



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N758
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

DES. #: 1900177 & 1900017

LEGAL NOTICE PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

INDOT LaPorte District, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intends to proceed with two projects along SR 2 (Des. No. 1900177 & Des. No. 1900017). Des. No. 1900177 is a roadway/small structure project along SR 2 in LaPorte and St. Joseph Counties, from 0.17 mile east of U.S. Highway (US) 20 to 0.22 mile east of US 20/US 31. Des. No. 1900017 is a small structure project located along SR 2 at the Niespodziany Ditch crossing. In addition, a roadway/turn lane expansion, referred to as the Larrison Blvd. expansion, will occur at the intersection of Larrison Blvd. and SR 2. This portion of the project will be funded by St. Joseph County in support of a forthcoming economic development project.

The Des. No. 1900177 project will involve milling and asphalt overlay of SR 2 and work on many small drainage structures throughout the project area. The typical section of SR 2 will be altered from Quince Rd. to Peppermint Rd., including paving overtop the open grassed median, creating a two-way center left turn lane (TWLTL), and lowering the speed limit along this area of SR 2 from 50 mph to 45 mph. In addition, the existing outside shoulder will be removed, and curb and gutter will be installed with curb turnouts and riprap. Work at the Larrison Blvd. intersection will involve construction of two turn/acceleration lanes designed to accommodate southbound truck turning movement onto eastbound and westbound SR 2.

The Des. No. 1900017 project involves the replacement of Culvert (CV) 002-071-74.20, which carries SR 2 over Niespodziany Ditch. The replacement structure will be a 142-foot reinforced concrete box culvert with a 14-foot span, 8-foot rise, and 12-inch sump. Headwalls and wingwalls will be installed at both ends of the structure. Riprap will be placed at the outlet and inlet of the structure. Replacement of the roadway above the structure will include construction of the westbound Larrison Blvd. acceleration lane. Environmental impacts to the project include approximately 134.2 linear feet of new permanent stream impacts, 0.0255 acre of wetland impacts, and 0.62 acre of tree clearing. Permit requirements will likely include a Section 401 Nationwide Permit, a Section 404 Nationwide Permit, a St. Joseph County Regulated Drain Permit, and a Construction Stormwater General Permit.

The projects together will require approximately 3.66 acres of new permanent right-of-way (ROW). The Larrison Blvd. expansion will require approximately 3.5 acres of new permanent ROW, located west of Larrison Blvd. and north of SR 2. The Des. No. 1900017 project will require approximately 0.16 acre of new permanent ROW, located south of SR 2 in the vicinity of Niespodziany Ditch. New permanent ROW consists of agricultural land, wetlands, and Niespodziany Ditch.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) will require lane closures of one side of SR 2 at a time and will occur in four phases. The MOT plan will maintain single-lane traffic in both directions during the construction period. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. Project stakeholders including

local school corporation(s) and emergency services will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction.

The cost associated with the project is approximately \$16,052,831 which includes preliminary engineering and construction, with County, State, and Federal funds anticipated to be used for different portions of the project. The FHWA and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level-2 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the draft CE are available for review at the following locations:

1. St. Joseph County Public Library, Main Branch, 304 S Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601, Phone # 574-282-4646
2. INDOT LaPorte District Office, 315 E. Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, IN 46350, Phone # 855-463-6848
3. INDOT LaPorte District website, <https://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>, click on “SR 2 Roadway & Small Structure Project.”

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of C.J. Cunningham, Northern Indiana Environmental Team Lead, Lochmueller Group, 112 West Jefferson Blvd., Suite 500, South Bend, Indiana, 46601, 574-334-5464, or via email at ccunningham@lochgroup.com on or before Wednesday, September 13, 2023. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.

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 for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Nicole Cleek at 219-325-7403 or ncleek@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 Nicole Cleek at 219-325-7403 or ncleek@indot.in.gov.

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 *INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.