

# US 31 at 236<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange

Public Hearing

Sheridan Community Center

March 30, 2021

# Welcome

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- Jennifer Beck, INDOT Project Manager
- Purpose/explanation of public hearing
- Public hearing format
- Sign-in table
- Informational handouts
- Submitting comments for public record/hearing transcript
- Displays and graphics

# Welcome

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- **Introduction of INDOT Project Team**

- Project Management
- Public Involvement
- Greenfield District – INDOT Regional Office
- Environmental Services

- **Crawford Murphy & Tilly**

- Engineering, Design & Environmental Analysis Team

- **Recognition of elected and local public officials**

- Sign-in at attendance table to be added to project mailing list
- Legal notice of public hearing was published in the Hamilton County Reporter, IndyStar, IBJ and Indianapolis Recorder on 3/15, 3/16, 3/19, 3/22, 3/23, and 3/26.
- A notice of the public hearing was mailed to known property owners 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 are available for review on-line via INDOT website

# Welcome

- Those who sign-in at the attendance table will be added to project mailing list
- Promotions:
  - Hearing notice was posted INDOT website
  - A media advisory was also issued
  - E-newsletters were emailed
  - Legal notice of public hearing published in the:
    - Hamilton County Reporter on 3/15 and 3/22
    - IndyStar on 3/16 and 3/23
    - IBJ on 03/19 and 03/26
- Copy of presentation and project documentation is available online at <https://www.in.gov/indot/3831.htm>



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, March 25, 2021

Welcome local residents, interested citizens and elected officials,

**Welcome to the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) public hearing regarding proposed Interchange Project at U.S. 31 and 236<sup>th</sup> Street in Hamilton County, Indiana.**

The purpose of this public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current design plans and the environmental document for this project.

There are several ways your comments may be presented this evening and following tonight's public hearing. You may submit comments in the following manner:

1. **Complete** a comment form and return it to an INDOT or project team representative attending the public hearing. Comment forms are available at the sign-in table and also included in your information packet
2. **Participate** as speaker during the comment session following tonight's presentation. The court stenographer can also take verbal comments before and after the presentation
3. **E-mail** comments to [US31Interchange@cmtengr.com](mailto:US31Interchange@cmtengr.com)
4. **Mail** comments to CMT's office at 8790 Purdue Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
5. **Visit** <https://www.in.gov/indot/3831.htm> to learn more about this project
6. **Call in** to a telephone line with voice mailbox at (317) 983-3242
7. **Submit** comments (or have comments postmarked by) **April 15, 2021**. Comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the INDOT decision making process
8. **Questions?** Contact INDOT Customer Service at 1-855-INDOT-4-U (1-855-463-6848) [INDOT@indot.in.gov](mailto:INDOT@indot.in.gov)

The proposed project will include the construction of an interchange at U.S. 31 and 236<sup>th</sup> Street. The project will grade separate 236<sup>th</sup> Street over U.S. 31 in a tight diamond configuration. U.S. 31 will remain at the same elevation. The ramp terminals will be single-lane roundabouts with single lane exits. The proposed project will provide free flow operations for U.S. 31 through the corridor and will maintain corridor consistency with most other interchanges on U.S. 31 in Hamilton County, providing driver familiarity.

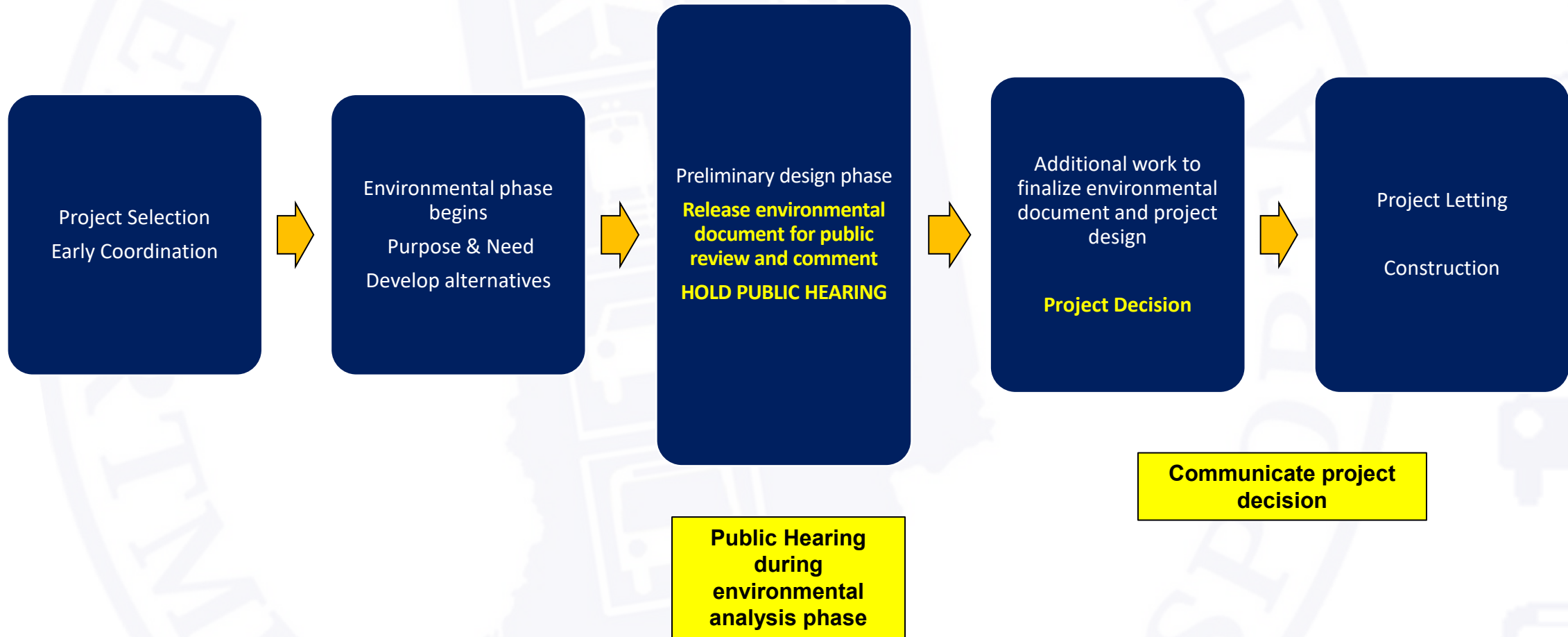
# Project Stakeholders

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- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highway Administration
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources – State Historic Preservation Officer
- Hamilton County
- Town of Sheridan
- Town of Cicero
- Hamilton Heights School Corporation
- Sheridan Community Schools
- Local Businesses
- Local Residents
- Indiana Landmarks



# Project Development



# Need and Purpose

- **Need**

- Unacceptable Level of Service
- High Vehicle Crash Rates

- **Purpose**

- Reduce traffic congestion to Level of Service C or better
- Enhance safety by reducing crashes by 20% or more by 2044



# Environmental Document

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## National Environment Policy Act (NEPA)

- Federal guidelines require INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
- NEPA is a decision-making process
  - Purpose and Need
  - Alternatives Screening
  - Preferred Alternative

## Impacts are analyzed, evaluated and described in an environmental document

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

## Draft environmental document released for public involvement

- Date: March 8, 2021
- Available for review and comment via public repository
- After comment period, FHWA will issue record of decision identifying preferred alternative



# Environmental Document

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Evaluates impacts to:

- 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 Recreational Lands (Trails)
- Property Impacts
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Community Impacts
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Public Facilities and Services

# Environmental Document

- **Environmental Analysis Process**

- Establish Purpose and Need
- Develop a number of possible alternatives
  - The “Do Nothing” alternative is a baseline for 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



# Advisory Committees

## Section 106 Consulting Parties

- Section 106 Process
  - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prescribes consideration of historic properties
  - Consulting parties group consisting of numerous stakeholders to provide input on preferred alternative
  - Three in-person and one call-in meetings conducted with consulting parties
  - 800.11 document/MOA
  - 1 historic property impacted



## Community Advisory Committee

- Group of diverse community backgrounds to provide community input/opinions
- Three meetings held to discuss project alternatives



# Alternatives Considered

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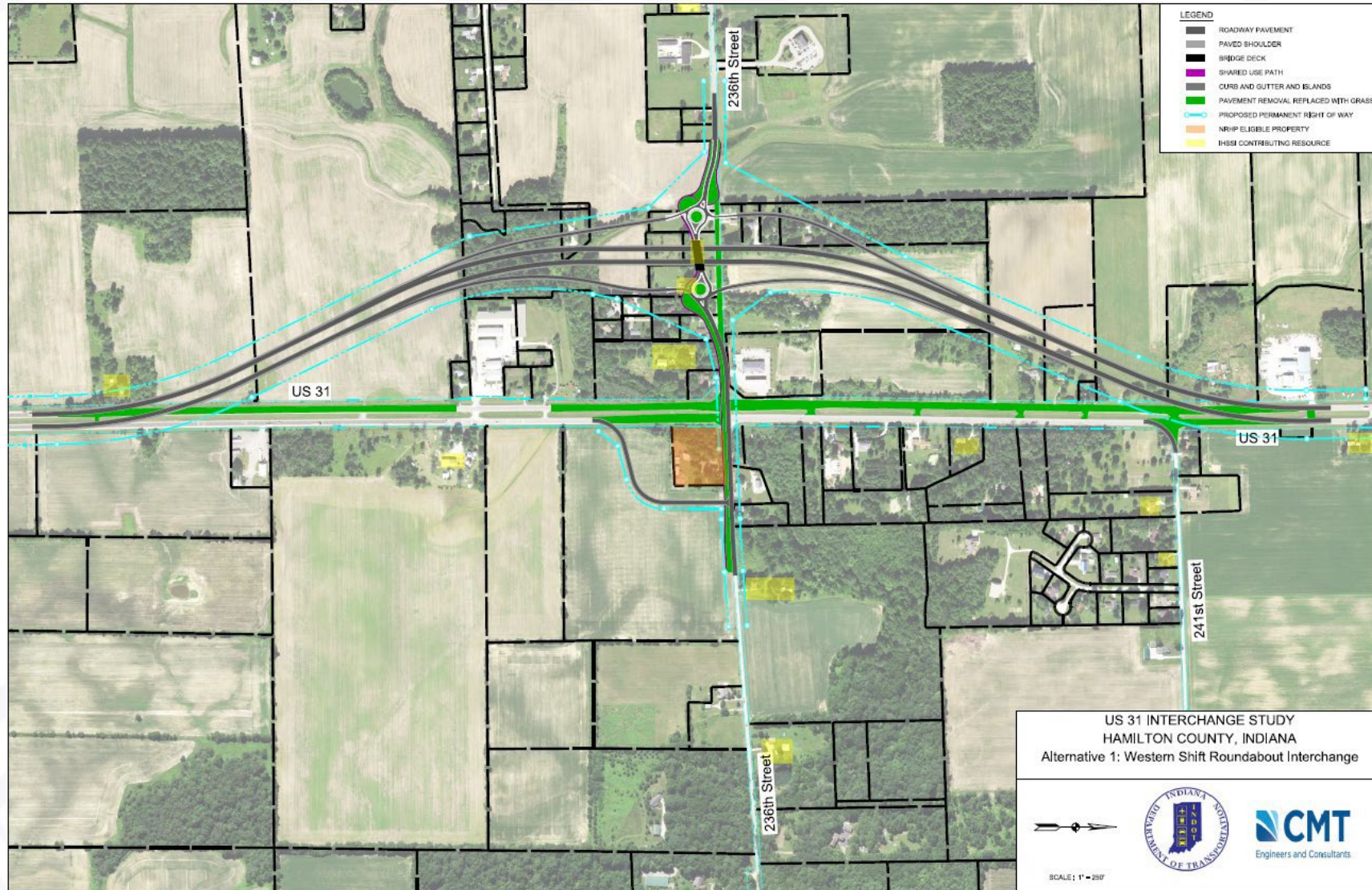
## Seven Alternatives Analyzed

- Two-tier screening process to select preferred alternative
- Preliminary screening done based on network traffic operations, safety performance, environmental impact
- Secondary screening conducted using property access and property impacts



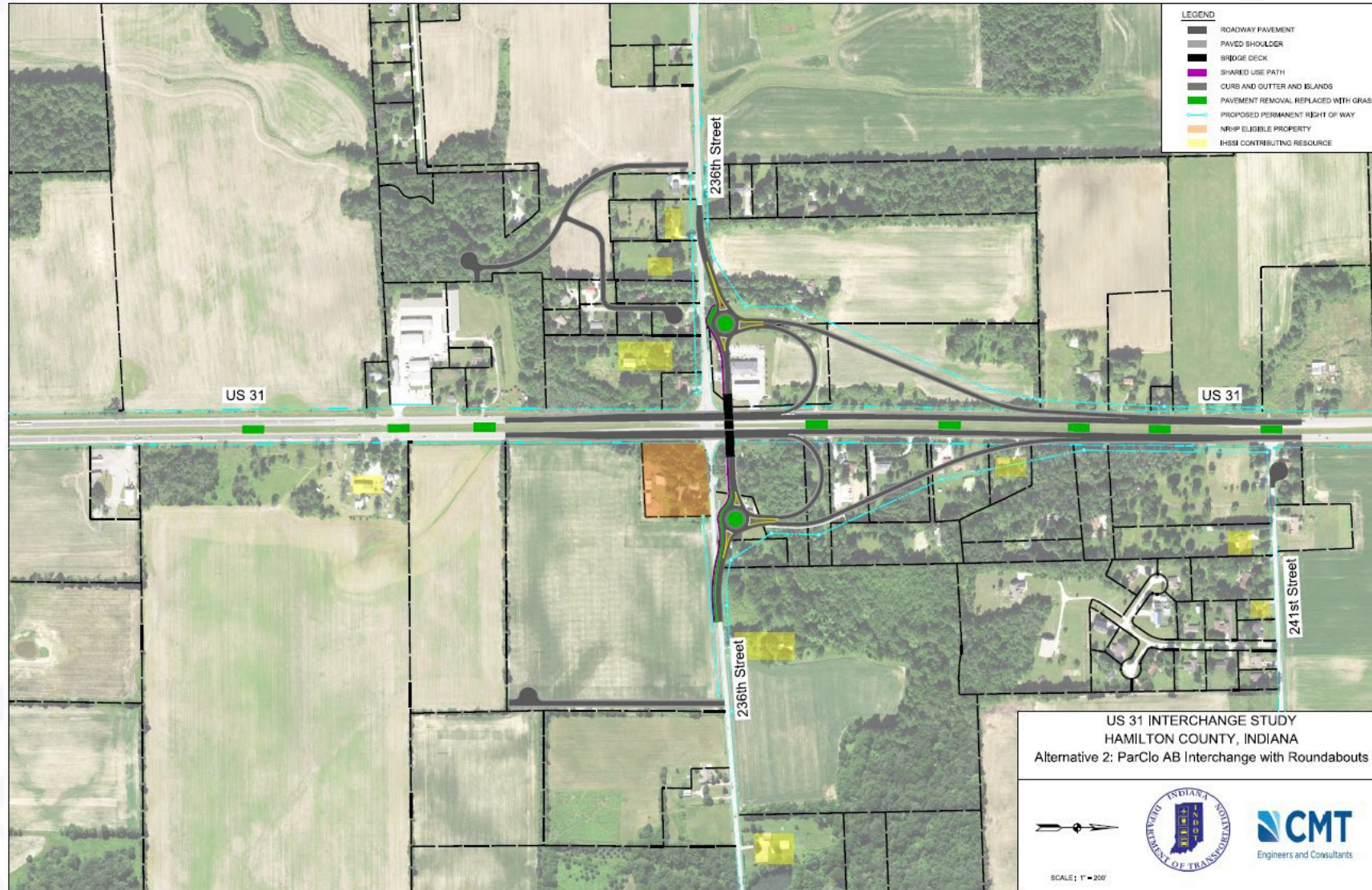
# Alternatives Considered

## Western Shift w/Diamond Roundabout Interchange



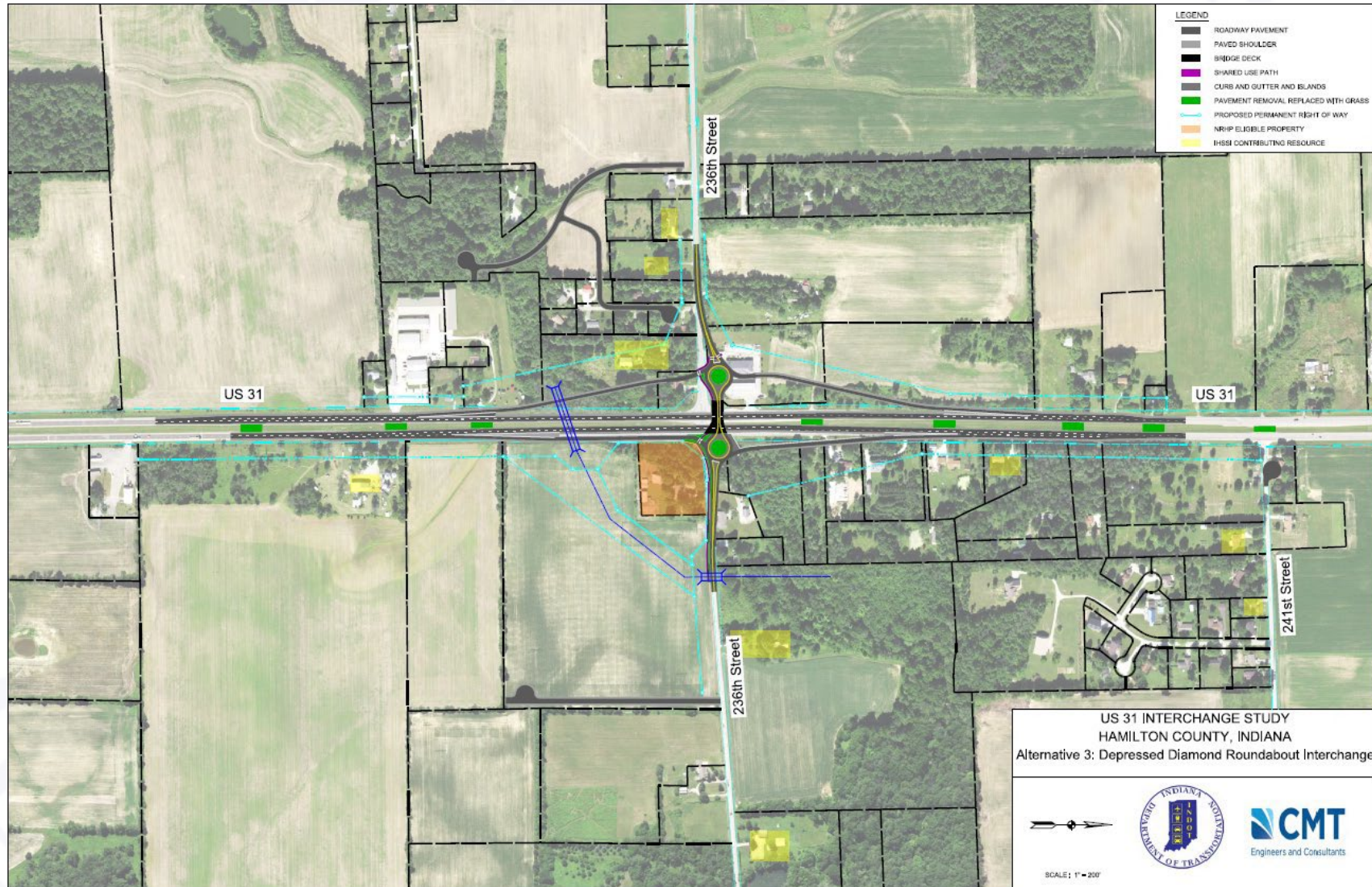
# Alternatives Considered

## Parclo AB Interchange w/Roundabout Ramp Termini



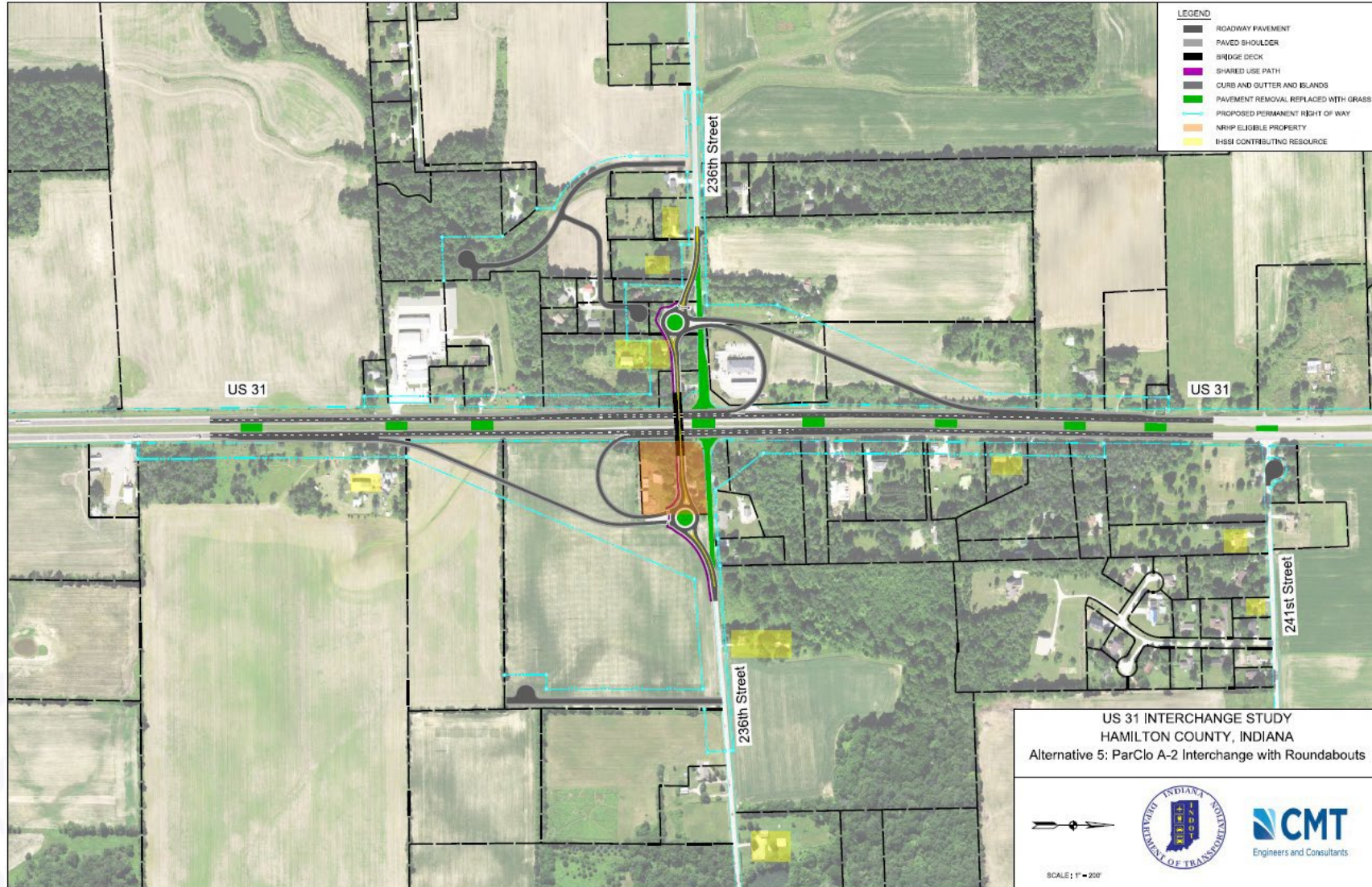
# Alternatives Considered

## Depressed Diamond Roundabout Interchange



# Alternatives Considered

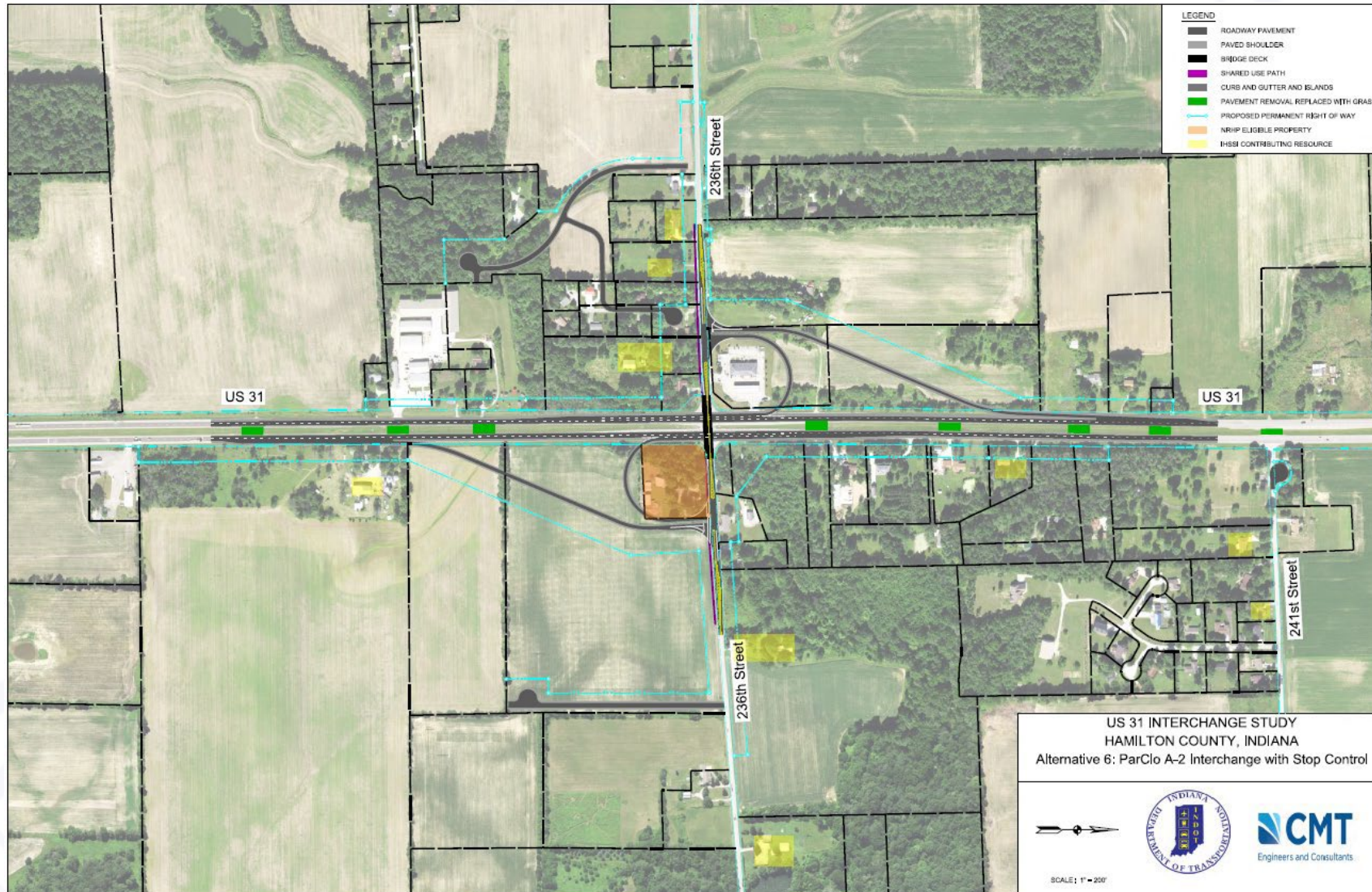
## Parclo A-2 Interchange w/Roundabout Termini



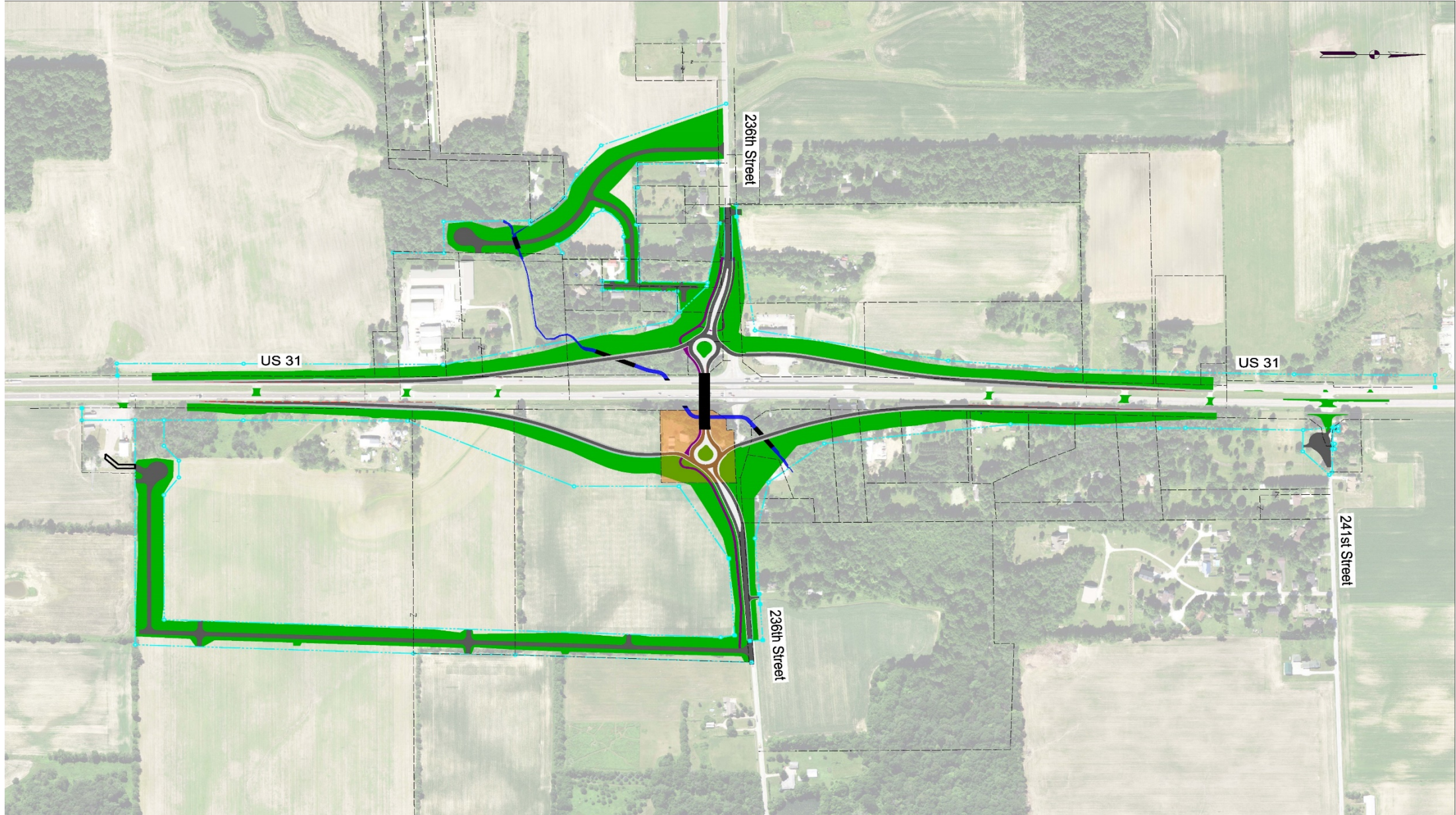


# Alternatives Considered

## Parclo A-2 Interchange w/Stop-Controlled Termini



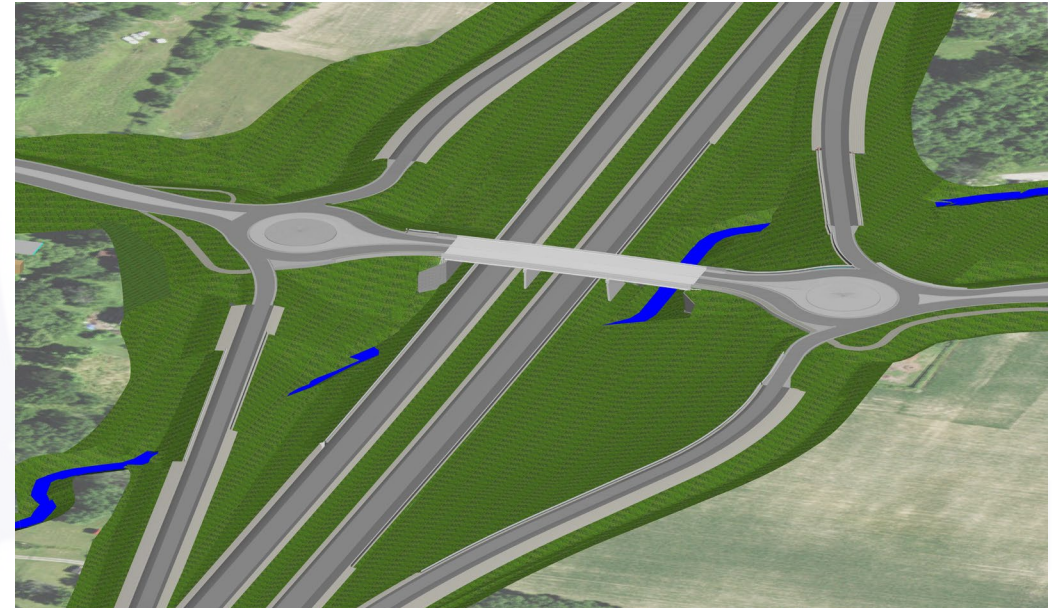
# Preferred Alternative



# Preferred Alternative

## Diamond Interchange w/Roundabout Termini

- What is a Diamond Interchange w/Roundabout Termini?
  - Provides grade separation with a bridge on 236<sup>th</sup> Street over US 31 in a diamond configuration
- Benefits of a Diamond Interchange w/Roundabout Termini:
  - Narrower permanent right of way footprint
  - Provides greatest safety improvement
  - US 31 is free flowing



# Context-Sensitive Design

- Multimodal Corridor – 236<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Shared-use path established; designed for future extension to Cicero and Sheridan
  - Roundabout lanes 20' wide to accommodate agricultural vehicles
- Landscaping
  - Ground cover and shrubs, low maintenance plantings



# Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)

- Project to be constructed under traffic
- Requires lane closures during construction
- 236<sup>th</sup> Street temporary closure required
- Detour required for 236<sup>th</sup> Street
- Phased construction to allow traffic to shift to one side while work continues on the other side



# Potential Impacts of Preferred

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- **Right of way**

- 103.1 acres - Total Acreage Permanent
- 5.94 acres - Total Acreage Temporary
- 22 Total Relocations

- **Historical Properties**

- 1 NRHP eligible property impacted
- 1 relocation

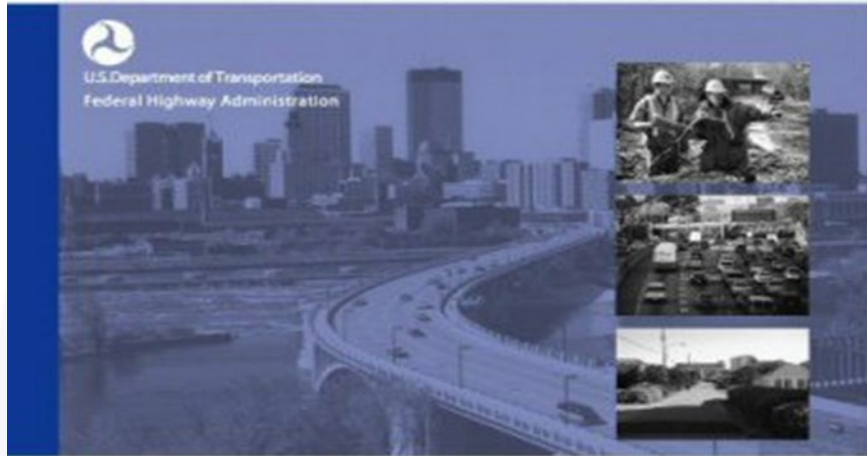
- **Protected Species**

- No impacts to protected species are expected

- **Noise Impacts**

- A noise study was completed and approved in August 2020.
- With design year traffic, no receptors were impacted.

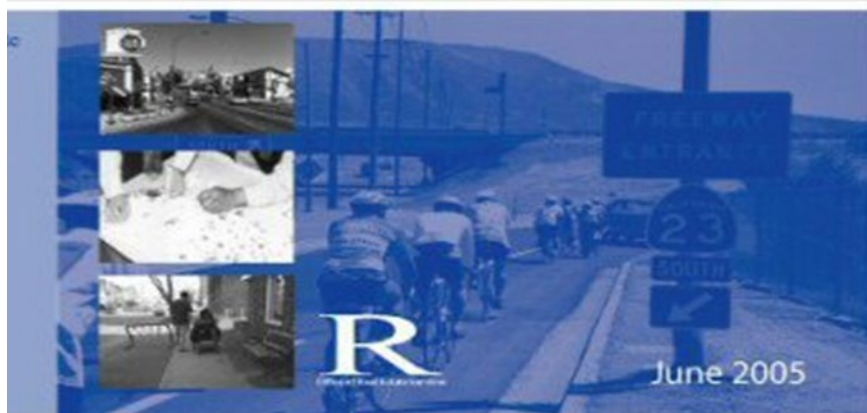
# Real Estate



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration


## ACQUISITION

ACQUIRING REAL PROPERTY  
FOR FEDERAL AND FEDERAL-AID  
PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



June 2005


**R**  
Office of Real Estate Services



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

## RELOCATION

YOUR RIGHTS AND BENEFITS AS A  
DISPLACED PERSON UNDER THE FEDERAL  
RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



June 2005

**R**  
Office of Real Estate Services

# Real Estate Acquisition Process

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- **"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: 103.1 acre
    - Permanent ROW is land, once purchased by INDOT from legal land owner, becomes ROW owned by INDOT
  - Temporary ROW: 5.94 acre
    - Temporary ROW is 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



# Project Schedule

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- Public Comment Period: March 8, 2021 to April 15, 2021
- Virtual Public Meeting: March 25, 2021
- Public Hearing: March 30, 2021
- Project Utility Relocation and Building Demolitions: Summer 2021
- Project Award: Summer 2021
- Project Construction: Preliminary Work Summer 2021
- Bridge and Roadway Work: Fall 2021

# Submit Public Comments

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- Submit public comments using the options described in first page of information packet:
  - Public comment form (submitted tonight, by mail, or at libraries and offices where the EA is available.)
  - Email: [US31Interchange@cmtengr.com](mailto:US31Interchange@cmtengr.com)
  - 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 respectfully requests comments be submitted by Thursday, April 15, 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 decision-making process

# Next Steps

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- **Public and project stakeholder input**
  - Submit comments 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 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

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- **INDOT Greenfield District Office**

32 S. Broadway Street, Greenfield, IN.  
46140

Statewide Customer Service Toll Free  
Phone Number (855) 463-6848

[eastcentralin@indot.in.gov](mailto:eastcentralin@indot.in.gov)

<http://www.in.gov/indot/2704.htm>

- **Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc.**

8790 Purdue Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

[US31Interchange@cmtengr.com](mailto:US31Interchange@cmtengr.com)

<http://www.in.gov/indot/2366.htm>

- **Sheridan Public Library**

103 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sheridan, IN 46069

- **Hamilton North Public Library**

209 W. Brinton Street  
Cicero, IN 46034

# Comment Session

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- Please be considerate of others
- Please wait on microphone before speaking
- Questions? Please see Project Staff in the Open House area
- Comments must be submitted by April 15, 2021

# Thank You

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- Please visit with the INDOT design team and project officials following the presentation and comment session
- **Project Open House**
  - Project maps, displays, real estate acquisition take, INDOT project team and informal Q&A
  - INDOT Greenfield District page: <http://www.in.gov/indot/2704.htm>