

# PUBLIC HEARING

## SR 8 Access Management Project

Auburn, IN

Des. No. 2100012

August 8, 2024





# AGENDA

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- Welcome
- Project Overview
- Project Team Introductions
- Project Development & Timeline
- Environmental Overview
- Project Purpose & Need
- Alternatives Considered
- Preferred Alternative & Access Management
- Public Comments Due – August 23, 2024
- Stay Informed – Project Resources





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

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## Project Location

- The project is located on SR 8 in Auburn, Indiana.

## Project Purpose

- The purpose of this project is to improve the safety and mobility of SR 8 from just east of the I-69 interchange to just east of the SR 8 and Grandstaff Drive intersection.

## Proposed Design

- Our proposed design will add a center-raised median; make intersection improvements at SR 8 and Touring Drive and at SR 8 and Grandstaff Drive; add pedestrian sidewalks along both sides of SR 8; and improve drainage along the corridor.





SR 8 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

# PROJECT TEAM

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## INDOT Fort Wayne District

- Kevin Shaw, INDOT Project Manager

## Burgess & Niple

- Jason Mathias, Design Manager
- Max Kitten, Lead Designer
- Jeremy VanVleet, Traffic Engineer
- Brady Hagerty, Public Involvement Specialist

## Lochmueller Group

- C.J. Cunningham, Environmental Lead
- Ashley Taylor, Environmental Document

## C2 Strategic Communications

- Tom Spalding, Senior Strategist
- Jacob Wenthe, Staff Strategist

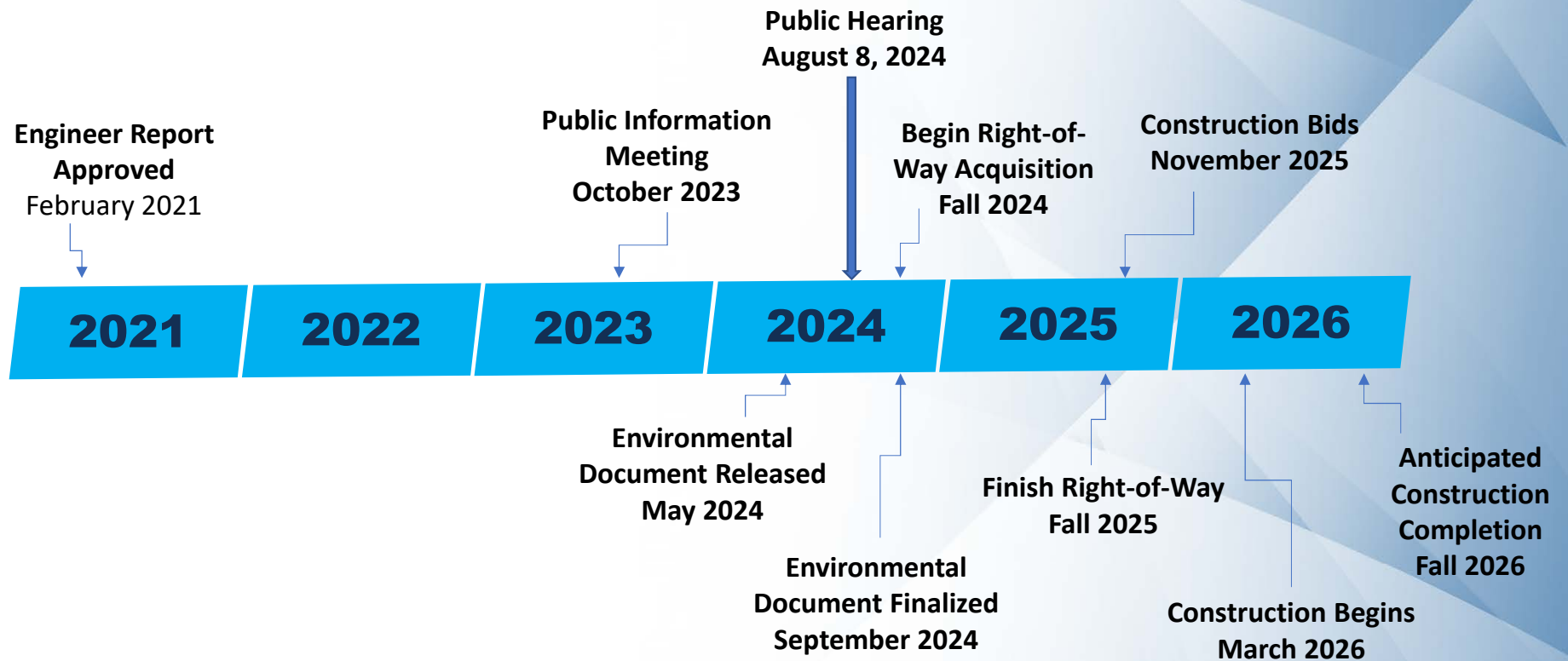


**BURGESS & NIPLE**





# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & TIMELINE

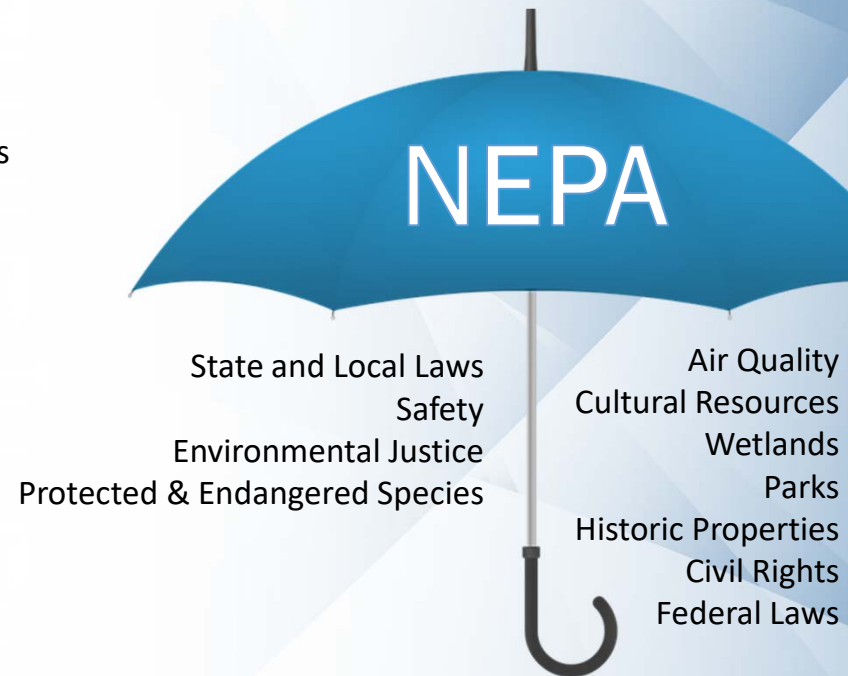




# ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

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- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
  - The NEPA document includes a thorough analysis of potential impacts to the environment and surrounding community.





# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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- **Categorical Exclusion Level 2**
- **Environmental Assessment released for public involvement – May 31, 2024**

## **Land Use**

- Acquisition of 1.23 acres for permanent right of way
- Temporary utilization of 0.86 acres for construction purposes

## **Ecological Considerations**

- Impact on 0.04 acres of wetland to improve existing drainage along the roadway
- No adverse effects on waterways or streams
- Impacts to threatened and endangered bat species will be minimized with tree clearing time-of-year restrictions

## **Community and Environmental Health**

- No adverse effects on the local community or air quality
- Monitoring wells are within project area - coordination with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will occur





# ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

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- **Published Legal Notice**

- DeKalb Star – July 24, 2024 & July 31, 2024
- Mailed to homeowners and stakeholders

- **Available for viewing & comment**

- INDOT Fort Wayne District Website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/S.R.-8-Access-Management-in-Auburn,-IN/>
- INDOT Fort Wayne District Office – Fort Wayne
- Eckhart Public Library – Auburn
- Copy on display tonight

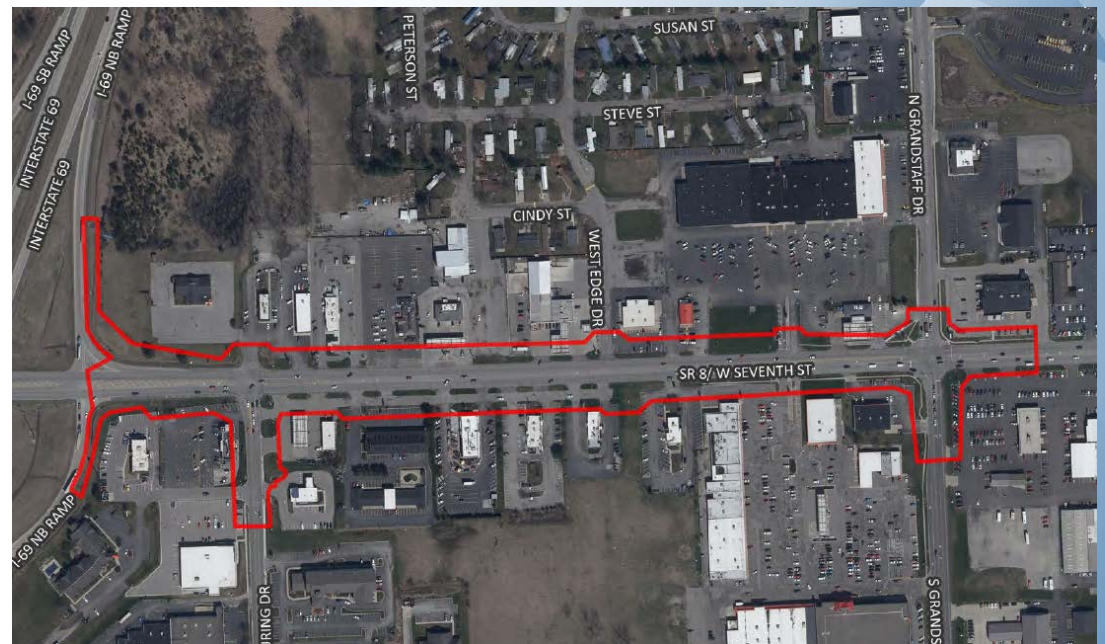




# PROJECT STUDY AREA

## SR 8 Corridor

- East of I-69 to East of Grandstaff Drive
- SR 8 & Touring Drive intersection
- SR 8 & West Edge Drive intersection
- SR 8 & Grandstaff Drive intersection





# PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED

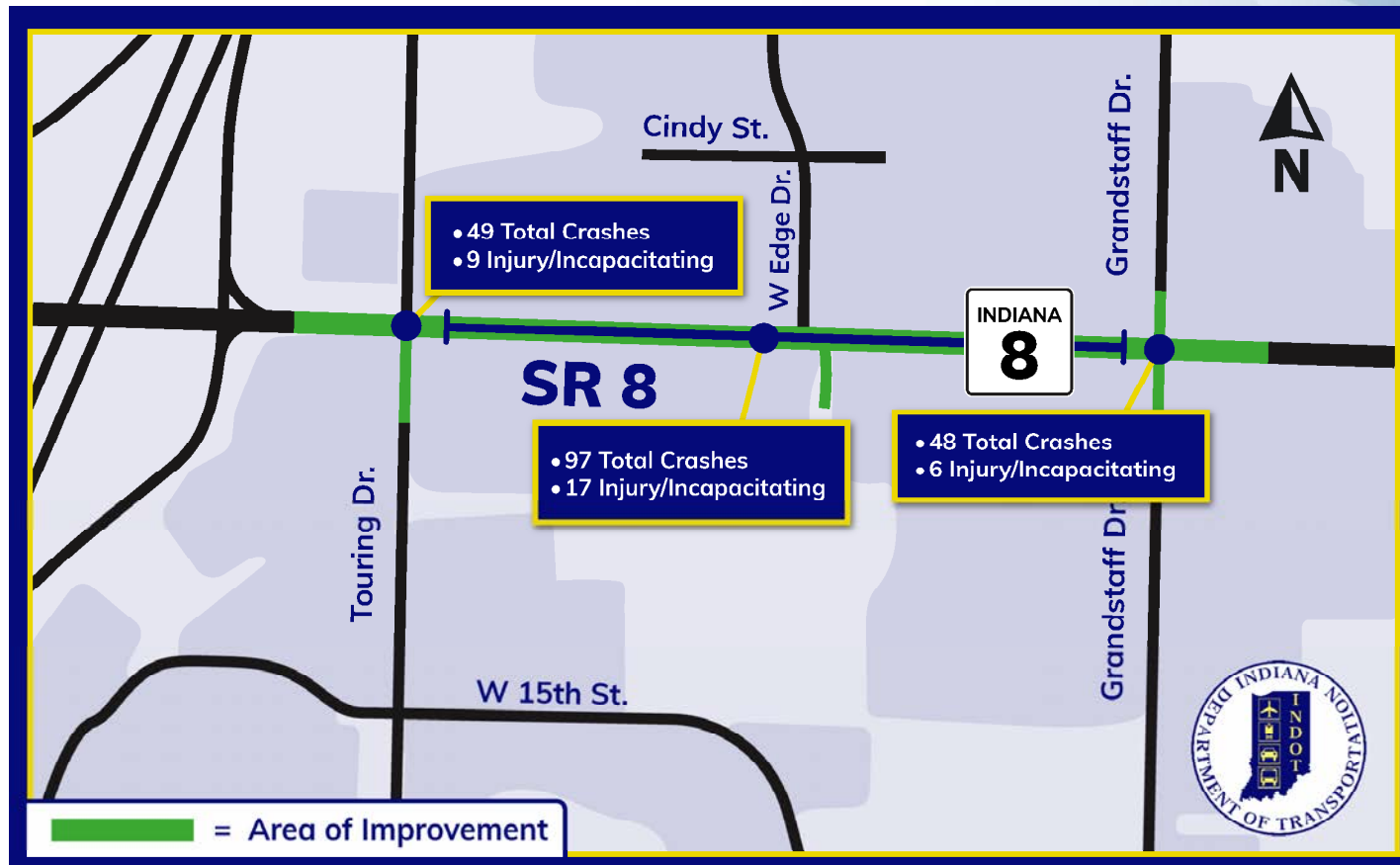
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- **Purpose:**
  - Improve mobility and safety for vehicles and pedestrians
- **Need:**
  - High crash frequency and severity
  - Congestion during peak traffic periods
  - Sidewalks missing in several areas throughout corridor





# CRASH FREQUENCY & SEVERITY [3 Year Period]

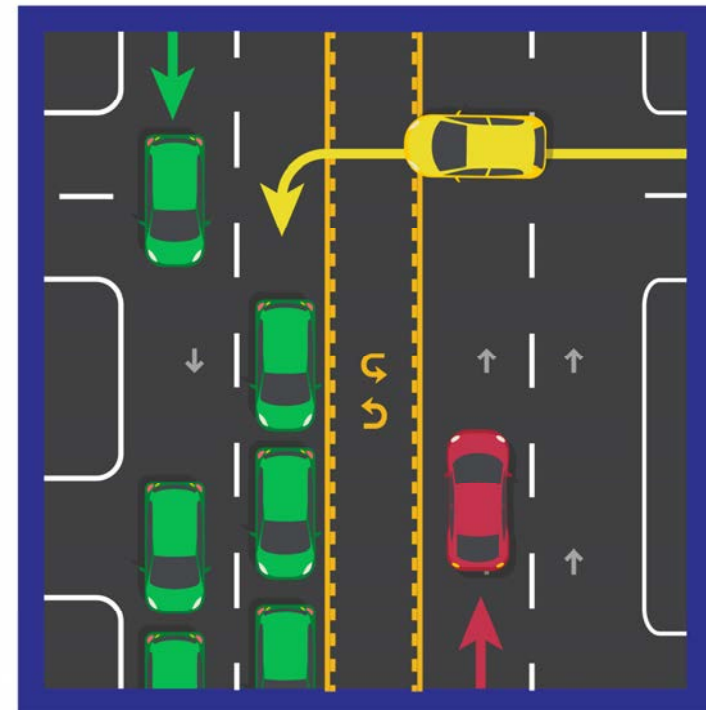




# WHAT'S CAUSING CRASHES?

- **Congestion**
  - Rear-end crashes represent:
    - 53% at Touring Drive
    - 69% at Grandstaff Drive
  - Few gaps in traffic to make left turns entering/exiting SR 8
- **29 commercial drives between Touring and Grandstaff Drive**
  - Drivers must cross 3 lanes to turn left from drives
  - Aggressive Driving
  - Approx. 79% of the 97 total crashes along SR 8 between Touring Drive & Grandstaff Drive were either right-angle or turning crashes

## Existing Condition





# PROJECT ALTERNATIVES & PREFERRED DESIGN

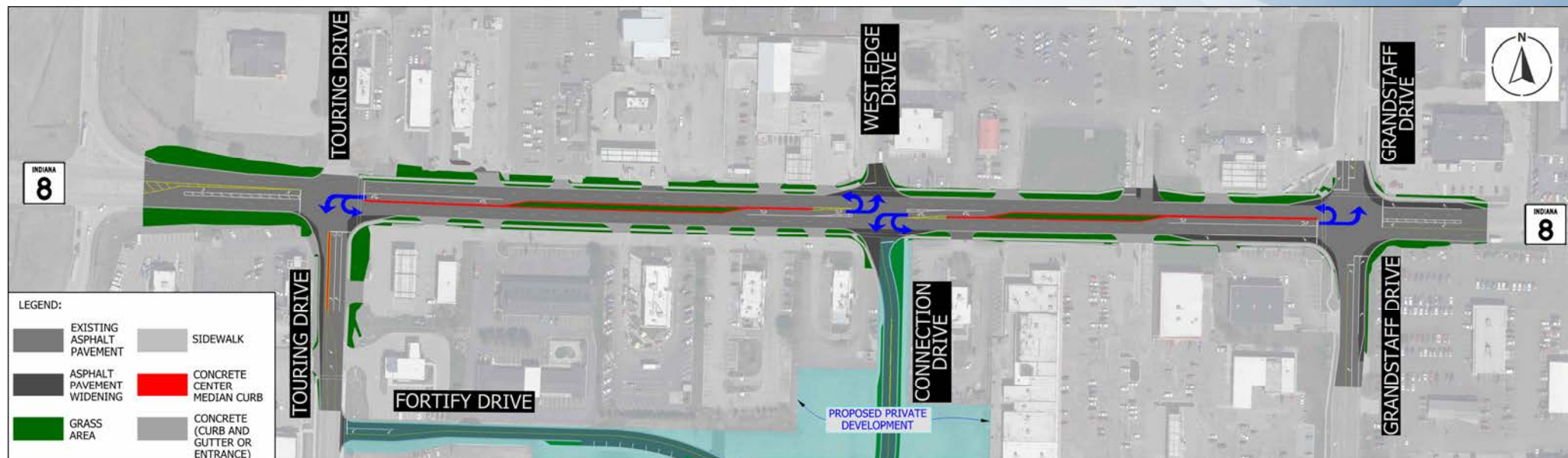
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- **Alternatives considered for analysis:**
  - Center Curb and 3 U-Turns
  - No Build
  
- **Preferred design:**
  - Center Curb and 5 U-Turns





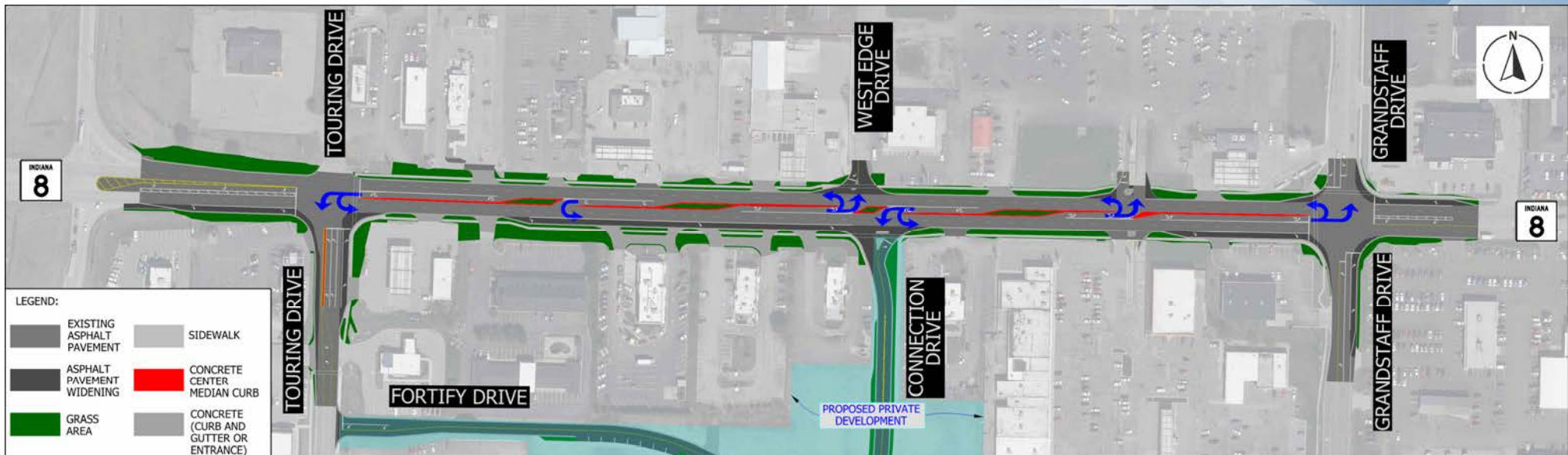
# CENTER CURB & 3 U-TURNS (ALTERNATIVE)



- **PRO** – Minimized left turn movements between Touring Drive and Grandstaff Drive
- **PRO** – Narrower cross section, less need for widening to incorporate additional U-turn locations
- **CON** – Increases U-turn traffic at heavily utilized signalized intersections of Touring Drive and Grandstaff Drive impacting operations
- **CON** – Restricts access to and from commercial drives
- **CON** – Increases traffic rerouting



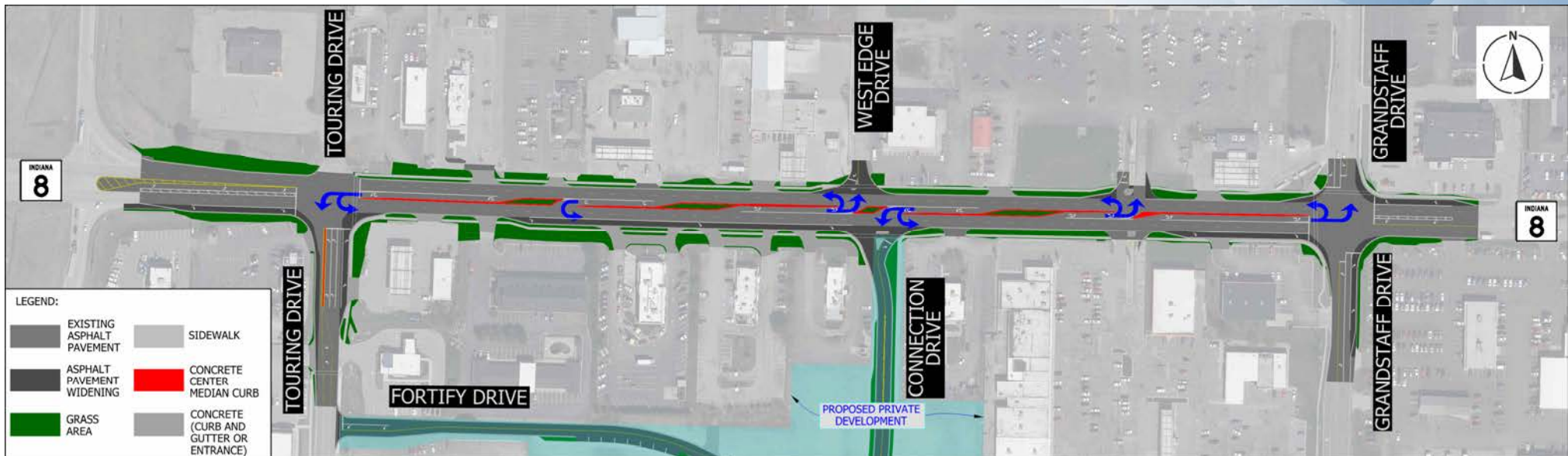
# CENTER CURB & 5 U-TURNS (PREFERRED)



- **PRO** - Minimizes impacts to existing signalized intersections at Touring Drive and Grandstaff Drive
- **PRO** – Restricts access to commercial drives while still providing flexibility for movements
- **PRO** - Minimizes traffic rerouting
- **CON** – Wider cross section given the need for U-turn bump outs and the development of the right turn lane on the south side of SR 8



# CENTER CURB & 5 U-TURNS (PREFERRED)



- Add Raised Center Curb – with 3 median openings between Touring Dr and Grandstaff Dr
- Improve access by adding right turn lane
- Add/Replace ADA compliant sidewalks along both sides of SR 8
- Consolidate driveway access to businesses





# CENTER CURB & 5 U-TURNS (PREFERRED)

## SR 8 & Touring Drive Intersection Improvements

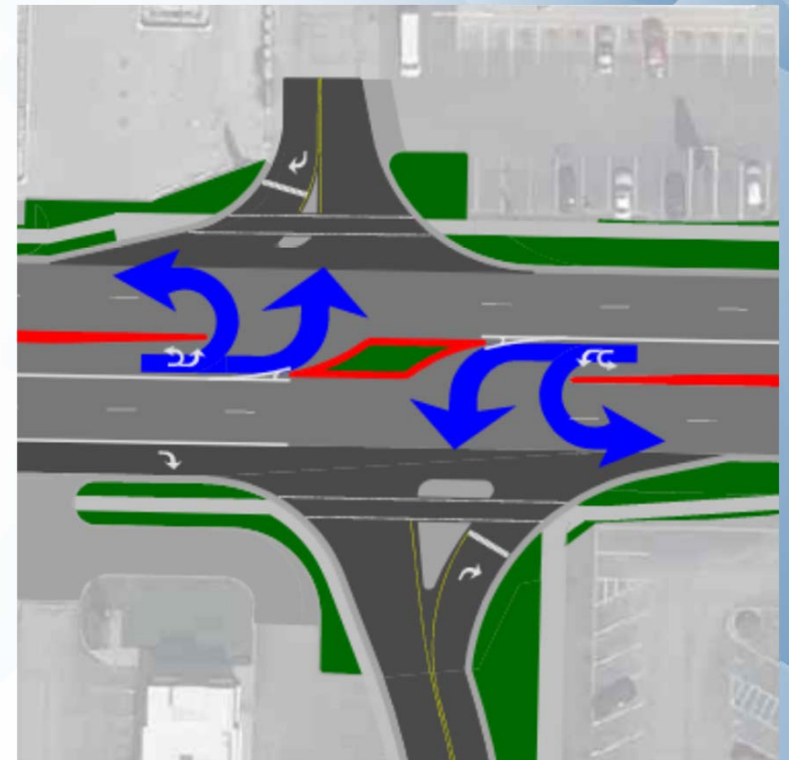
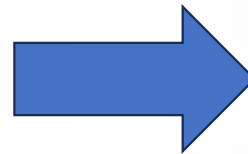
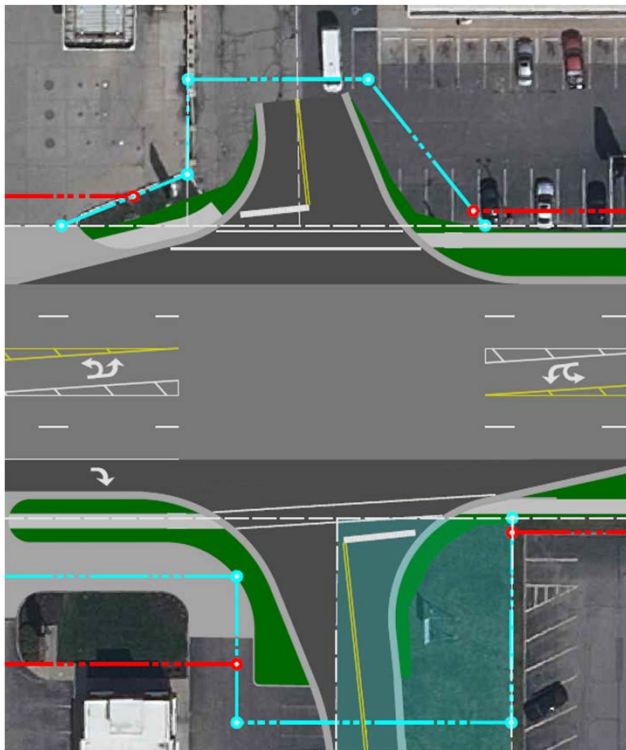
- **Add Right Turn Lanes**
  - Eastbound to Southbound
  - Northbound to Eastbound
- **Add 2<sup>nd</sup> Left Turn Lane**
  - Northbound to Westbound





# CENTER CURB & 5 U-TURNS (PREFERRED)

## SR 8 & West Edge Drive Intersection Improvements



Public Information Meeting Recommended Design – Oct 2023

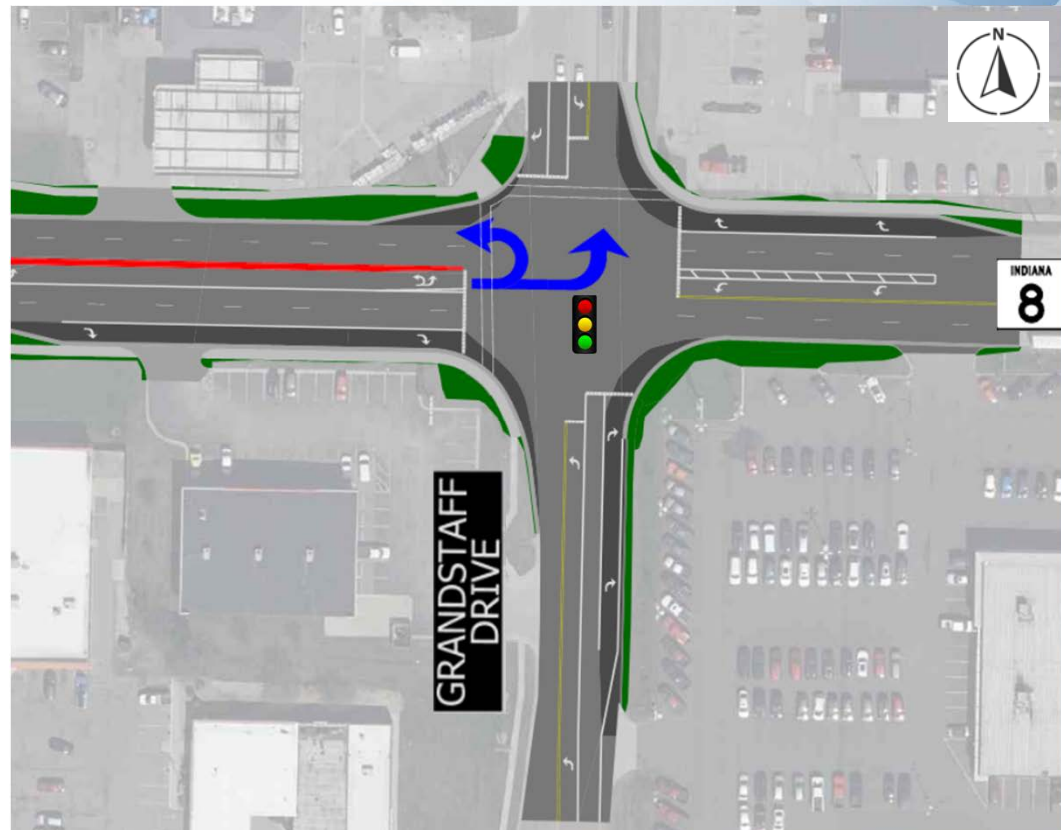
Public Hearing Preferred Design – August 2024



# CENTER CURB & 5 U-TURNS (PREFERRED)

## SR 8 & Grandstaff Drive Intersection Improvements

- **Add Right Turn Lanes**
  - Eastbound to Southbound
  - Northbound to Eastbound
  - Westbound to Northbound

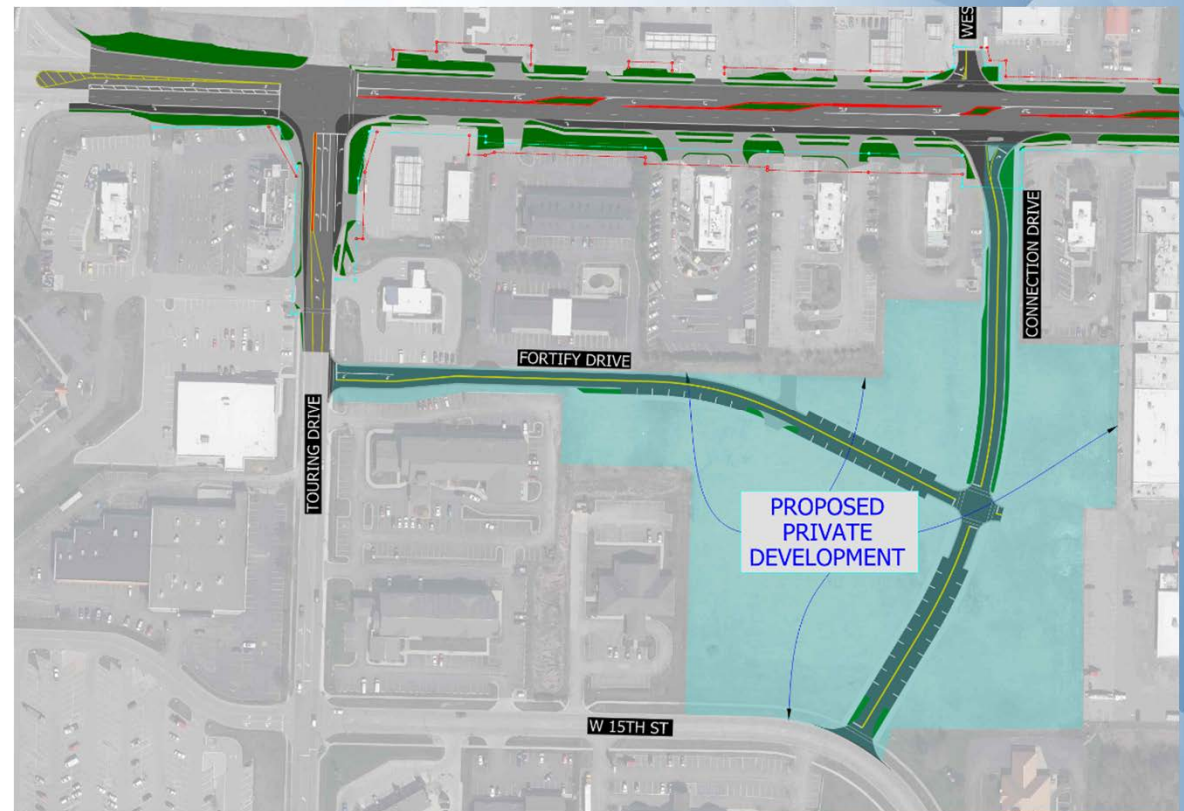




# PROPOSED PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

## Proposed Private Development South of SR 8:

- Connect SR 8 to W 15<sup>th</sup> Street via Connection Drive
- Connect Touring Drive to Connection Drive via Fortify Drive





# ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Access management seeks balance between the safety and mobility of a roadway with the access needs of neighboring properties.



Reduce the number and severity of crashes



Reduce congestion and travel delays



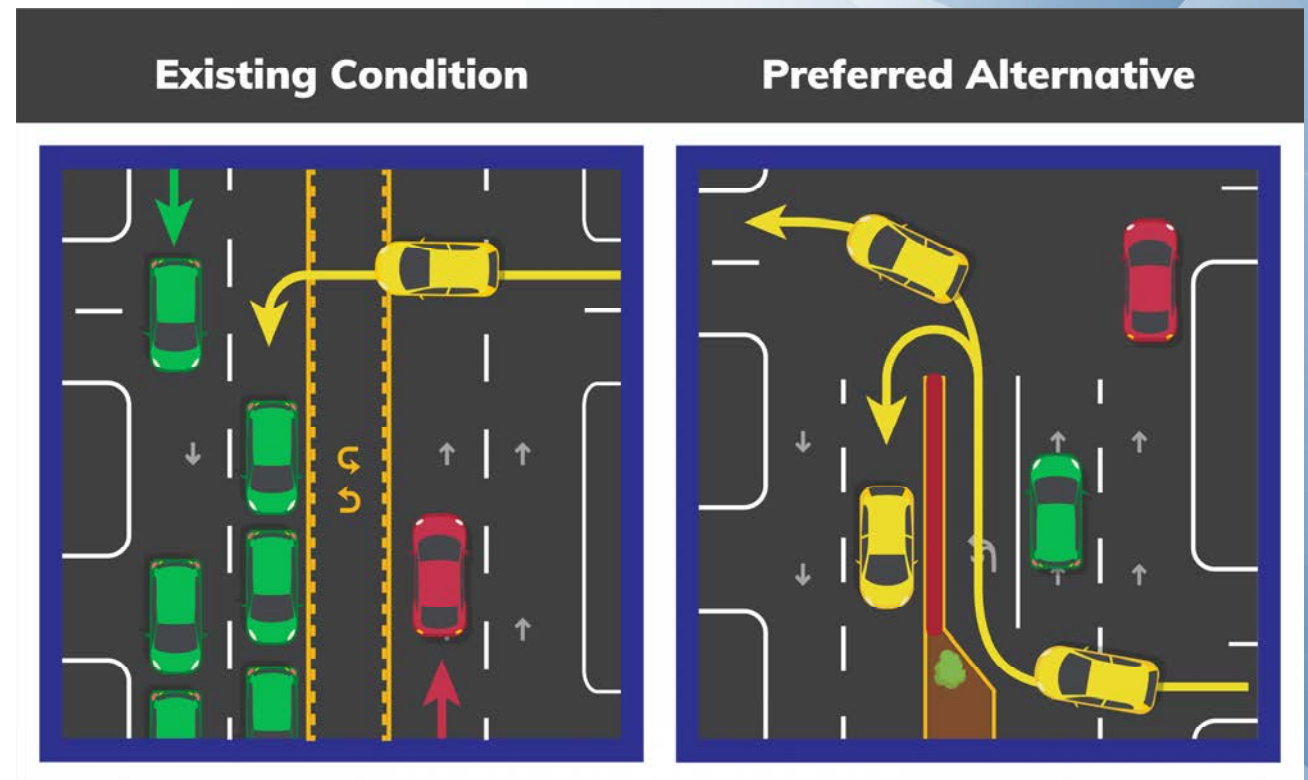
**EXAMPLE: Northcrest Shopping Center on Coliseum Blvd. near Clinton Street in Fort Wayne.**



# ACCESS MANAGEMENT BENEFITS

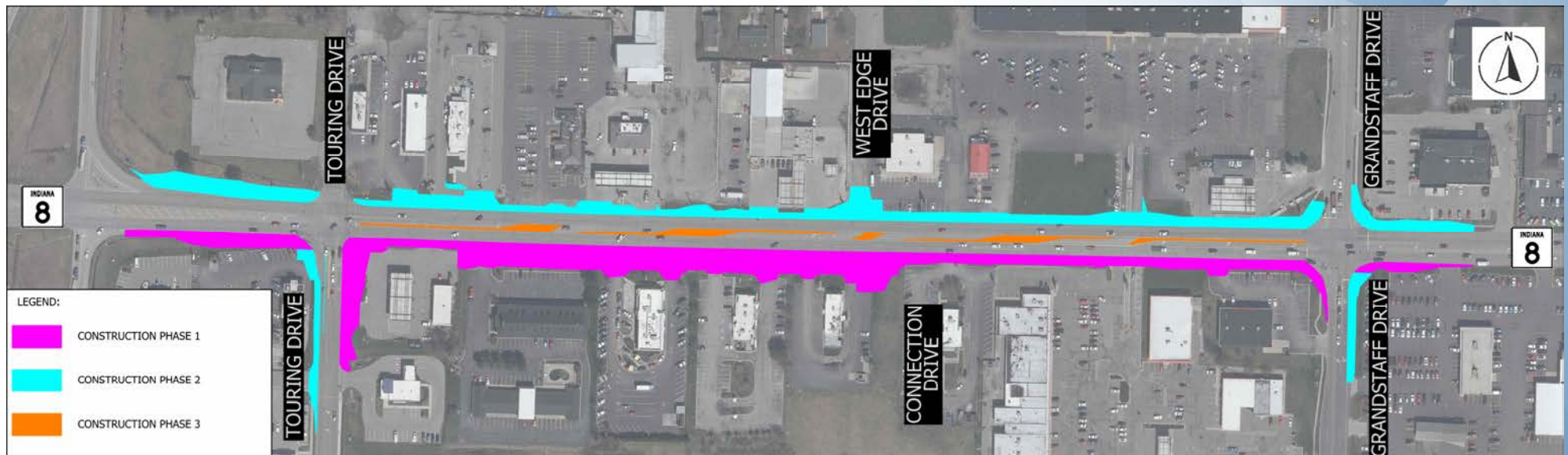
- **Benefits**

- Reduce angle crashes between major intersections
- Improve traffic flow
- Encourage consistent speeds
- Promote safer driving





# TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION



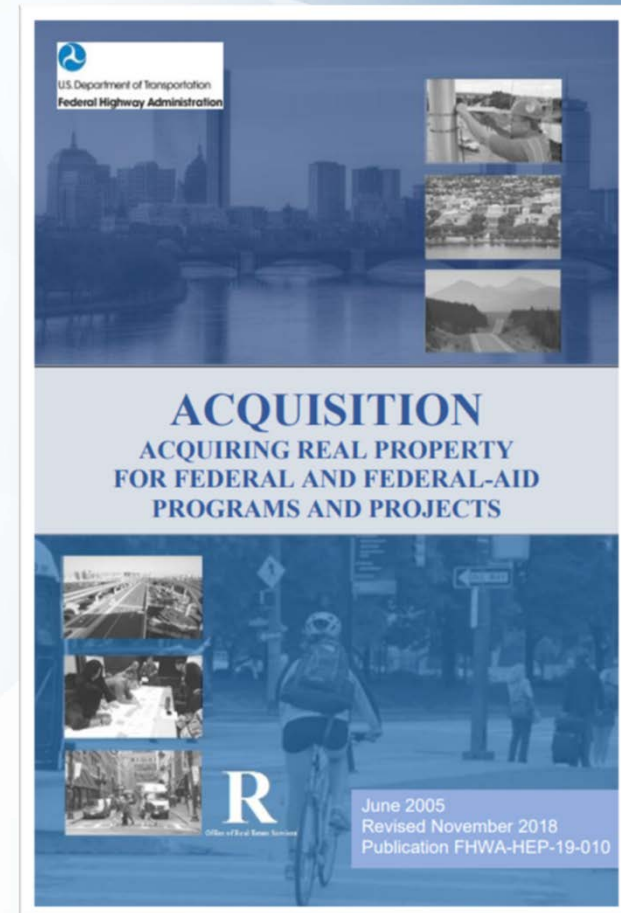
## How will traffic be managed during construction?

- SR 8 Reduced to one lane in each direction with a center two way left turn lane
- Built in Phases: **Phase 1**: South side construction | **Phase 2**: North side construction | **Phase 3**: Center curb construction
- Access to businesses will be maintained via temporary drives and/or alternate routes



# NEXT STEPS – PROPERTY ACQUISITION

- [www.in.gov/indot/projects/real-estate/](http://www.in.gov/indot/projects/real-estate/)
- If any portion of a property needs to be acquired, the property owner will be notified.
  - The agency's interest in acquiring your property
  - The agency's obligation to secure any necessary appraisals
  - Any other useful and pertinent information
- When the agency begins the acquisition process, the property owner will be personally contacted no later than during the appraisal process.







# SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

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- Submit public comments:
  - Fill out a comment sheet
  - Provide a formal comment following the formal presentation
  - Submit written comments via mail or email
- **Public comment period ends Friday, August 23, 2024.**
- All comments submitted are included in the public hearings transcript and made part of the public record.
- Comments are reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during the decision-making process.

## Contact Information:

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251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 920  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Email:** [Jason.mathias@burgessniple.com](mailto:Jason.mathias@burgessniple.com)

**Phone:** 317-237-2760



# STAY INFORMED

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**Project Website:**

<https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/S.R.-8-Access-Management-in-Auburn,-IN/>



Copies are available for public viewing at:

- **INDOT Fort Wayne District Office:** 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808
- **Eckhart Public Library:** 603 S Jackson Street, Auburn, IN 46706

# Thank you!

