



## LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**DES. # 2100012**

### **State Road 8 / (also known as 7<sup>th</sup> Street) Access Management Project**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Thursday, August 8, 2024 at Middaugh Hall, DeKalb County Fairgrounds, 708 South Union Street, Auburn, IN 46706. The doors will be open at 5:30 p.m. to give participants time to view displays and talk to representatives prior to the meeting. The formal presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. with time allotted following the hearing for questions to the project team.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to review and comment on preliminary plans for the State Road 8 (SR 8) Access Management Project in Dekalb County, Indiana. The proposed project is located on SR 8 (locally known as 7<sup>th</sup> Street) from 0.10 miles East of the I-69 Interchange to 0.60 miles East of the I-69 Interchange in the City of Auburn, Indiana.

The need and purpose of the SR 8 roadway project (Des. No. 2100012) stems from the higher-than-average crash frequency and severity rates. Many commercial drives along the corridor affect traffic flow and contribute to the high crash rate. Significant traffic congestion occurs at the traffic signals during the peak periods. There is also a lack of sidewalks in many areas along SR 8.

The preferred alternative addresses these needs by removing some commercial drives and creating a center raised concrete median to replace the Two-Way Left Turn Lane (TWLTL). To allow access to businesses along the corridor, Left Turn/U-turn openings will be installed in three locations between the Touring Drive and Grandstaff Drive intersections. Additional turn lanes will be added at the SR 8/Touring Drive and SR 8/Grandstaff Drive intersections to increase capacity and reduce congestion.

An eastbound right turn lane will be constructed from approximately 300 feet east of Touring Drive to 1,000 feet east of Touring Drive. The right turn lane will replace the existing frontage road along the south side of SR 8. New sidewalks will be installed along both sides of SR 8 and new curb ramps that meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements will be installed at intersections.

Construction is anticipated to occur in 2026.

Right-of-Way acquisition from 24 parcels will be required. A total acquisition of 1.23 acres of permanent right-of-way is anticipated.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project.

The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view at the following locations:

1) INDOT Project Website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/s.r.-8-median-construction-in-auburn,-in/>



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- 2) The Fort Wayne District office, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808
- 3) Eckhart Public Library, 603 S. Jackson St., Auburn, IN 46706.
- 4) Project documents can be mailed upon request. Contact Tom Spalding at (317) 656-7644 or email [tspalding@c2strategic.com](mailto:tspalding@c2strategic.com)

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: Jason Mathias, Burgess & Niple 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 920, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

INDOT requests comments be postmarked by Friday, August 23, 2024, to be included as part of the public hearing record.

With 7 (seven) days advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearing's process including services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired, and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) including language interpretation services and document conversion. To request accommodation, please contact Tom Spalding at (317) 656-7644 or email [tspalding@c2strategic.com](mailto:tspalding@c2strategic.com) by August 1, 2024.

If the public hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled, and the public comment period would be extended.

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, "Provide 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."; and 3) The 2021 INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the FHWA.