**DES. # 2100161**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has developed plans for a proposed State Road (SR) 445 guardrail improvement project. The project is located on SR 445 from 0.39 mile east of SR 54 to 0.62 mile east of SR 54, in Greene County, Indiana. The project will also include widening of the roadway shoulders, reinforcing the roadside embankments, and work on four structures to accommodate the widened roadway, embankment, and placement of guardrail.

Construction of the project will require approximately 1.516 acres of reacquired right-of-way and 3.328 acres of permanent right-of-way, with an estimated cost of $914,332. Federal and state funds are to be utilized for the construction of the project. No relocations will occur as a result of the project. Anticipated impacts include right-of-way acquisition from three adjacent parcels, impacts to three streams and one forested wetland, tree removal, and impacts to terrestrial habitats from excavation and grading. No mitigation will be required.

The maintenance of traffic plan proposes full closure of SR 445 with an official state detour utilizing SR 45 and SR 54. The detour will add an additional travel distance of approximately 4.2 miles with approximately six minutes of additional travel time. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is 2024.

The Federal Highway Administration and INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document due to right-of-way acquisition. The project will impact a total of 0.013 acre of streams, and 0.0064 acre of wetlands.

Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review at the following locations:

1. Bloomfield-Eastern Branch Public Library, 11453 IN-54, Bloomfield, IN 47424, Phone # 812-825-2677
2. INDOT Vincennes District Office, 3650 South U.S. Highway 41, Vincennes, IN 47591, Phone # 855-463-6848
3. INDOT Vincennes District website, <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-vincennes-district/>

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Jason Rowley, Senior Project Manager, Hanson Professional Services Inc., 6510 Telecom Drive, Suite 210, Indianapolis IN, 46278, 317-605-7860, or via email at [jrowley@hanson-inc.com](mailto:jrowley@hanson-inc.com) on or before April 8, 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 Vincennes District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Michael Thomas, INDOT Project Manager, at 812-895-7358, or via email at [mthomas1@indot.in.gov](mailto:mthomas1@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 Michael Thomas, INDOT Project Manager, at 812-895-7358, or via email at [mthomas1@indot.in.gov](mailto:mthomas1@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 FHWA on July 7, 2021.