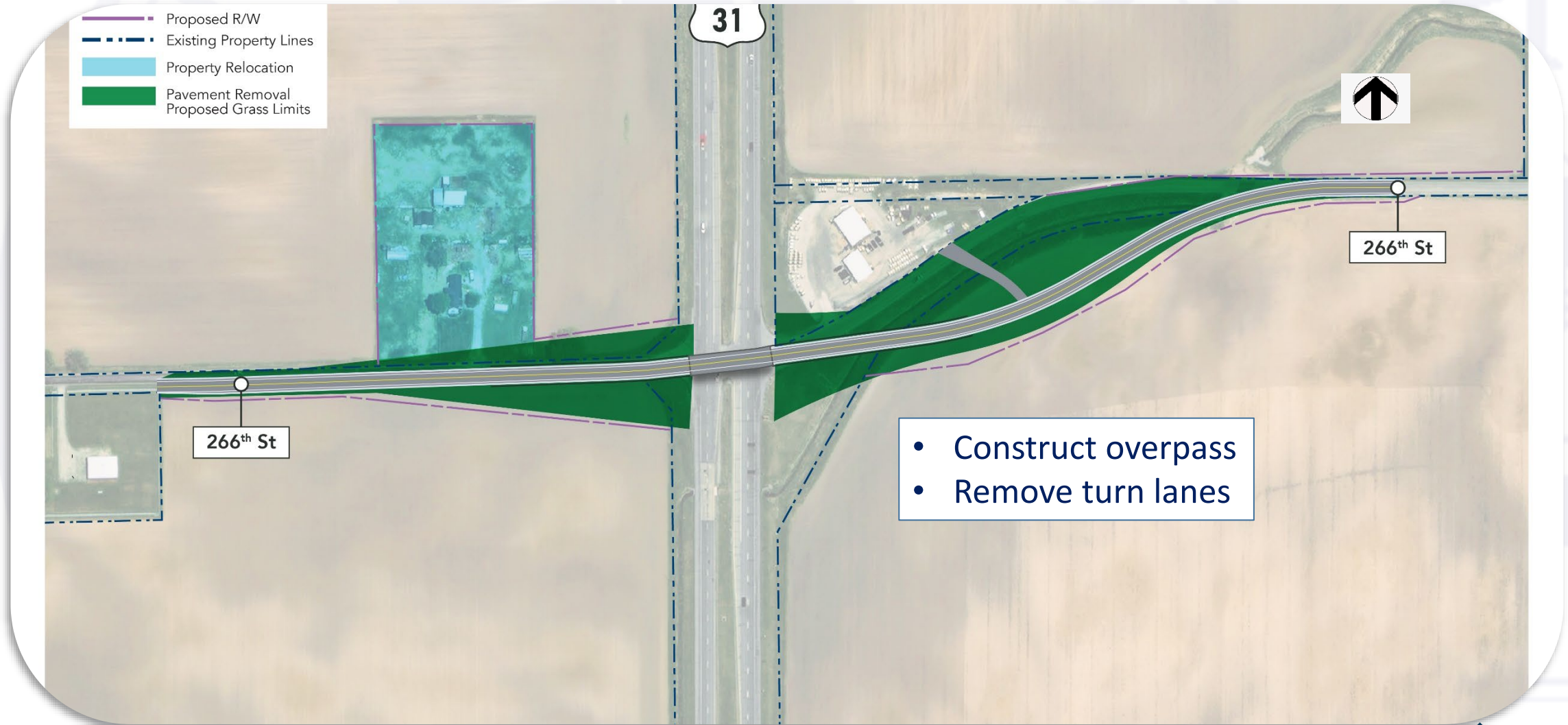


256th St

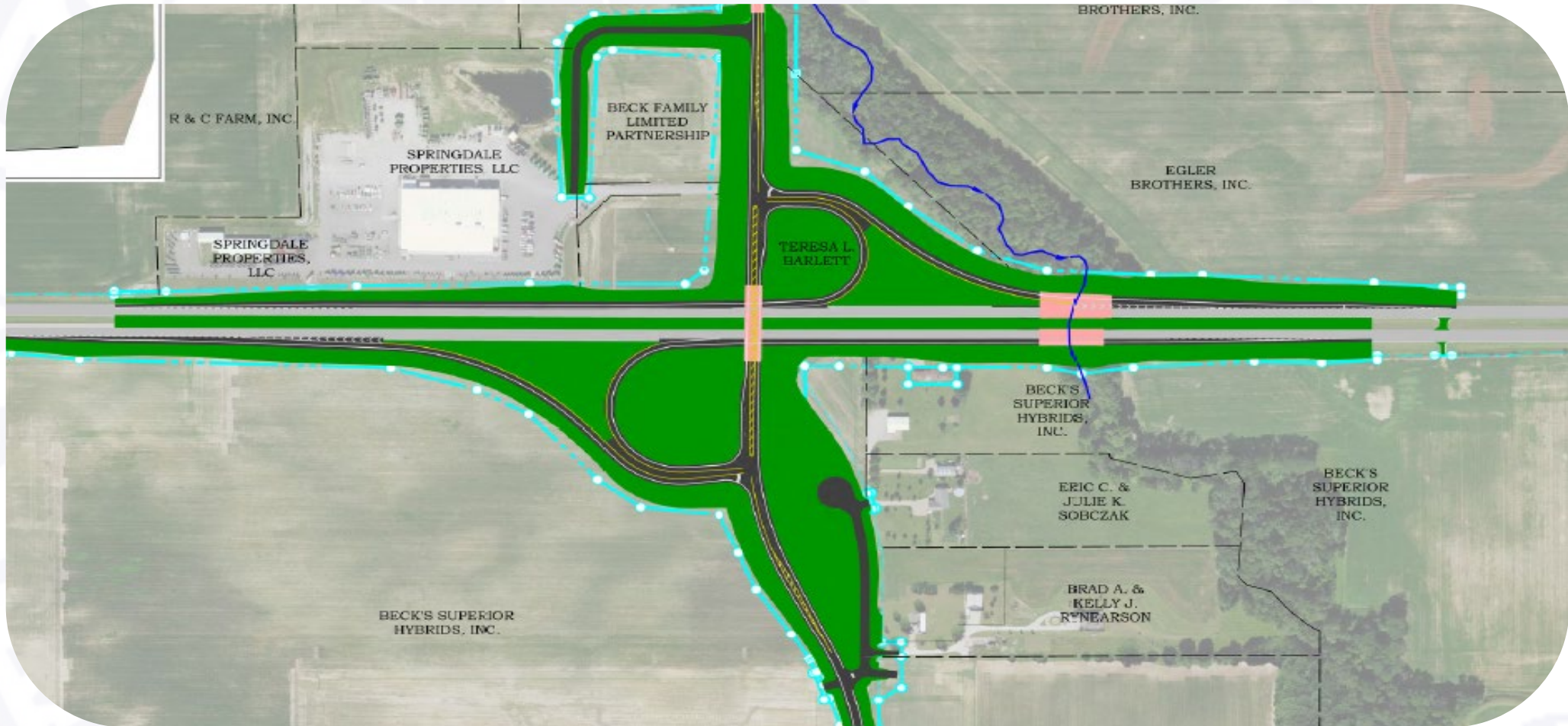
256th St

- Construct cul-de-sacs
- Remove turn lanes
- Remove median cross-over

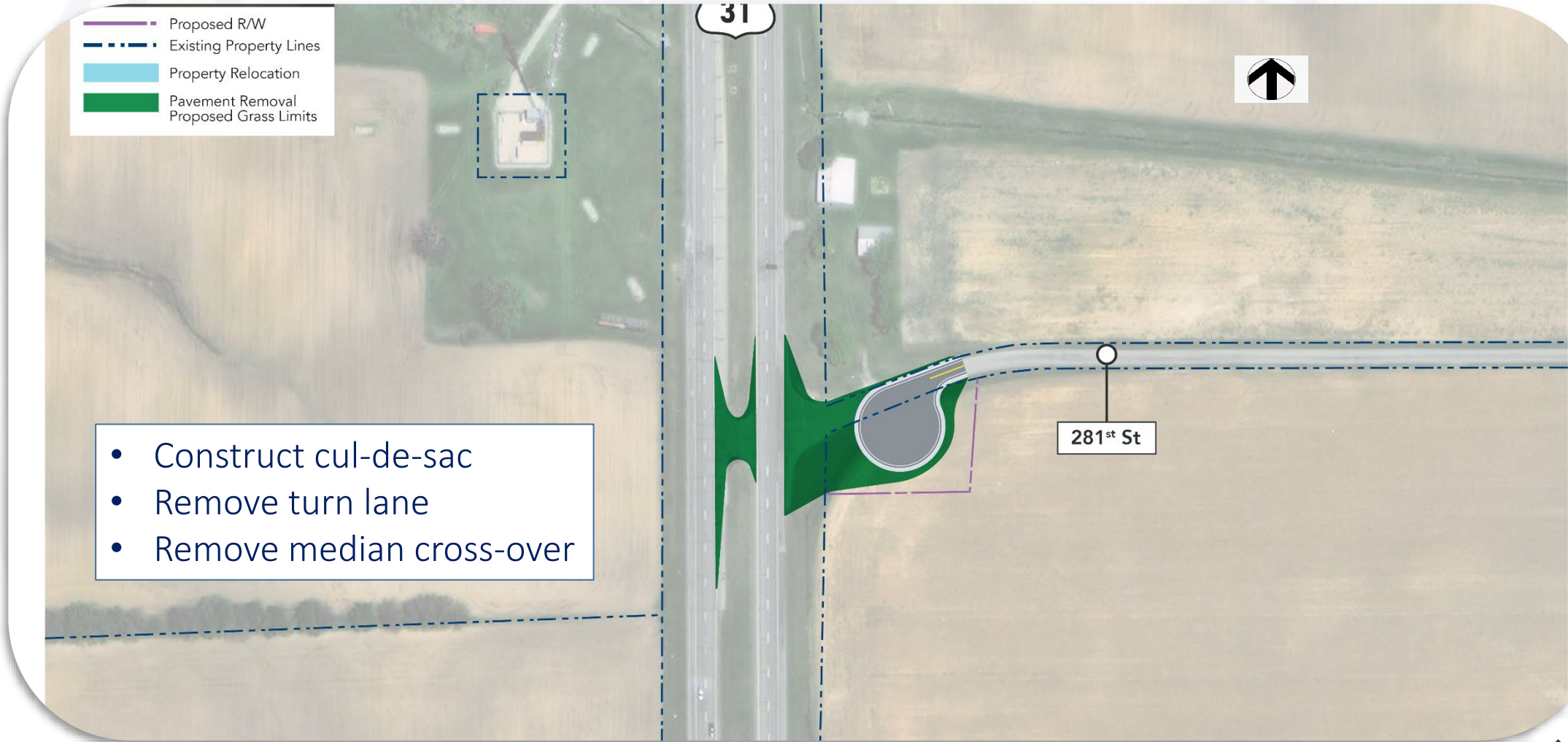
266th Street



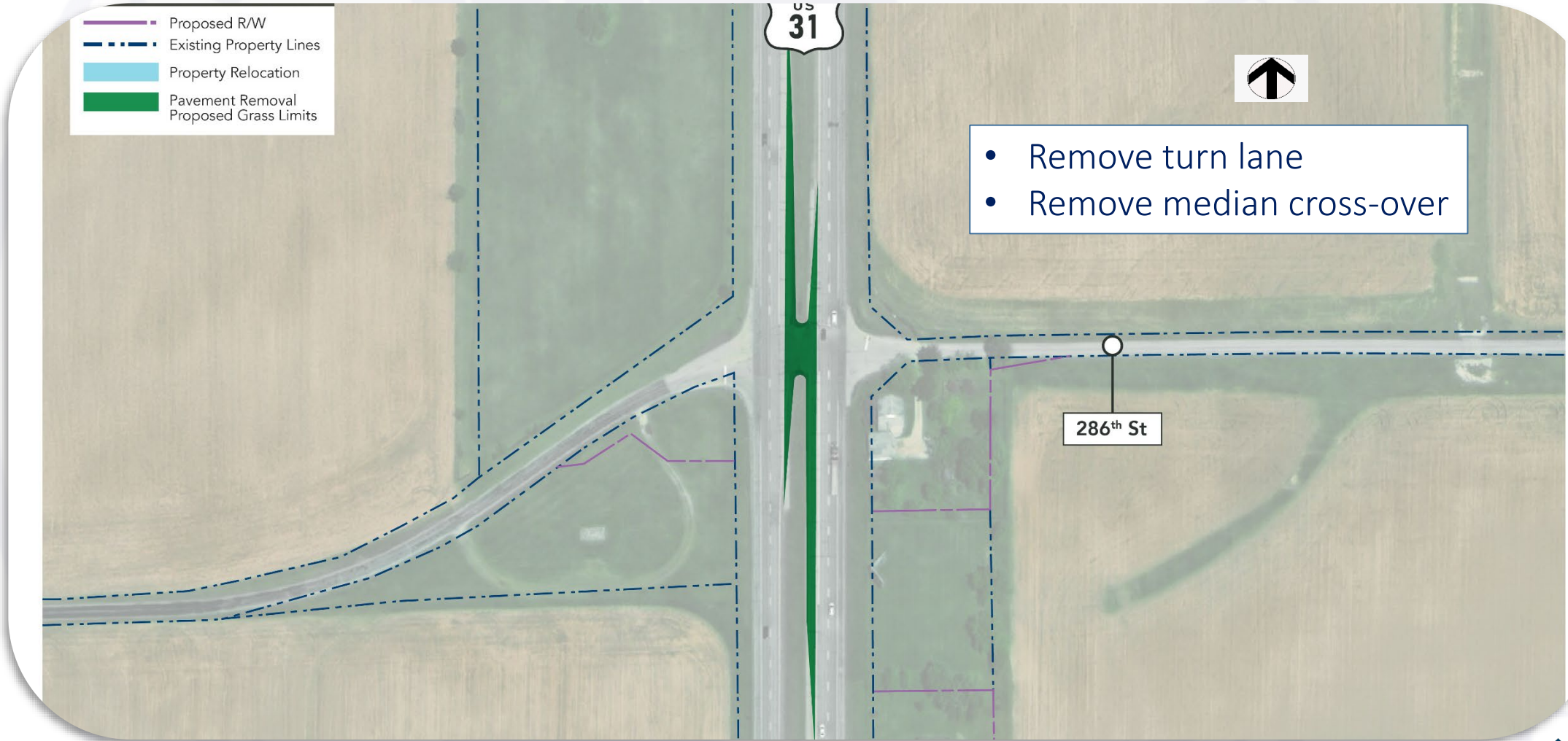
276th Street Interchange



281st Street



286th Street



Potential Impacts of Preferred Alternative



Right-of-way

- 390.39 acres – Total Acreage Permanent
- 16.16 acres – Total Acreage Temporary
- 24 relocations

Historic Properties

- 1 NRHP eligible property may be impacted

Protected Species

- No impacts to protected species are expected

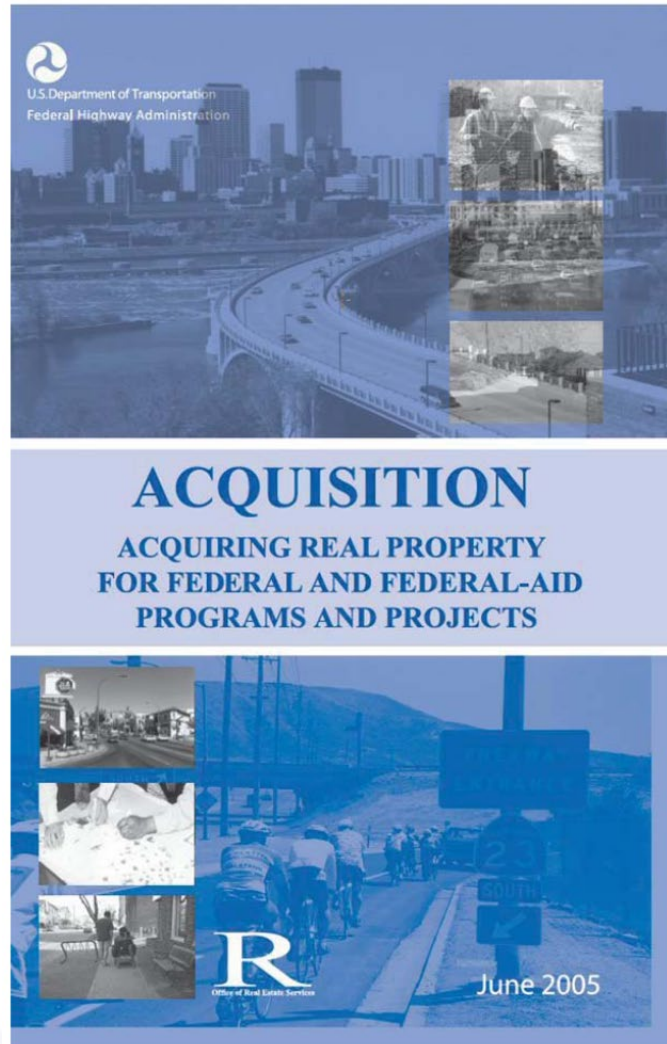
Noise Impacts

- Noise studies were completed and approved
- With design year traffic, receptors were identified, but abatement measures were determined too not be reasonable or feasible

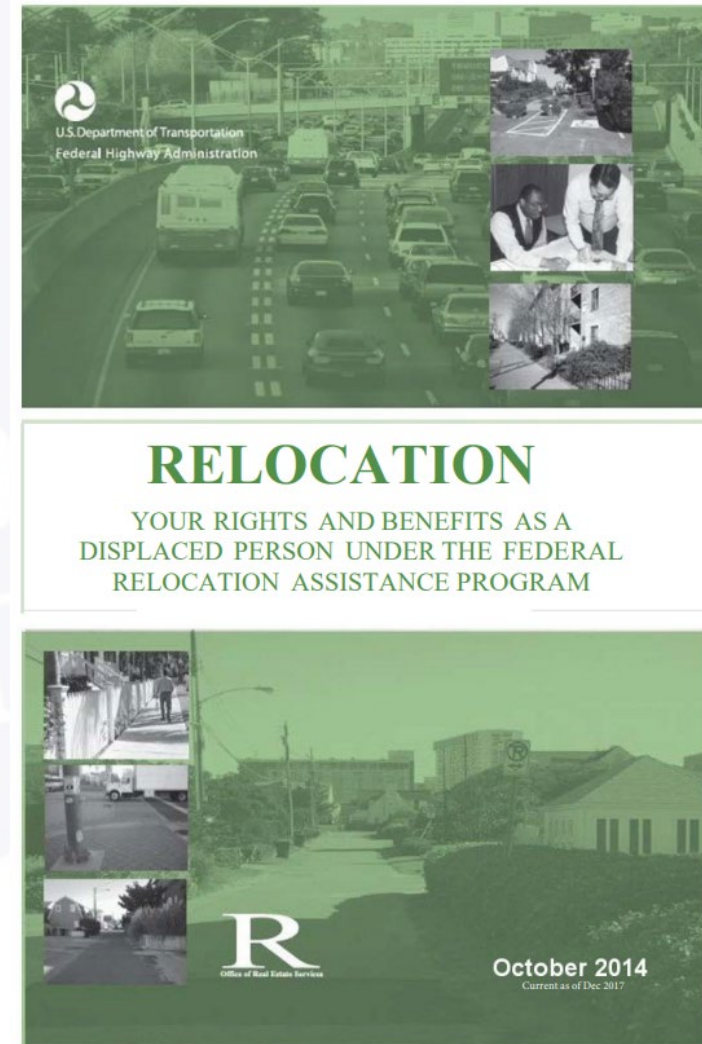
Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)



- Sensitive times for closures such as harvest
- Project to be constructed under traffic
- Required lane closures during construction
- Temporary closure and detour will be required for 226th, 266th, and 276th
- Phased construction to allow traffic to shift to one side while work continues on the other side



www.in.gov/indot/files/FHWA-Acquisition-Brochure-BLUE.pdf



www.in.gov/indot/files/FHWA-Relocation-Brochure-GREEN.pdf

Real Estate Acquisition Process



“Uniform Act of 1970”

- All federal, state and local governments must comply
- Requires an offer for just compensation

Acquisition Process

- Appraisals
- Review Appraisals
- Negotiations
- Relocation Assistance
- INDOT and Consultant Real Estate Team to work with impacted property owners

Right-of-way

- Permanent ROW: 390.39 acres
 - Permanent ROW is land, once purchased by INDOT from legal landowner, becomes ROW owned by INDOT
- Temporary ROW: 16.16 acres
 - Temporary ROW is land required during the construction of a project and is used for the purposes of construction related activity
- INDOT pays legal landowner a fee for land use during construction

Project Schedule



- Public Comment Period: September 14, 2021 to October 14, 2021
- Public Hearing: September 28, 2021
- Project Utility Relocations and Building Demolitions:
 - Beginning Spring 2022 and continuing through 2024
- Project Awards and Begin Project Construction:
 - Spring 2022 - 276th Street
 - Summer 2022 – SR 38 to 236th Street
 - Summer 2023 – 241st Street to 276th Street

Submit Public Comments



- Submit public comments using the options described in the first page of information packet:
 - Public comments form (submitted tonight), by mail, or at libraries and offices where the EA is available for review)
 - Email: bfsenviron@bfsengr.com or Project Team Member
 - Participate during public comment session via microphone
 - Record verbal comments on the project phone line to be transcribed and included in public hearing transcript, INDOT Toll Free Number: 855-INDOT4U (468-6848)
Mention U.S. 31 Limited Access in Hamilton County, IN
 - **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Thursday, October 14, 2021**
 - All comments submitted are included in the public hearings transcript and made part of the public record
 - Comments are reviewed, evaluated, and given consideration during the decision-making process

Next Steps



Public and project stakeholder input

- Submit comment via options described on page 1 of information packet

INDOT review of public comments

- All comments are given full consideration during decision-making process
- Finalize/approve NEPA document, complete project design

Communicate a decision

- INDOT will notify project stakeholders of decision
- Work through local media, social media outlets, paid legal notice
- Make project documents accessible via repositories

Questions? Contact Project Team

Comment Session



- Please be considerate of others
- Please wait on microphone before speaking
- Please state your name before providing your comments
- Questions? Please see Project Staff in the Open House area
- Comment must be submitted by October 14, 2021

Thank You



Again, thank you for taking time out of your day to partner with INDOT on the US 31 Limited Access Project in Hamilton County. The recording of public comments will begin shortly.