
State Road 2 Intersection Improvement Project at C.R. 500 W in La Porte County

Indiana Department of Transportation

Monday, November 17, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Welcome

- Introductions
- Purpose/explanation of public hearing
- Public hearing format
- Visit our sign-in table
- Informational handouts
- Participate during public comment session
- Submit written public comments
- Project display area



Project Stakeholders

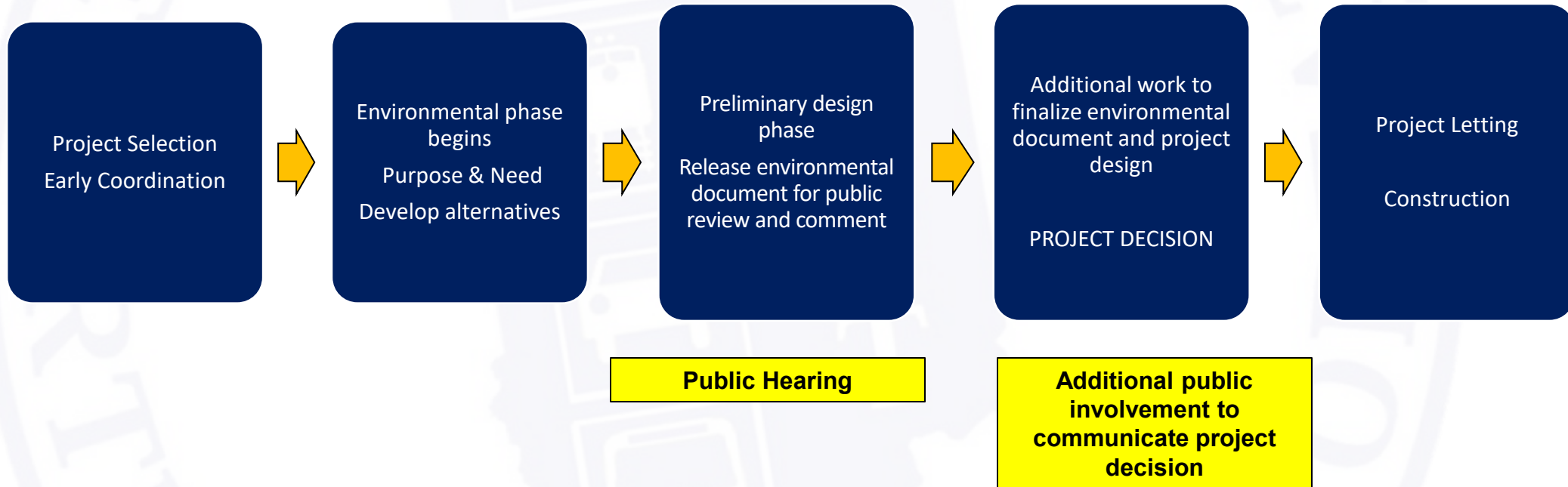
- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highway Administration
- La Porte County
- Elected & Local officials
- Residents and citizens
- Commuters
- Businesses
- Emergency services
- Schools
- Community Organizations
- Churches



S.R. 2 Intersection Improvement

- Introduction of INDOT Project Team
 - Northwest District Office
 - Project Management
 - Design
 - Environmental Services
 - Real Estate
 - Communications
 - Lawson-Fisher Associates
 - Engineering and Design Team
 - Metric Environmental
- Recognition of elected and local public officials
- Sign-in at attendance table to be added to project mailing list.
- A legal notice was mailed to known stakeholders within the project area.
- Announcement of this hearing was posted to INDOT website. A media release was also issued.
- A copy of presentation and project documentation is available online via INDOT website
- Legal notice publishing:
 - [La Porte County Herald Dispatch](#)
 - November 3, 2025
 - November 10, 2025

Project Development



S.R. 2 Intersection Improvement

Purpose and Need

- The need is based on the high crash rate, specifically the occurrence of right-angle crashes which often result in injury.
- Motorist delay/queueing on C.R. 500 W is significant.
- The purpose is to improve intersection safety and provide a long-term solution to ensure safe and efficient operation of the intersection.

S.R. 2 Intersection Improvement

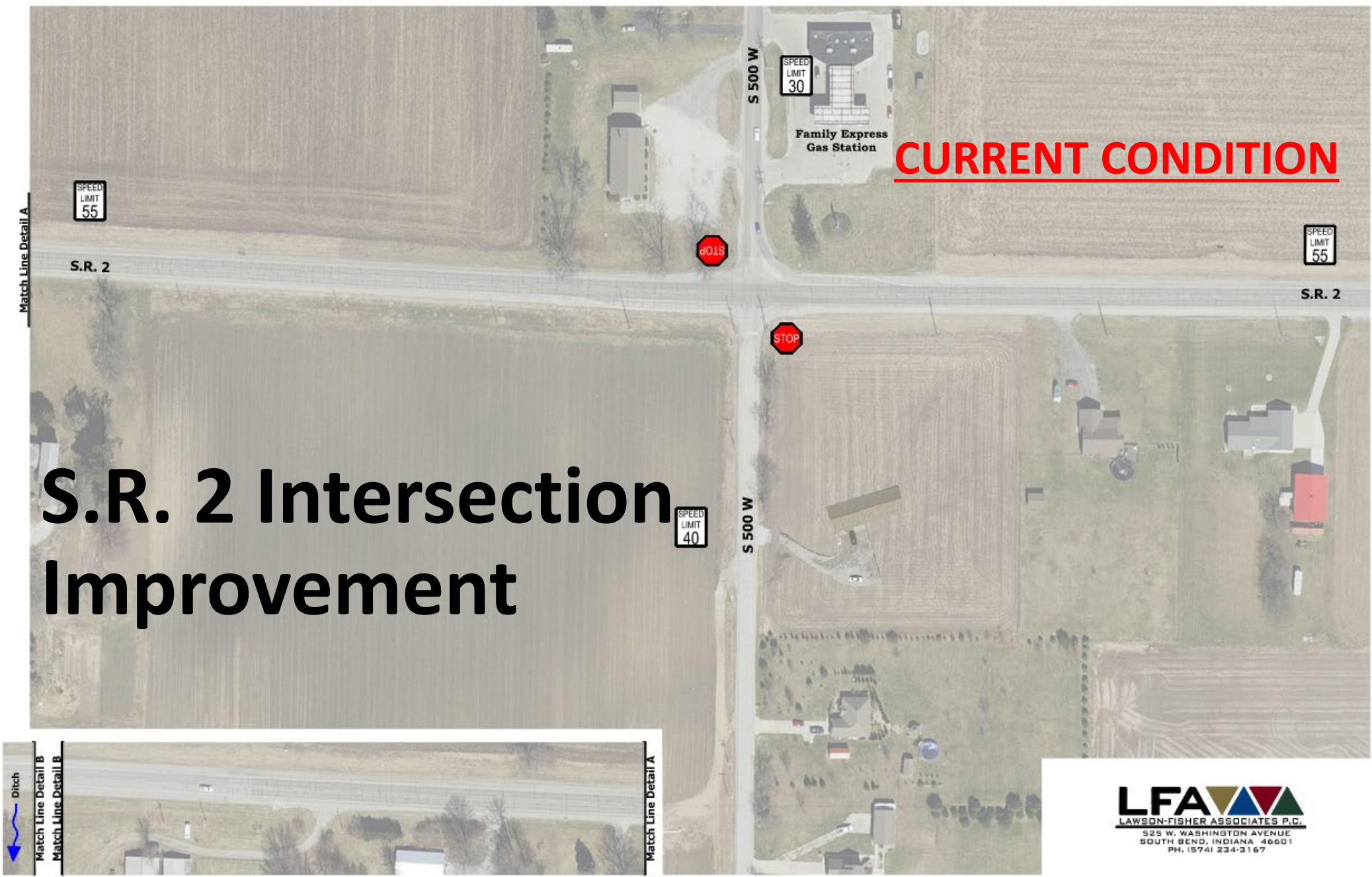
CURRENT CONDITION

- S.R. 2 - Free flow with right turn lane/passing blister
- C.R. 500 W - Stop controlled



S.R. 2 Intersection Improvement

CURRENT CONDITION



S.R. 2 AT S 500 W

LFA
LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.
525 W. WASHINGTON AVENUE
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601
PH. (574) 234-3167

Public Involvement

- **Notice of Entry for Survey – July 27, 2023**
 - Letters mailed to properties within general area
 - Gather data for environmental analysis
- **Public involvement process – November 2025**
 - Opportunity for public to provide input regarding the proposed project
- **Communicate project decision – Winter 2025**
 - INDOT seeking public comment and input regarding proposed project



Environmental Document

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Decision-making process, requiring INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives Screening
 - Identifies Preferred Solution (Preferred Alternative)

Impacts analyzed, evaluated and described NEPA document

- What impacts might this project have on the community and environmental resources?
- How can impacts be avoided?
- Can impacts be minimized?
- Mitigation for impacts?

Environmental document released for public involvement

- Categorical Exclusion Level 2 Document – based on ROW
- Available for public review as a part of the hearing process

Environmental Document

- **Environmental Process**

- Establish Purpose and Need
- Develop possible alternatives
 - “No Build” alternative is baseline comparison
- Evaluate and screen alternatives
- Identify a preferred alternative
- Solicit public comment on environmental document and preliminary design plan
- Address and consider public comment as part of decision-making process
- Finalize and approve environmental document

NEPA Items Evaluated

- Right-of-way
- Streams, Wetlands, and Other Waters
- Floodplains
- Endangered Species
- Farmland
- Cultural Resources
(Historic/Archaeological)
- Parks and Recreational Lands (Trails)
- Air Quality
- Community Impacts
- Public Involvement



Project Impacts - Environmental

Anticipated Impacts

- Right-of-way – 2.02 acre permanent ROW, 0.119 acre temporary ROW, and 2.35 acre re-acquired ROW
- Utilities
- Terrestrial Habitat Impacts
- Farmland Impacts

Avoided Impacts

- Wetland Impacts

Project Impacts - Environmental

Farmland Impacts

2.22 acre permanent farmland impacts anticipated

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Coordination - May 7, 2025
 - **No significant loss of prime farmland**



Project Impacts - Environmental

Terrestrial Habitat Impacts

Permanent terrestrial habitat impacts - Approximately 2.22 acre anticipated

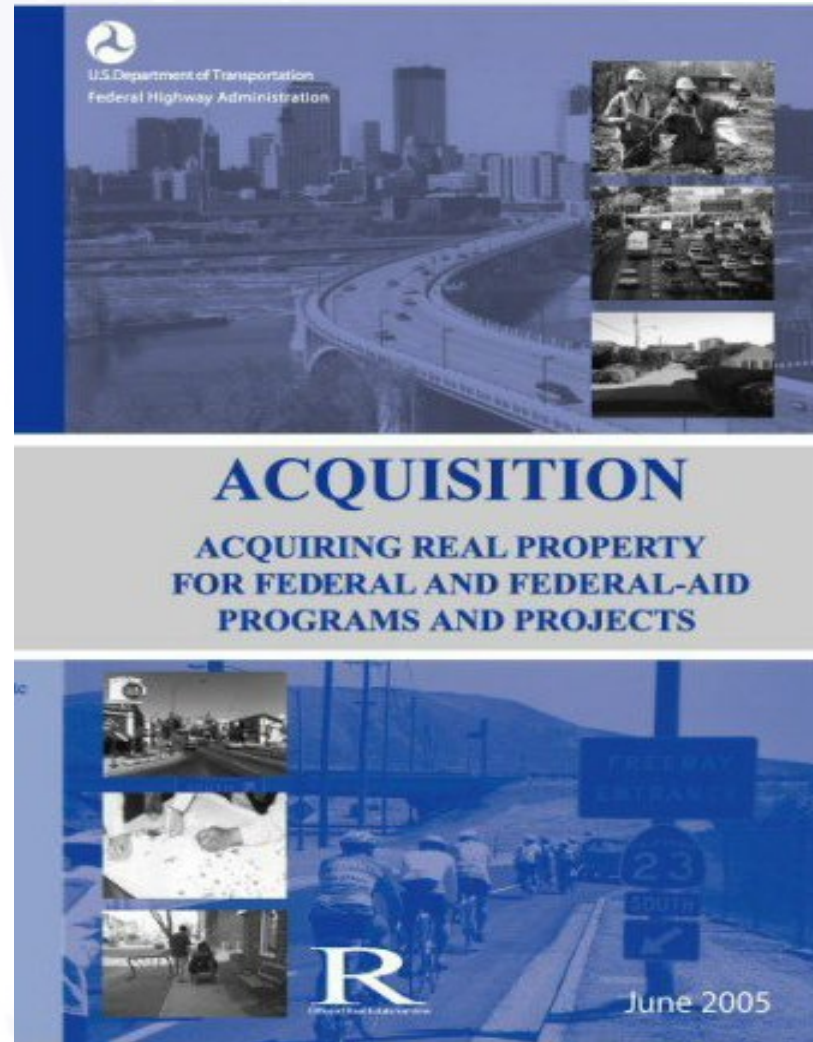
- 0.0014 acre tree and brush removal anticipated

Construction Stormwater General Permit (formerly Rule 5 Permit)

- Due to overall project disturbance of >1 acre

All efforts to avoid and minimize terrestrial habitat impacts have been considered during the design process.

Real Estate



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
 - Negotiation
 - **Right-of-Way (ROW) needed for project**
 - 2.02 acre of permanent new ROW (1.19 agricultural, 0.26 commercial, 0.57 residential)
 - 0.119 acre of temporary ROW needed
 - No permanent easements needed
 - INDOT Real Estate Team to work with impacted property owners
- **Right-of-Way (ROW)**
 - **Permanent ROW**
 - Land, once purchased by INDOT from legal land owner, becomes ROW owned by INDOT
 - **Existing apparent ROW**
 - Existing apparent ROW - INDOT acquired land by Highway Grant some years ago, transactions in some cases were not properly recorded, requires further action by INDOT
 - **Temporary ROW**
 - Land required during the construction of a project and is used for the purposes of construction-related activity
 - INDOT pays legal land owner a fee for land use during construction and/or as part of construction-related activities

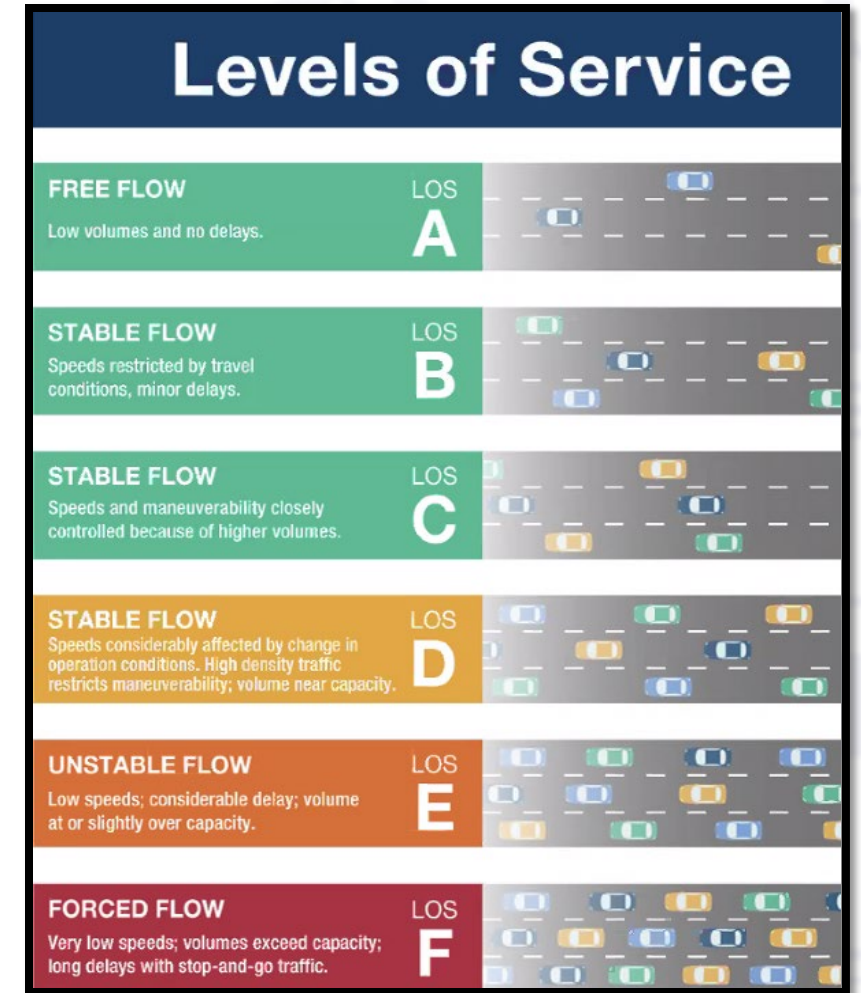
Main Alternatives Considered

No Build Alternative

- Baseline for comparison of build alternative
- Does not meet purpose and need of project
- Does not improve the mobility or safety of the intersection

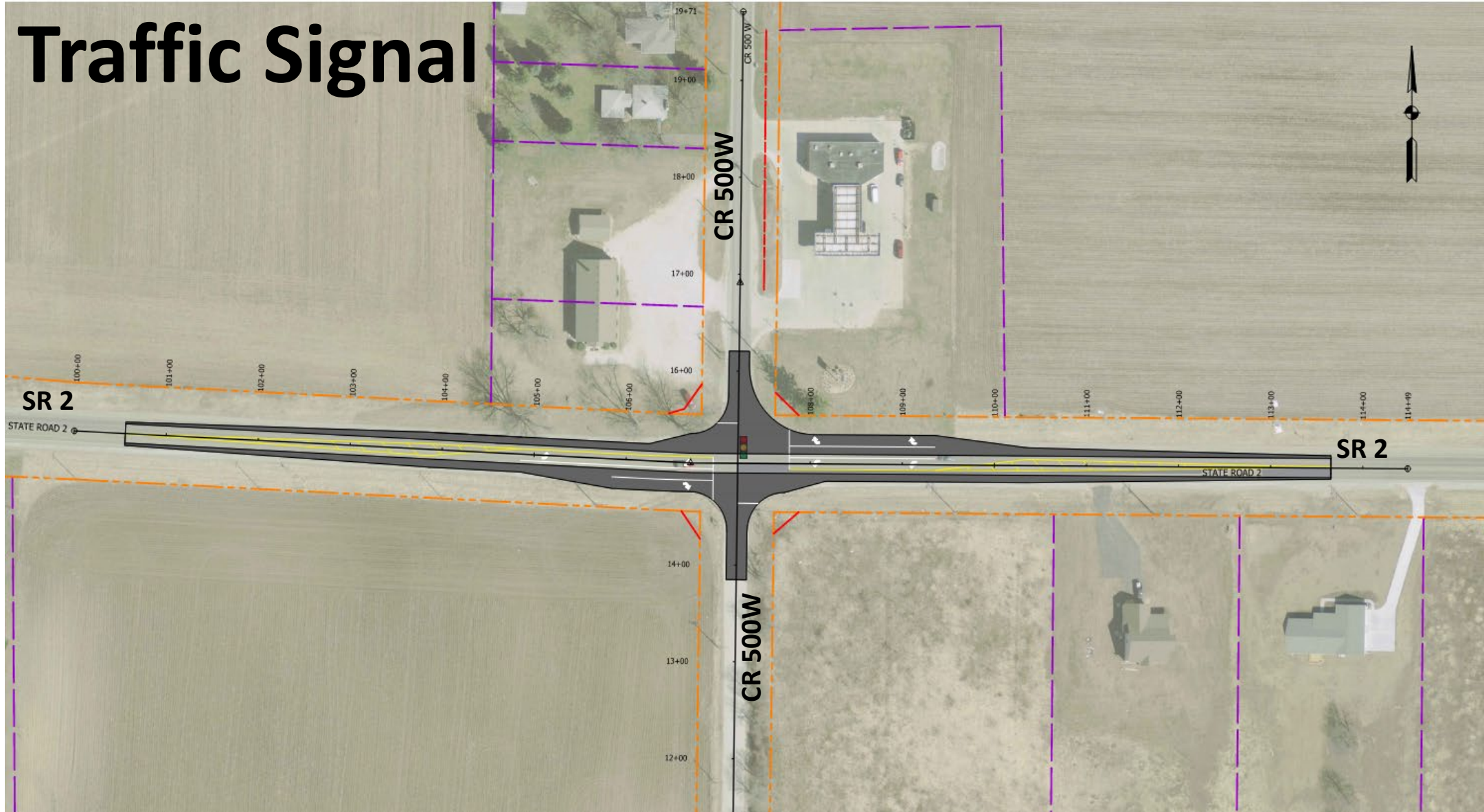
Traffic Signal with Added Left Turn Lanes

- Left turn lanes required on S.R. 2 for mobility and safety
- Signals are known to increase crashes due to rear-ends and red light running
- Does not reduce intersection conflict points or crashes
- Provides Level of Service B
- Does not fully meet the purpose and need of the project



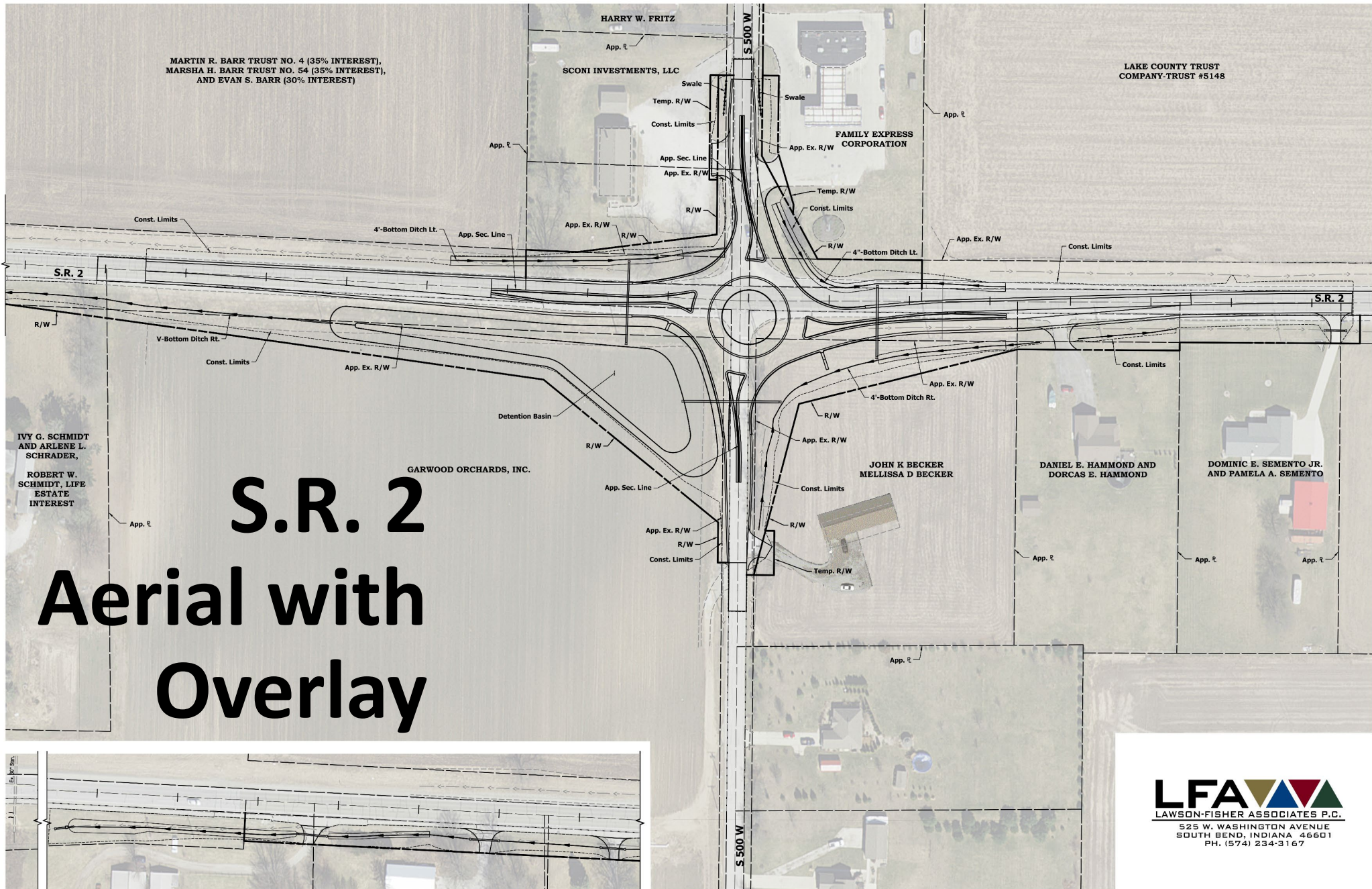
Main Alternatives Considered

Traffic Signal

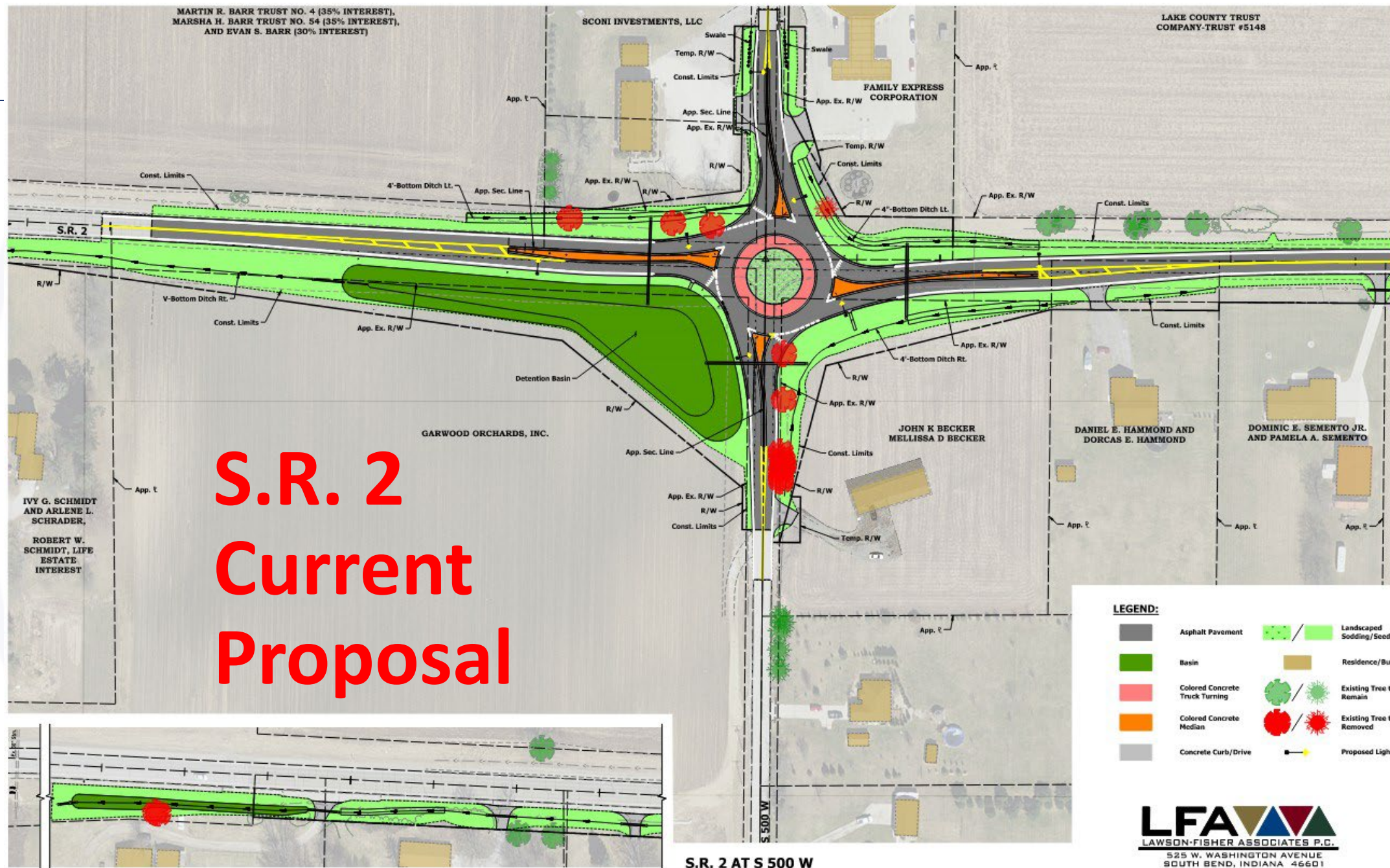


Main Alternatives Considered

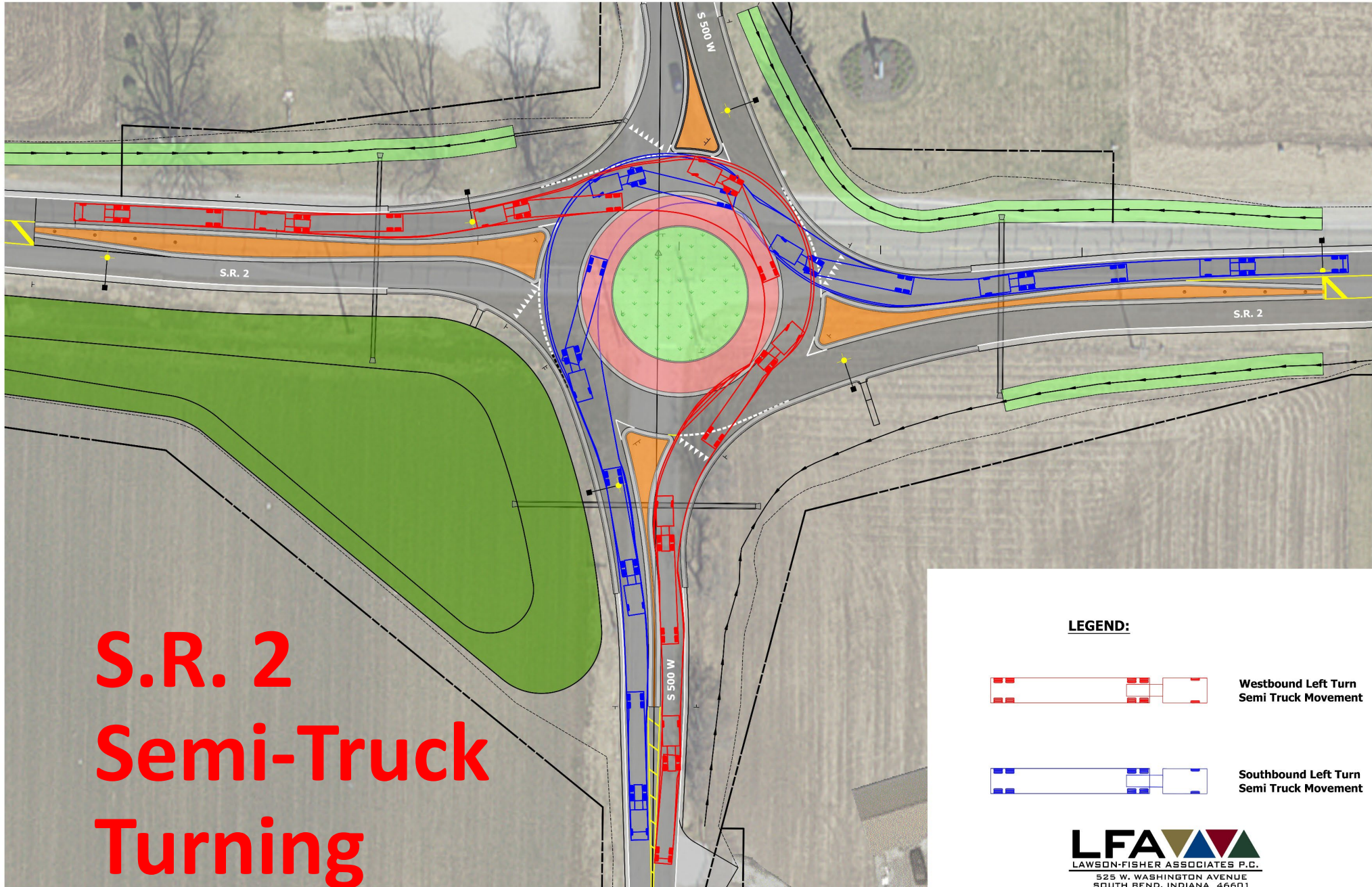
- Roundabout – **Preferred Alternative**
 - Reduces conflict points by 75% compared to typical 4-way intersection
 - Geometry reduces speeds, calms traffic and reduces congestion
 - Provides Level of Service A
 - Higher construction cost
 - More environmental impacts and larger construction limit footprint
 - Benefits as listed on INDOT's website:
 - Up to 90% reduction in fatalities
 - 76% reduction in injury crashes
 - 30-50% increase in traffic capacity
 - **Does** fully meet the purpose and need of the project



S.R. 2 AT S 500 W



S.R. 2 Current Proposal



S.R. 2 Semi-Truck Turning

S.R. 2 AT S 500 W

LEGEND:

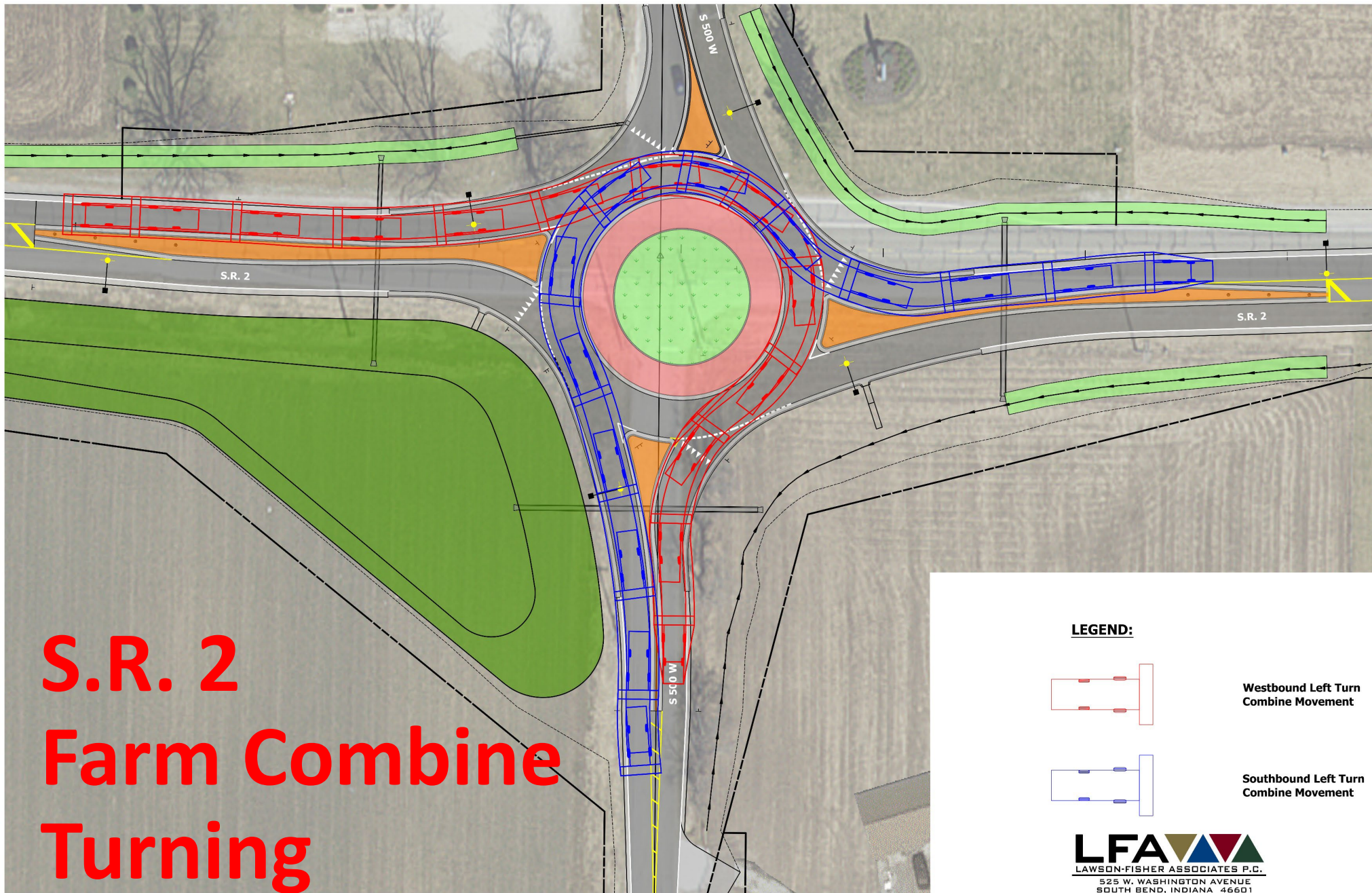


Westbound Left Turn
Semi Truck Movement



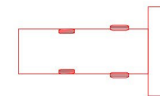
Southbound Left Turn
Semi Truck Movement

S.R. 2 Farm Combine Turning

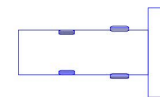


S.R. 2 AT S 500 W

LEGEND:



Westbound Left Turn
Combine Movement



Southbound Left Turn
Combine Movement

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SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601
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Project Schedule

- Public Hearing: November 17, 2025
- Public comments requested by Monday, December 1, 2025
- INDOT review and consideration of public comments – Winter 2025
 - Finalize environmental document
 - Reach project decision
 - Complete design
 - Inform community and project stakeholders of project decision
- Proposed construction: Spring 2028; Anticipate completion: Fall 2028

Submit Public Comments

- **Submit public comments using the options described in first 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
 - Written comments via Teams Webinar
- **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Monday, December 1, 2025**
- All comments submitted will become part of public record, entered into transcript, reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during decision making process.

Next Steps

- **Public and project stakeholder input**
 - Submit comments via options described in project handout
- **INDOT review and evaluation**
 - All comments are given full consideration during decision-making process
 - Address comments, finalize/approve environmental 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 Public Involvement Team**



Project Resource Locations

- **INDOT Northwest District Office**

315 Boyd Boulevard, La Porte, IN 46350

- Planning, Project Development/Delivery, Construction, Maintenance for Northwest Indiana
- <http://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>

- **La Porte County Public Library**

904 Indiana Ave. La Porte, IN 46350

- **INDOT Public Involvement Process**

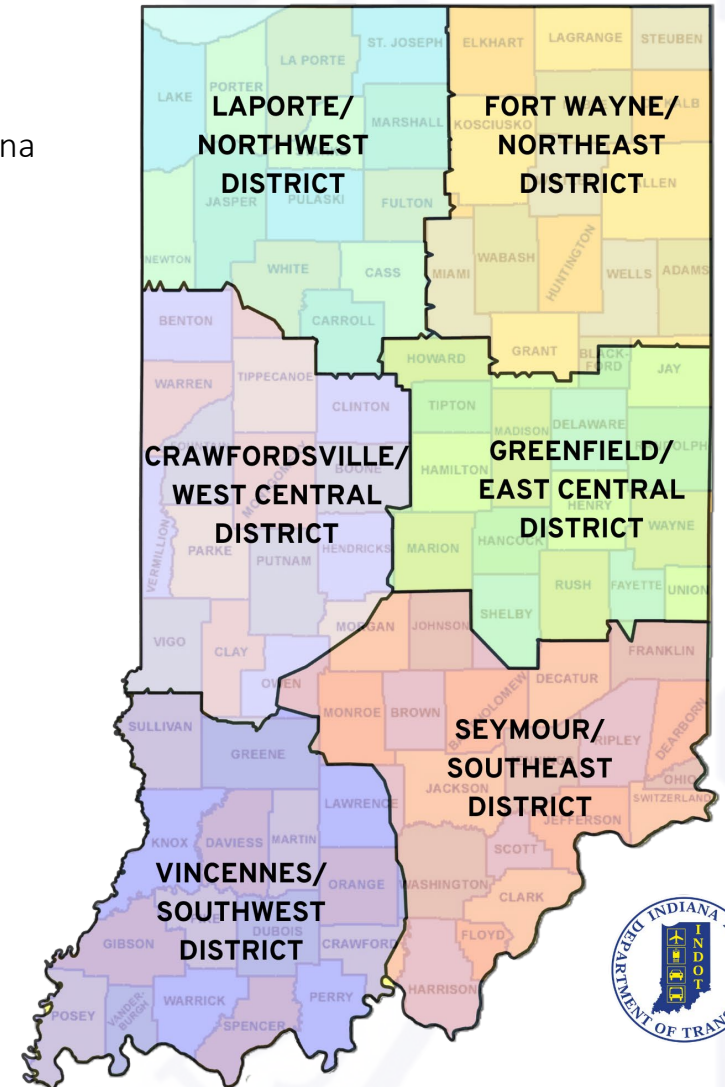
www.in.gov/indot/public-involvement/public-involvement/the-public-involvement-process

Visit Project Webpage: bit.ly/SR2CR500W

Transportation Services Call Center

Provides citizen and business customers with a single point-of-contact to request transportation services, obtain information, or provide feedback through multiple channels of communications.

855-463-6848 • INDOT4U.com • INDOT@indot.in.gov



Public Comment Session

- **Please visit with INDOT project officials following the public comment session**
- **Project Open House**
 - Project maps, displays, INDOT project team and informal Q & A
 - INDOT Northwest District page bit.ly/SR2CR500W
 - Comment forms may be turned in at the handout table