



DES. # 2000025

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

### Proposed Intersection Improvement Project on United States (US) 24 at Wabash Street in Wabash County.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for an intersection improvement project on US 24 at Wabash Street in the city of Wabash in Wabash County (DES. # 2000025). The proposed project is located at the intersection of US 24 and Wabash St, 1.15 miles east of State Road 15.

The proposed project is needed due to the high number of crashes occurring between high-speed vehicles on US 24 and lower-speed vehicles coming from Wabash Street. There were 16 total crashes from 2016 to 2019. More than one-third of those crashes resulted in an incapacitating injury or fatality. There are 42 potential locations within the existing intersection for accidents to occur. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety by reducing the number of traffic conflict points and occurrences of right-angle crashes resulting in a fatality or injury and reduce fatal and incapacitating injuries by 25% in 10 years.

The existing intersection of US 24 and Wabash Street is unsignalized, with free-flowing traffic on US 24 and stop controls on the southeast/northwest approaches. This section of US 24 is a four-lane principal arterial with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour. Wabash Street is a two-lane minor arterial south of US 24 that transitions to the major collector 150 W (Division Road) north of US 24. Wabash Street has a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

The proposed project will construct a reduced conflict intersection (RCI) by reconstructing the median island so that it restricts left-turn and through-traffic movements from Wabash Street but allows left turns from US 24. Left-turn lanes will be extended along US 24 with U-turn access points located approximately 800 feet east and west of the main intersection. Mountable curbs will be utilized in the median to allow emergency vehicles traveling through the intersection to turn left onto US 24. The existing left turn lanes will be closed by installing pavement markings, and the right turn lanes will be extended to accommodate turning movements from trucks utilizing the U-turn. An existing 12-inch corrugated metal pipe located beneath the westbound lanes of US 24, east of the intersection with Wabash Street, will be replaced in the same location. Two additional new 15-inch pipes will be constructed at the U-turn locations to facilitate drainage within the median. Lighting also will be installed at the U-turn access points.

This preferred alternative will result in approximately 0.061 acre of permanent impacts to wetlands for construction of the RCI and construction access. Additionally, approximately 3.25 acres of terrestrial habitat disturbance is anticipated for construction of the project. No permanent or temporary right-of-way will be required.

Traffic will be maintained utilizing lane closures while the project is constructed. Through traffic on US 24 will be open at all times during construction. The intersection with Wabash Street will be

closed during the final phase of construction, and turning movements will be limited during the construction of the center of the intersection. No official detours will be provided for loss of turning movements during construction.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$3,300,000 including engineering and construction. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 1 environmental document. No significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment were found during the creation of the environmental document. The CE-Level 1 environmental document describes the proposed project and potential impacts to environmental, social, and cultural resources, and contains preliminary project plans. The CE-Level 1 environmental document is available to view at the following locations:

1. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 188 W. Hill St., Wabash, IN 46992
2. INDOT Fort Wayne District Office, 5333 Hatfield Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46808
3. Online via the INDOT project webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/us-24-at-wabash-st.-intersection-improvement-project/>

INDOT is offering the public the opportunity to request a public hearing be held. All interested persons may request a public hearing or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Cassidy Hunter at HNTB, [cahunter@HNTB.com](mailto:cahunter@HNTB.com), 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204. **All comments must be received on or before Friday, August 16.** If a hearing is determined to be in the best interest of the public, additional notification will be prepared, and the public notified. Otherwise, any comments or material received will be considered in the decision-making process.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT Project Manager, Damien Perry, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808, [dperry1@indot.in.gov](mailto:dperry1@indot.in.gov). In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact the INDOT Project Manager. Special accommodations related to accessibility and auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print can be provided upon request.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary." approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.

## **LEGAL NOTICES SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

- NA 1. Day, month, date, year, time and location of public hearing
- 2. Include comment period deadline date
- X 3. For projects where no hearing is to be held, the notice must include a statement “offering the public the opportunity to request a public hearing be held”
- X 4. Project description, location and project limits; Include DES# number on notice
- X 5. Summary of the type of work to be done
- X 6. New permanent right-of-way (R/W) and easements in acres, temporary r/w, relocations and/or displacements as part of the project
- X 7. CE (type of environmental document) level with any major impacts reflected in the environmental document
- X 8. Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) during construction
- X 9. Public viewing locations for the environmental documents and preliminary plans
- X 10. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement
- X 11. INDOT Public Involvement Compliance paragraph