



# **Appendix D: Public Information Meeting #2 In-Person Meeting Materials**





## PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Hively Avenue Overpass Project

INDOT Des No. 1801933



All written inquiries and comments can be sent via email at

[ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com)

or by mail at

**3815 River Crossing Parkway, Suite 20 Indianapolis, IN  
46240**

If you would prefer to call, project contact representatives are listed below:



<b>Local Representative, City of Elkhart</b>
Contact: Ryan Clussman
Office Phone: (574) 293-2572, ext. 2222



<b>State Representative, INDOT</b>
Contact: Jason Holder
Office Phone: (317) 233-3427



<b>Consultant Representative, Michael Baker International</b>
Contact: Charles Boltz
Office Phone: (317) 689-8430

## PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Hively Avenue Overpass Project

INDOT Des No. 1801933



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<b>Local Representative, City of Elkhart</b>
Contact: Ryan Clussman
Office Phone: (574) 293-2572, ext. 2222

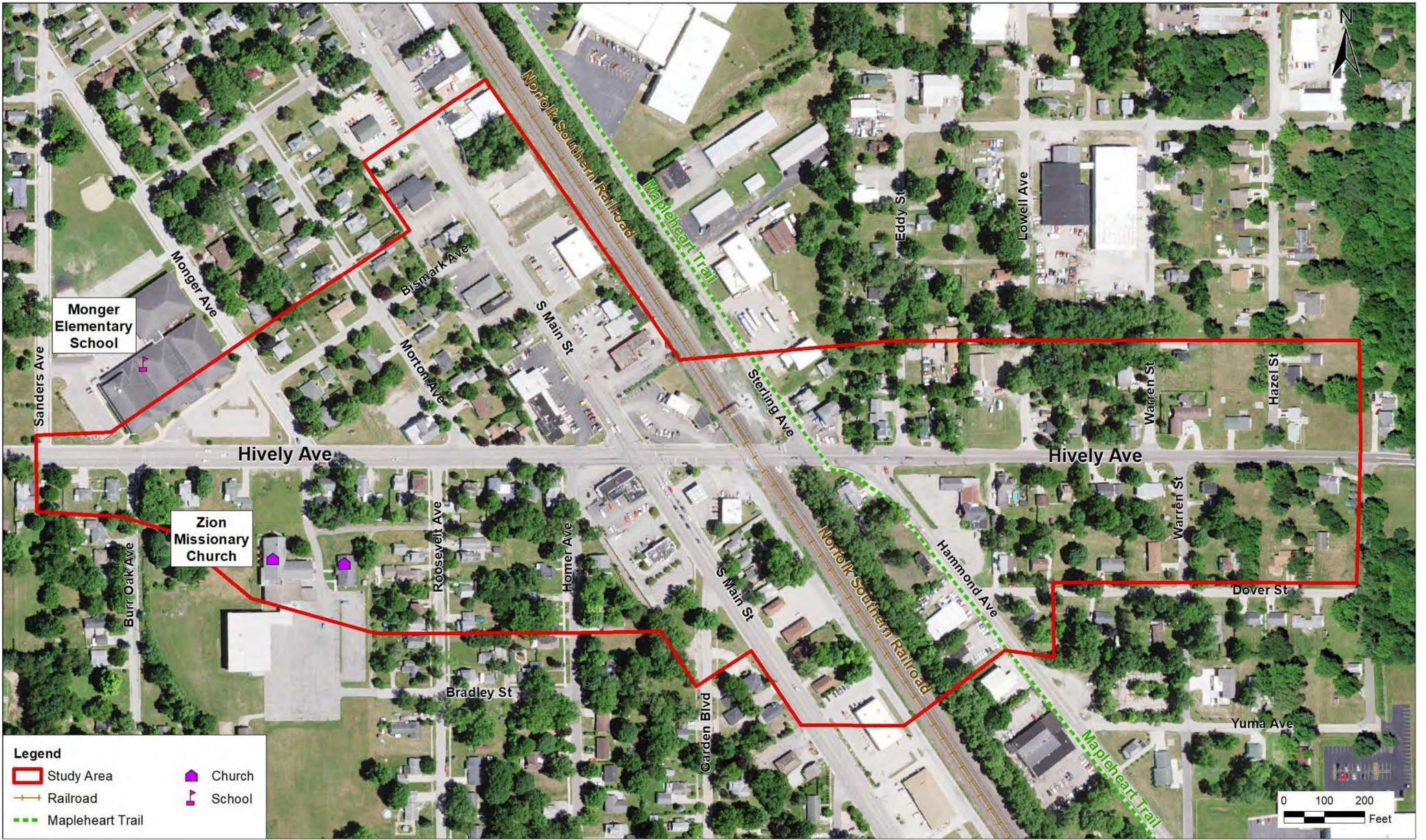


<b>State Representative, INDOT</b>
Contact: Jason Holder
Office Phone: (317) 233-3427

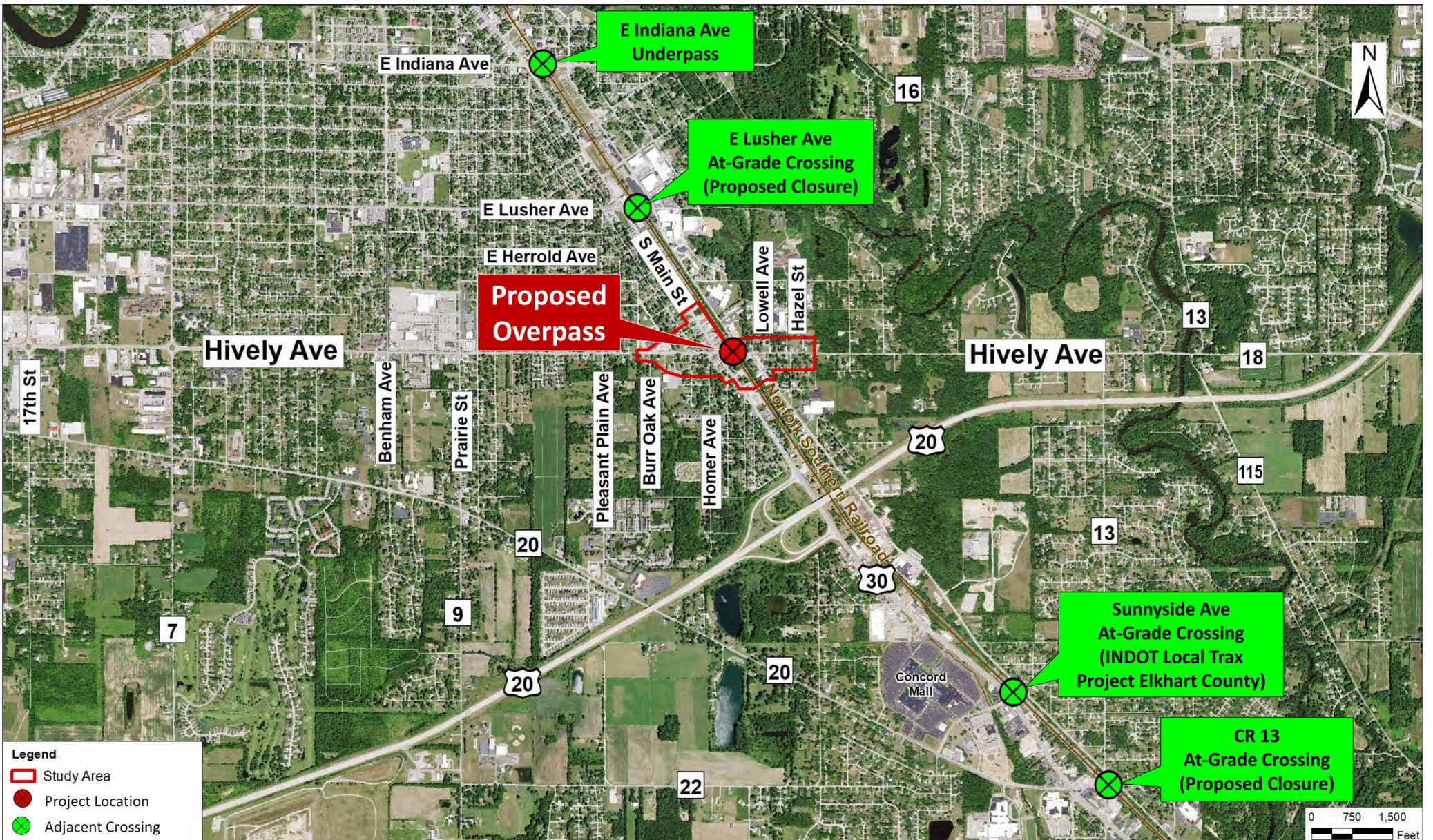


<b>Consultant Representative, Michael Baker International</b>
Contact: Charles Boltz
Office Phone: (317) 689-8430

# STUDY AREA



# AREA NETWORK



# ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON: ENGINEERING



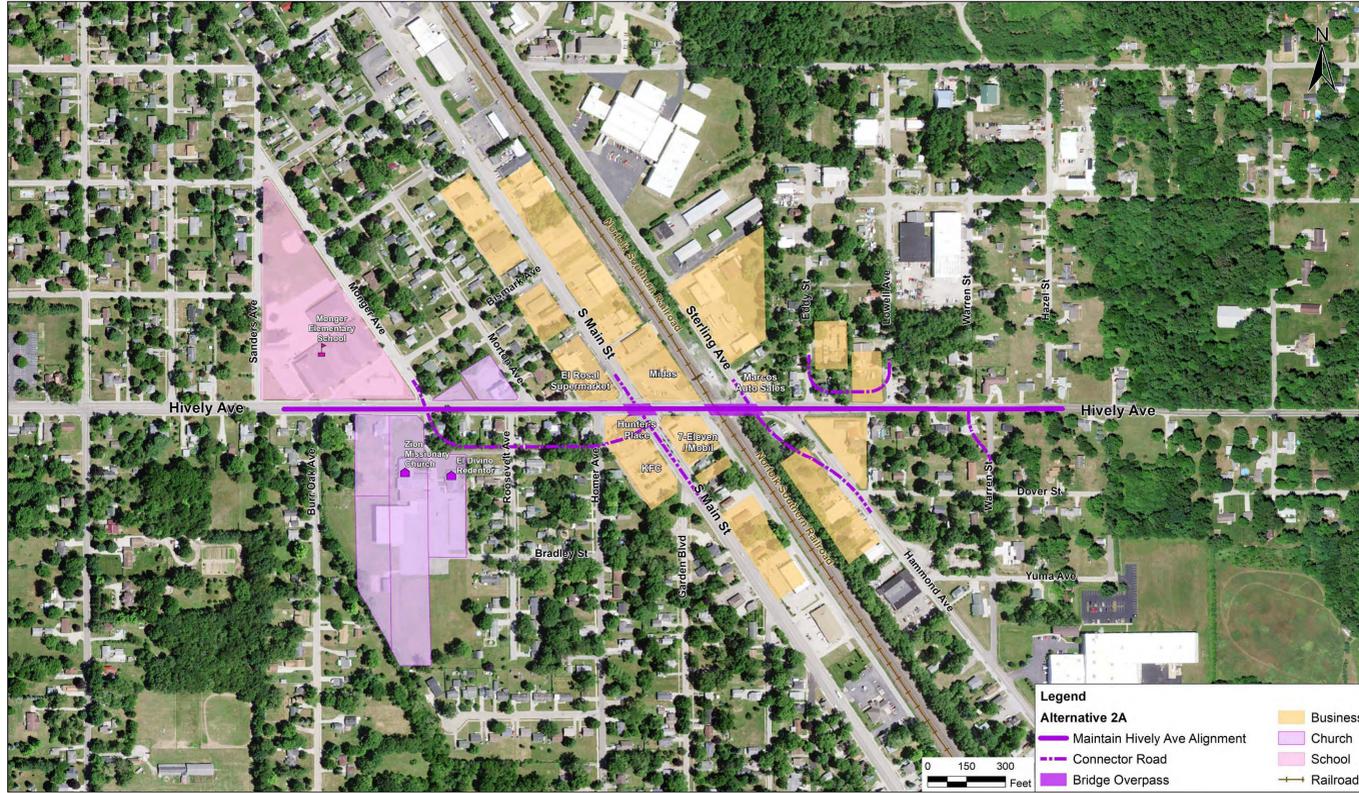
Key Engineering Considerations	Alternative 2A	Alternative 2B	Alternative 3A	Alternative 4A
Maintains Hively Ave Current Alignment	Yes	Yes	No	No
Short-term Closure of Hively During Construction	No*	No*	Yes	Yes
Desirable Intersection Geometry and Sight Distance	No	No	Yes	No
Maintains Side Street Access	No	No	Yes	Yes
Minimal Traffic Increase on Bismark Ave	Yes	No	Yes	No
Lowest Estimated Construction Cost	No	No	Yes	No

# ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY

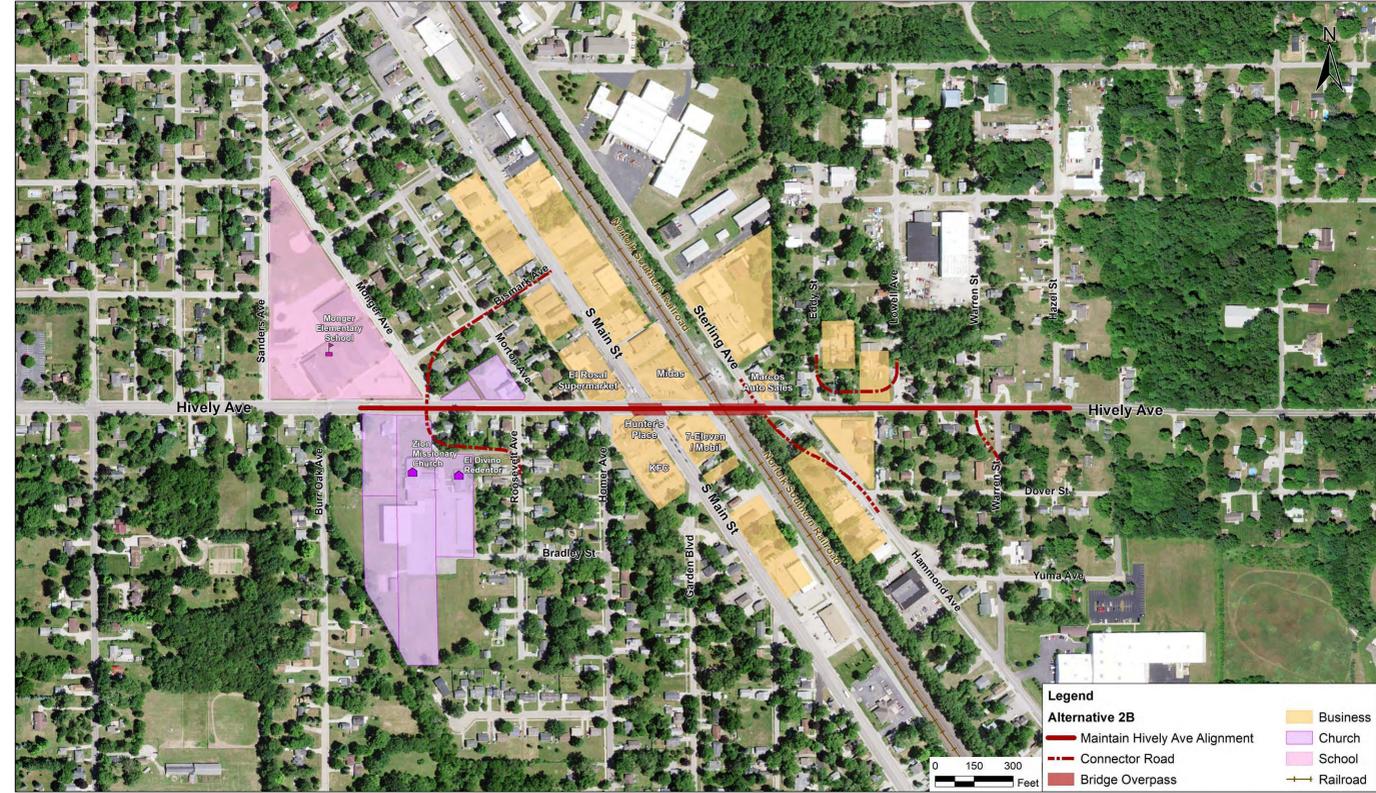
Benefits/Potential Impacts (Temporary and Permanent)	Alternative 2A	Alternative 2B	Alternative 3A	Alternative 4A
Improved Safety and Mobility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bike/Pedestrian Improvements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Impacts	Minimum	Minimum	Minimum	Minimum
Property Impacts				
Residential	37	30	35	34
Commercial	11	7	10	8
Other/Community	4	5	2	4
Potential Hazardous Waste Sites (combination of high and medium potential sites)	4	4	4	5
Public Resources (Maple Heart Trail)	Temporary	Temporary	Temporary	Temporary
Environmental Justice Considerations	Potential	Potential	Potential	Potential

# RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

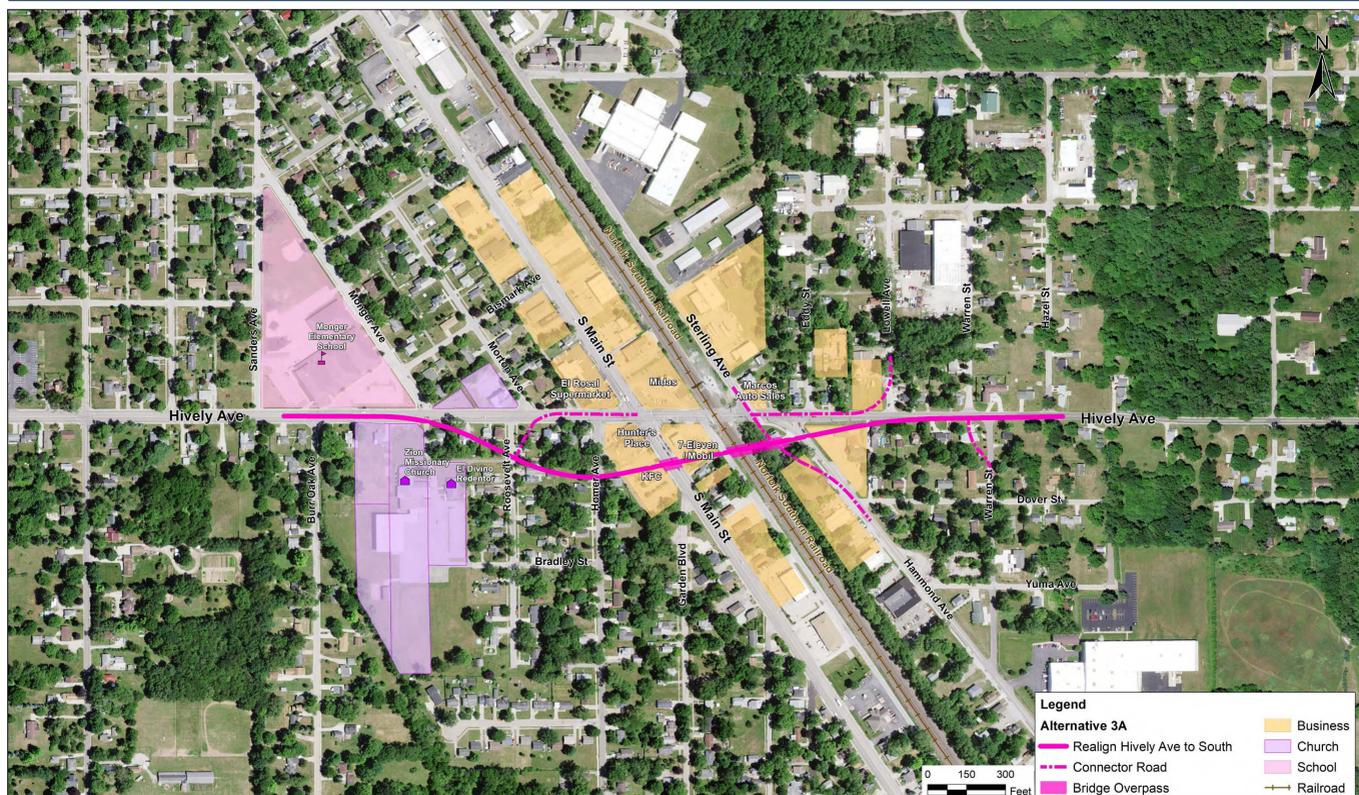
## Maintain Hively Ave Alignment with connection roadway to south (2A)



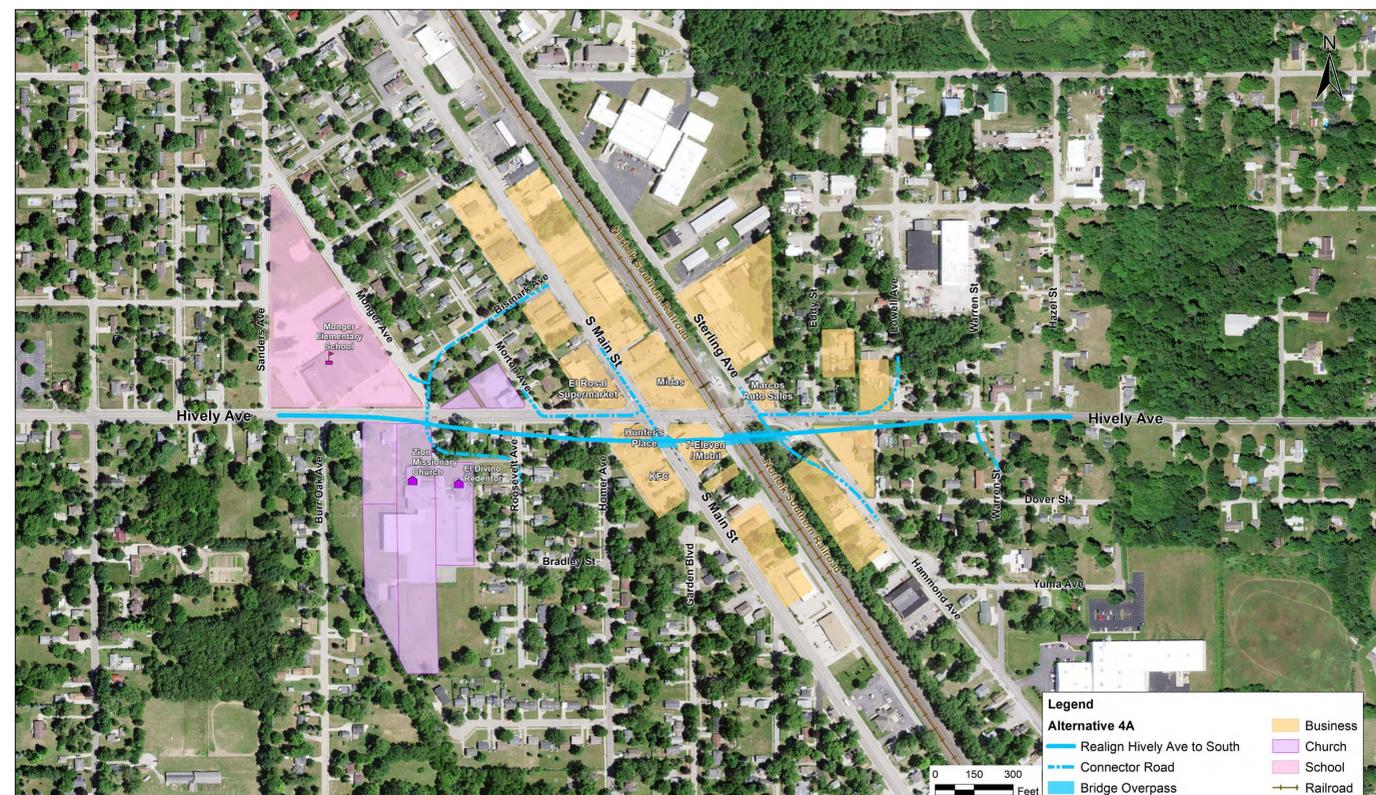
## Maintain Hively Ave Alignment with Bismark Ave as connection roadway (2B)



## Realign Hively Ave to South with connection roadway to north (3A)



## Realign Hively Ave to South with Bismark Ave as connection roadway (4A)





# **Appendix E: Public Information Meeting #3 Advertisement Materials**



## Únase a nosotros para una reunión en persona.

- martes 31 de agosto de 2021, de 5 a 7 p.m.
- Gimnasio de la Iglesia Misionera de Zion (Zion Missionary Church Gymnasiun)
- 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

La reunión en persona seguirá los protocolos del Departamento de Salud del Estado de Indiana (ISDH).

[www.elkhartindiana.org](http://www.elkhartindiana.org)

Des. No. 1801933

Michael Baker International  
3815 River Crossing Parkway  
Suite 20  
Indianapolis, IN 46240





# We want your feedback on the Hively Avenue Local Trax Project

To address safety and mobility issues, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the City of Elkhart are partnering to study, design and construct the Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

A preliminary preferred alternative is being considered to eliminate the at-grade crossing and replace it with a bridge to carry Hively Avenue traffic over the railroad tracks and Main Street.

INDOT and Elkhart are providing residents with an opportunity to learn about the proposed preliminary preferred alternative and provide feedback before the environmental study and design advance.



## Please join us for an in-person open house

Tuesday, August 31, 2021, 5 to 7 p.m.

Zion Missionary Church

1135 E. Hively Avenue Elkhart, IN 46517



# ¡Necesitamos su opinión!

## Hively Avenue Local Trax Project

Para corregir los problemas de seguridad y movilidad, el Departamento de Transporte de Indiana (INDOT) y la ciudad de Elkhart van a estudiar, diseñar y construir el paso elevado del ferrocarril Local Trax en la avenida Hivel.

Se está considerando una alternativa que elimina el cruce a nivel y reemplazarlo con un puente para llevar el tráfico de la avenida Hively y Main Street sobre las vías del ferrocarril.

INDOT y la ciudad de Elkhart están brindando a los residentes la oportunidad de conocer esta alternativa y proporcionar comentarios antes del estudio ambiental y el avance del diseño.



### Únase a nosotros para una reunión en persona.

martes 31 de agosto de 2021, de 5 a 7 p.m.

Gimnasio de la Iglesia  
Misionera de Zion (Zion Missionary Church Gymnasiun)  
1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517

La reunión en persona seguirá los protocolos del Departamento de Salud del Estado de Indiana (ISDH).

**Compass Outreach Solutions**

(Governmental Unit)

Elkhart County, Indiana

To: The Goshen News  
114 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526  
ID # 82-2664009

Attach  
public  
notice  
here

**PUBLISHER'S CLAIM**

Ad# 1727374

**LINE COUNT**

Display Master (Must not exceed two actual lines, neither of which shall total more than four solid lines of type in which the body of the advertisement is set) -number of equivalent lines \_\_\_\_\_

Head - number of lines \_\_\_\_\_

Body - number of lines \_\_\_\_\_

Tail - number of lines \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of lines in notice \_\_\_\_\_

116

116

**COMPUTATION OF CHARGES**

58 lines 2 columns wide equals 116 equivalent lines at 0.7664 cents per line

\$ **88.90**

Additional charges for notices containing rule or tabular work (50 per cent of above amount) \_\_\_\_\_

Charge for extra proofs of publication (\$1.00 for each proof in excess of two) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ **88.90**

**DATA FOR COMPUTING COST**

Width of single column in picas: 6.5 picas

Size of type: 7 point

Number of insertions: 2

Pursuant to the provisions and penalties of IC5-11-10-1, I hereby certify that the foregoing account is just and correct, that the amount claimed is legally due, after allowing all just credits, and that no part of the same has been paid.

I also certify that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, of the same column width and type size which was duly published in said paper 2 times. The dates of publication being as follows:

08/16/21

08/23/21

Additionally, the statement checked below is true and correct:

- Newspaper does not have a web site.
- Newspaper has a web site and this public notice was posted on the same day it was published in the newspaper.
- Newspaper has a web site, but due to technical problem or error, public notice was posted on \_\_\_\_\_
- Newspaper has a web site but refuses to post the public notice.

Date 8/23/2021

*Angela S. Kulczar*  
Angela S. Kulczar Notary Public  
My commission expires February 04, 2027  
Commission # NP0718334



# Proof of Publication

COPY

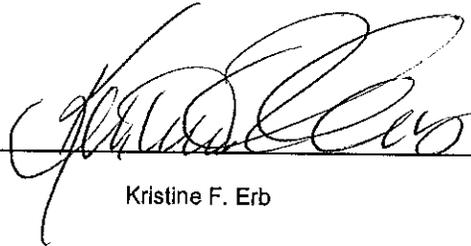
Ad # 1727374

} ss:

I, being duly sworn, on oath say that THE GOSHEN NEWS is a d  
newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the Cit  
Goshen, in the County and State of aforesaid; that the annexed tr  
was published in two consecutive weeks as follows:

On the day of August 16, 2021

On the day of August 23, 2021



Kristine F. Erb

Subscribed and sworn before August 23, 2021



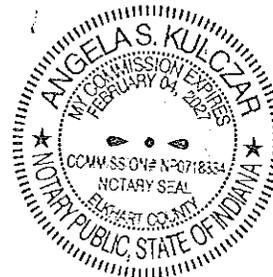
Angela S. Kulczar

Notary Public

\$88.90

My commission expires February 04, 2027

Commission # NP0718334



The Goshen News  
114 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526  
ID # 82-2664009

Des. No. 1801933

G75

**NOTICE OF LOCAL TRAX PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
**DES. #: 1801933**

The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host a public open house to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

An in-person public open house will be hosted on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Zion Missionary Church at 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517. Displays and representatives available to answer residents' questions throughout the two-hour window.

The purpose of the open house is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to learn about and comment on the preliminary preferred alternative for the 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

The need for this project stems from safety and mobility issues for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and trains at the railroad crossings. The Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) trains typically run through these crossings 70 to 100 times a day. Furthermore, the trains regularly stop on the tracks, restricting traffic for extended periods of time, and delaying emergency vehicle access on either side of the tracks. The proposed project will eliminate the existing NSRR at-grade crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a bridge that will carry Hively Avenue traffic over the NSRR and South Main Street.

There will be temporary and permanent right-of-way that will be acquired for this project. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023. During construction, Hively Avenue and the at-grade crossings will remain open to the extent possible. Some closure of local roads is expected and detours will be provided. Additional information will be made available as the project development process progresses.

Additional project information is available at [www.elkhartindiana.org](http://www.elkhartindiana.org).

The public open house will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for health and safety protocols. Project team members will wear face masks and/or coverings and attendees are encouraged to do so. Face masks, hand sanitizer and access to hand washing facilities will be provided. Social distancing guidelines will be adhered to, including monitoring the number of attendees participating to comply with local regulations.

In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and with advance notice, INDOT can provide accommodation for persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services such as sign language interpretation, large print materials and/or other related services. If you are an individual with a disability or represent an ADA stakeholder group and require accommodation related to participating at the public open house, you are encouraged to contact Erin Pipkin at [erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com](mailto:erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com) or (317) 966-7301.

August 16, 23 hspaxlp

AFFP

DES. #: 1801933 NOTICE COE

# Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF IN }  
COUNTY OF ELKHART } SS

DES. #: 1801933

NOTICE OF LOCAL TRAX  
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Angelique Petersen, being duly sworn, says:

The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host a public open house to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

That she is Advertising Clerk of the Elkhart Truth, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Elkhart, Elkhart County, IN; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

An in-person public open house will be hosted on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Zion Missionary Church at 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517. Displays and representatives available to answer residents' questions throughout the two-hour window.

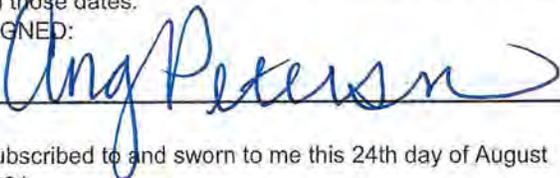
August 18, 2021  
August 24, 2021

The purpose of the open house is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to learn about and comment on the preliminary preferred alternative for the 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

Publication Fees: \$ 80.74

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

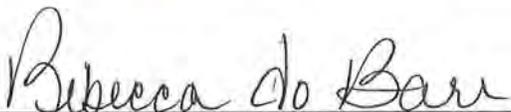
SIGNED:



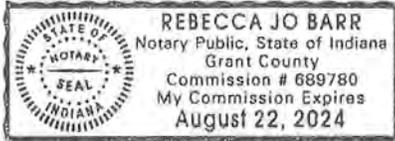
The need for this project stems from safety and mobility issues for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and trains at the railroad crossings. The Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) trains typically run through these crossings 70 to 100 times a day. Furthermore, the trains regularly stop on the tracks, restricting traffic for extended periods of time, and delaying emergency vehicle access on either side of the tracks. The proposed project will eliminate the existing NSRR at-grade crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a bridge that will carry Hively Avenue traffic over the NSRR and South Main Street.

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 24th day of August 2021.

There will be temporary and permanent right-of-way that will be acquired for this project. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023. During construction, Hively Avenue and the at-grade crossings will remain open to the extent possible. Some closure of local roads is expected and detours will be provided. Additional information will be made available as the project development process progresses.



Rebecca Jo Barr, Notary Public 08/22/2024



Additional project information is available at [www.elkhartindiana.org](http://www.elkhartindiana.org).

00015336 70141176

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154 WPD  
COMPASS OUTREACH SOLUTION  
920 MOONLIGHT CT  
MORRESVILLE, IN 46158

In accordance with the

Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and with advance notice, INDOT can provide accommodation for persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services such as sign language interpretation, large print materials and/or other related services. If you are an individual with a disability or *represent an ADA stakeholder group and require* accommodation related to participating at the public open house, you are encouraged to contact Erin Pipkin at [erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com](mailto:erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com) or (317) 966-7301.  
hspaxlp

## NOTICE OF LOCAL TRAX PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

 August 14, 2021
  CL PUCENTE STAFF
  Elkhart, Public Notice - Aviso al público

The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host a public open house to inform residents and solicit feedback about the proposed Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

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DES. #: 1801933



# **Appendix F: Public Information Meeting #3 Presentation for City of Elkhart Website**



Hively Avenue  
Overpass Project  
Public Information  
Meeting #3

In-Person  
August 31, 2021  
5pm-7pm  
Zion Missionary Church

1

## Agenda

- Project Team Information
- Overview and Timeline
- Preliminary Preferred Alternative including Truck Route
- Environmental Analysis and Preliminary Property Impacts
- Comments and Feedback
- Next Steps and Timeline

2

# Welcome & Introductions

- Project Team Members:
  - INDOT
  - City of Elkhart
  - Michael Baker
  - Burgess and Niple
  - VS Engineering
  - SJCA
  - Compass Outreach Solutions



**Michael Baker**

INTERNATIONAL

**BURGESS & NIPLE**

Engineers ■ Architects ■ Planners



3

## Brief Project Overview

- Elkhart funded Preliminary Feasibility Study (2017)
- Project Advances with Local Trax Funding (2019)
- Phase 1 Engineering and Environmental Studies (On-going)
  - Engineer's Report (2019)
  - Public Meeting (virtual and in-person) in October 2020
  - Approved Environmental Document expected in early 2022- **\*This is the critical path for property acquisitions for right-of-way.**



4

# Area Network



5

# Study Area



6

## Purpose and Need

- The project is needed to address traffic congestion, lack of mobility, and safety concerns at the existing at-grade crossing of East Hively Avenue and Norfolk Southern Railroad.
  - 6,000 vehicles traveling along Hively Avenue per day
  - 70-100 trains per day
- The purpose of the project is to improve mobility and safety within the project area by eliminating vehicle backups and congestion while maintaining, as much as possible, access and connectivity.

7

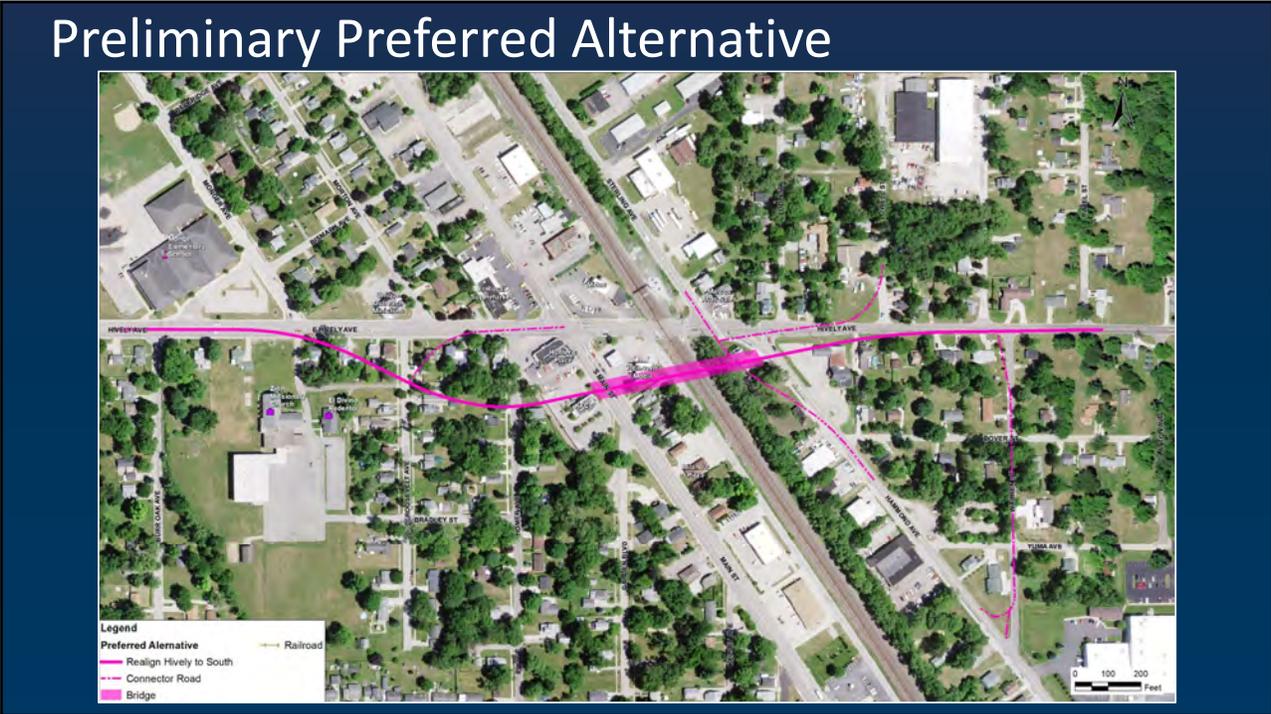
## Existing Conditions/Deficiencies & Proposed Improvements

- Stopped Traffic Movements
  - Traffic will continue to flow for bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles and there will be limited disruptions during construction
- Drainage and Utilities
  - Working with the City to determine utility impacts and improvements
- Sidewalks/Trail Connection
  - New ADA compliant sidewalks will provide connection to the Maple Heart Trail and other side streets
- Truck Movements
  - Identified official truck route on Warren St., south to Hammond.

8

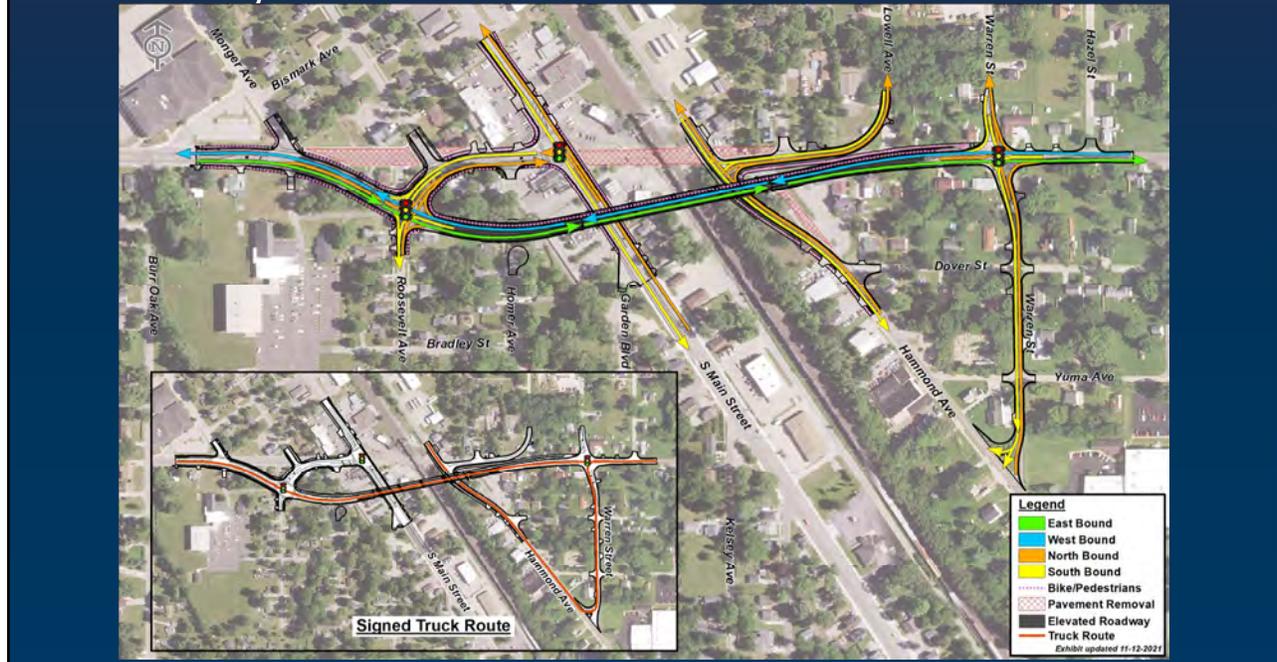


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## Preliminary Preferred Traffic Flow



11

## Environmental Analysis Update

- The environmental document is in process.
  - Draft environmental document will be published prior to the Public Hearing.
- Based on Public Outreach, the team re-evaluated truck movements and recommends a Truck Route utilizing existing Warren Street.
  - This has been incorporated into the design and preliminary environmental documentation.
- Sensitive resources, hazardous materials, property impacts, and construction duration are key concerns.
  - Avoidance and minimization of impacts to property, travel during construction and post construction access and mobility continue to be incorporated into plan designs.

12

## Preliminary Preferred ROW and Property Impacts



13

## Preliminary Preferred Alternative: Anticipated Property Impacts

Land Use	# of Relocations	# of Acquisitions	Total Permanent ROW (acres)	Total Temporary ROW (acres)
Residential	20	1	6.50	0.12
Commercial	4	1	3.81	0.10
Other (Church, School, Utility)	0	0	0.37	0.57
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>0.79</b>

14

## Preliminary Preferred Alternative: Sensitive Resources and Analysis

- Continue to minimize property impacts:
  - Homes, Businesses, Monger School, Zion Missionary Church and Grocery Store
- No anticipated impacts to historic or cultural resources
- No significant noise or air quality impacts based on current noise and future traffic volumes
- Potential property impacts include hazardous materials considerations; additional analysis is in progress
- Environmental justice and community impacts

15

## Additional Information on Property Acquisition & Relocations



### RELOCATION

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

SUS DERECHOS Y BENEFICIOS COMO PERSONA DESPLAZADA DE ACUERDO CON EL PROGRAMA FEDERAL DE ASISTENCIA PARA LA REUBICACIÓN



### ACQUISITION

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

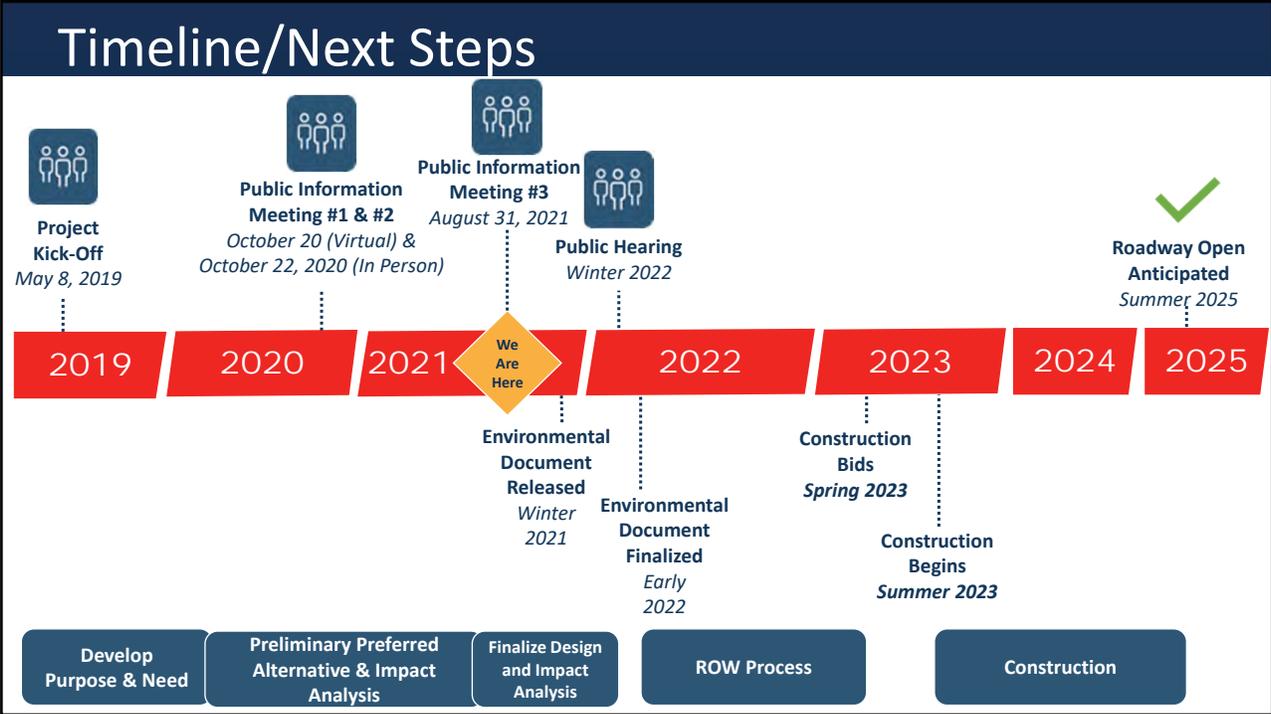
More information can be found at:

<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/files/FHWA-Relocation-Brochure-GREEN.pdf>

<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/files/FHWA-Relocation-Brochure-SPANISH.pdf>

<https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/files/FHWA-Acquisition-Brochure-BLUE.pdf>

16



17

# Additional Information





[www.elkhartindiana.org](http://www.elkhartindiana.org)

[www.indot.in.gov](http://www.indot.in.gov)

[@CityOfElkhartIN](https://www.facebook.com/CityOfElkhartIN)

[@INDOTNortheast](https://www.facebook.com/INDOTNortheast)

[@CityofElkhartIN](https://twitter.com/CityofElkhartIN)

[@INDOTNortheast](https://twitter.com/INDOTNortheast)

18

## How to Provide Comments

Please direct all inquiries and comments via email:  
[ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com)

OR mail:

Michael Baker International 3815 River Crossing Parkway,  
Suite 20 Indianapolis, IN 46240

19

## Project Contact Representatives Information



Consultant Representative, Michael Baker International  
Contact: Charles Boltz  
Phone: 317-663-8430



Local Representative, City of Elkhart  
Contact: Ryan Clussman  
Office Phone: 574-293-2572 ext 2222



State Representative, INDOT  
Contact: Jason Holder  
Office Phone: 317-233-3427

20



THANK YOU!



# **Appendix G: Public Information Meeting #3 Meeting Materials**





## PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Hively Avenue Overpass Project

INDOT Des No. 1801933



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[ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com)

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Contact: Charles Boltz
Office Phone: (317) 689-8430

# Hively Avenue Local Trax Project

DES. #: 1801933



## Project Scope

### What is the goal of the Hively Avenue Overpass Local Trax Project?

The need for this project stems from safety and mobility issues for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and trains at the railroad crossings. The proposed project will eliminate the existing Norfolk Southern RR (NS RR) at-grade crossing at Hively Avenue by creating a bridge that will carry Hively Avenue traffic over the NS RR and South Main Street.

### Where is the study area?

The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

### Why is this project needed?

- Improve safety – NS RR trains regularly stop on the tracks, restricting traffic for extended periods of time, and delaying emergency vehicle access on either side of the tracks.
- Reduce delays – The trains typically run through these crossings 70 to 100 times a day.

### What is the Local TRAX program?

The Local TRAX rail overpass program provides grants to cities, towns and counties to address high-priority railroad and local road intersections. The program's focus is providing grade separation, closing crossings and constructing other safety enhancement projects at rail-highway intersections.

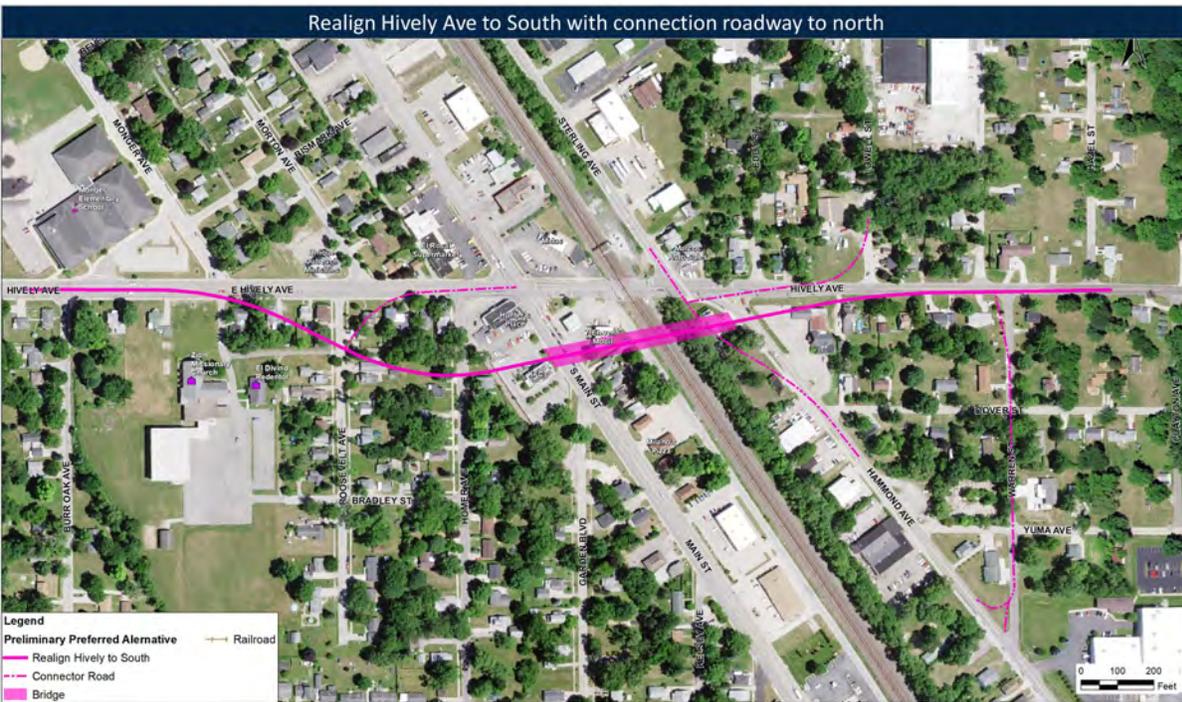
### Who will oversee this project?

Local TRAX is a partnership with INDOT, local communities, businesses, industries and railroads to improve the quality of life for residents through large-scale rail related transportation projects. The City of Elkhart and INDOT are partnering on the Hively Avenue Local Trax project.

### What role does Norfolk Southern Railroad play in this plan?

Norfolk Southern Railroad is a key stakeholder and an overall supporter and program participant in INDOT's Local Trax Overpass Program. The project team will continue to work with NS RR as the project moves forward.

# Preliminary Preferred Alternative



## What is the preliminary preferred alternative?

The range of alternatives and preliminary impacts were presented at public outreach forums (virtual and in-person) in October 2020. Based on the feedback received during those meetings, the project study team took another look at truck movements in the area and expanded the project study area to include south Warren Street to evaluate a truck route.

The preliminary preferred alternative realigns Hively Avenue to the south with a connection roadway to the north. It also includes minor improvements to south Warren Street to better accommodate truck movements in the area.

While the environmental document will document the project's alternative analysis, the project study team will continue to focus on the preliminary preferred alternative and make adjustments to avoid and minimize impacts, particularly property impacts.

The purpose of public information meeting #3 is to elicit feedback on the preliminary preferred alternative.

## What intersections will be eliminated as part of this project?

Once complete Hively Avenue traffic will cross via an overpass over the NS RR tracks and Main Street.

## How much right-of-way (land) is needed to construct the preliminary preferred alternative?

The design team estimates that approximately 11 acres of permanent right-of-way and less than 1 acre of temporary right-of-way would need to be acquired to construct the preliminary preferred alternative. Currently, the preliminary preferred alternative affects 21 residential and 5 business properties.

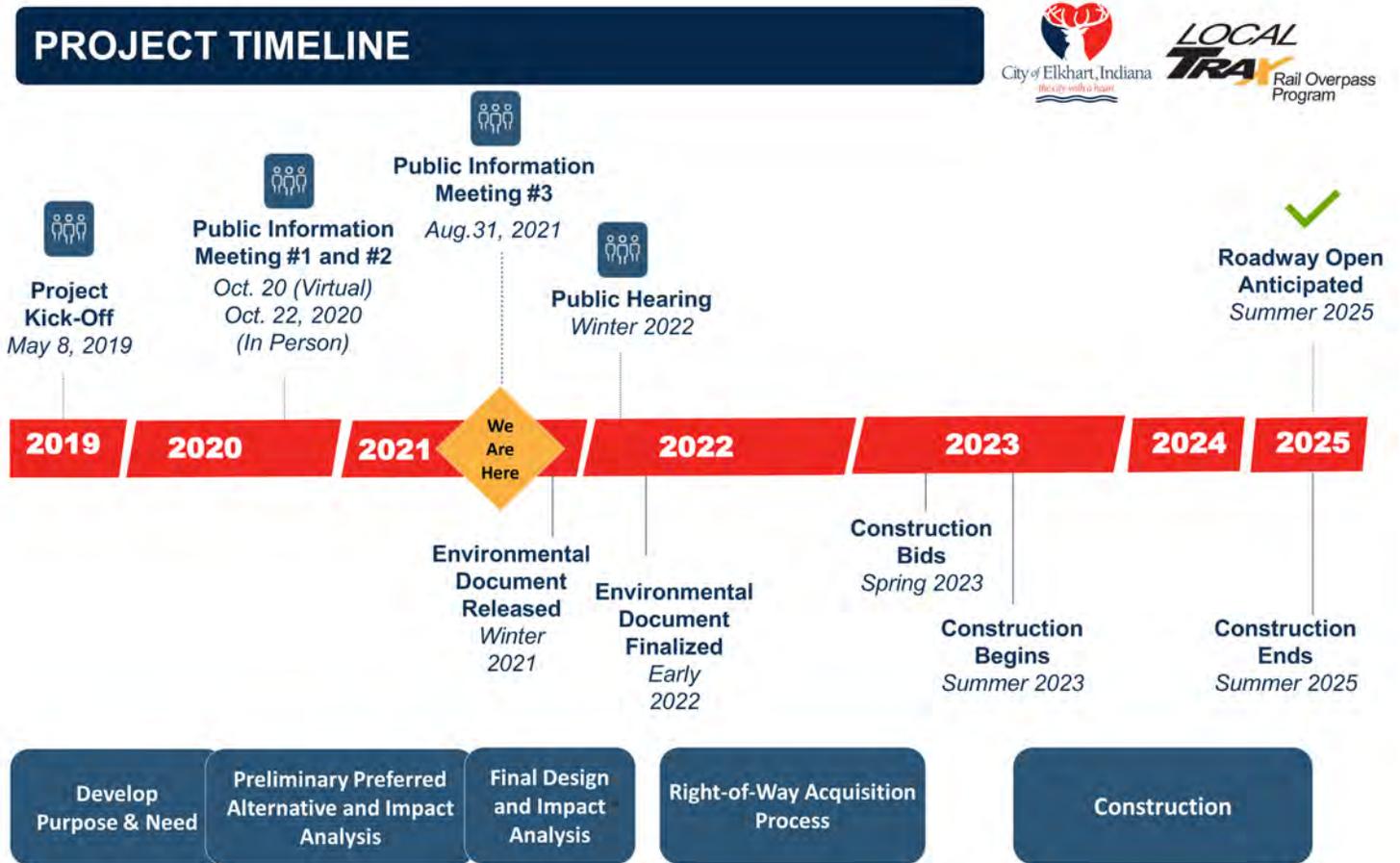
## Will the preliminary preferred alternative impact any parks, schools or historic properties?

The preliminary preferred alternative is not anticipated to negatively impact parks, schools, historic or cultural resources.

## Will the planned overpass include lanes for bicycles and pedestrians?

Yes, the preliminary preferred alternative will improve bicycle and pedestrian movements in the area and improve overall connectivity to Maple Heart Trail.

# Schedule



## What is the schedule for the environmental study?

- 2019- Current: Environmental study and early coordination
- October 2020: Public Information Meeting 1
- Winter 2021: Environmental document released
- Early 2022: Public Hearing, environmental document finalized
- Summer 2023: Construction begins
- Summer 2025: Roadway opens

## When will right-of-way decisions be made?

Design will not be finalized until the environmental process is complete. Final design and impacts to specific properties could be identified in early 2022.

## What is the design schedule?

Once the environmental document is approved, design will continue until early 2023.

## What is the anticipated construction timeline?

Construction – which is expected to last two years – could begin as early as summer 2023.

# Funding

## What is the estimated budget?

Total project costs are currently estimated at \$24.4 million, which includes planning, design, right-of-way, utility relocation and construction.

## Is all funding for design and construction secured?

Yes.

## Will both State and local funds be used?

Yes.

## Are federal funds being used for this project?

Using federal funds is not anticipated at this time.

## Traffic Impacts

### **Are you sure the preliminary preferred alternative can handle all of the local traffic?**

Yes, the project team has performed the necessary traffic analysis, including revisiting truck movements requiring access to Hammond and Sterling from Hively Avenue. The design team has accounted for all necessary turning movements and traffic requirements. As the project moves forward, additional minor modifications will be made as necessary, to address any issues identified by the public or identified as part of technical review.

### **Will more turn lanes be added as part of this project?**

The design team has incorporated the necessary turning lanes and travel movements into the preliminary preferred alternative. Additional minor modifications will be made, as necessary, as the project progresses.

### **Will Hively Avenue be closed during construction?**

Hively Avenue will be closed briefly to tie into the new construction. However, one of primary benefits of the preliminary preferred alternative is that Hively Avenue will mostly remain open during construction, minimizing temporary but important impacts to traffic, emergency services and businesses. Additional details on construction impacts and temporary detours will be provided at the public hearing.

### **Do you believe this project will reduce travel time through this area?**

Yes, overall, travel times are expected to decrease due to the elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing.

## Emergency Access and Safety

### **Are INDOT and the City of Elkhart coordinating with local emergency responders during the environmental study and design?**

Yes, emergency responders are a major stakeholder and will be engaged throughout the project.

### **How will you ensure the grade of the overpass accommodates pedestrians and cyclists?**

The ADA requires that a grade of less than 5% is used to ensure comfortable usage for all pedestrians, including those with disabilities.

### **How will this project impact emergency response time?**

Removal of the at-grade intersection will provide emergency services with a route that has a “known” travel time that cannot be impacted by stopped trains on the tracks. As with any roadway, motorists will be expected to pull over/stagger to allow passage for emergency vehicles.

## Public Involvement

### **Are the meeting presentations, exhibits and fact sheets available online? If so, where?**

Yes, all project information is available at [www.elkhartindiana.org](http://www.elkhartindiana.org).

### **Will a public hearing be held before design is finalized?**

Yes. The environmental document is expected to be published in early 2022, with a public hearing around that time.

### **Where can I send my comments and questions?**

All written inquiries and comments can be sent via email to:  
[ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com)

Mailed comments can be sent to:  
3815 River Crossing Parkway, Suite 20  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

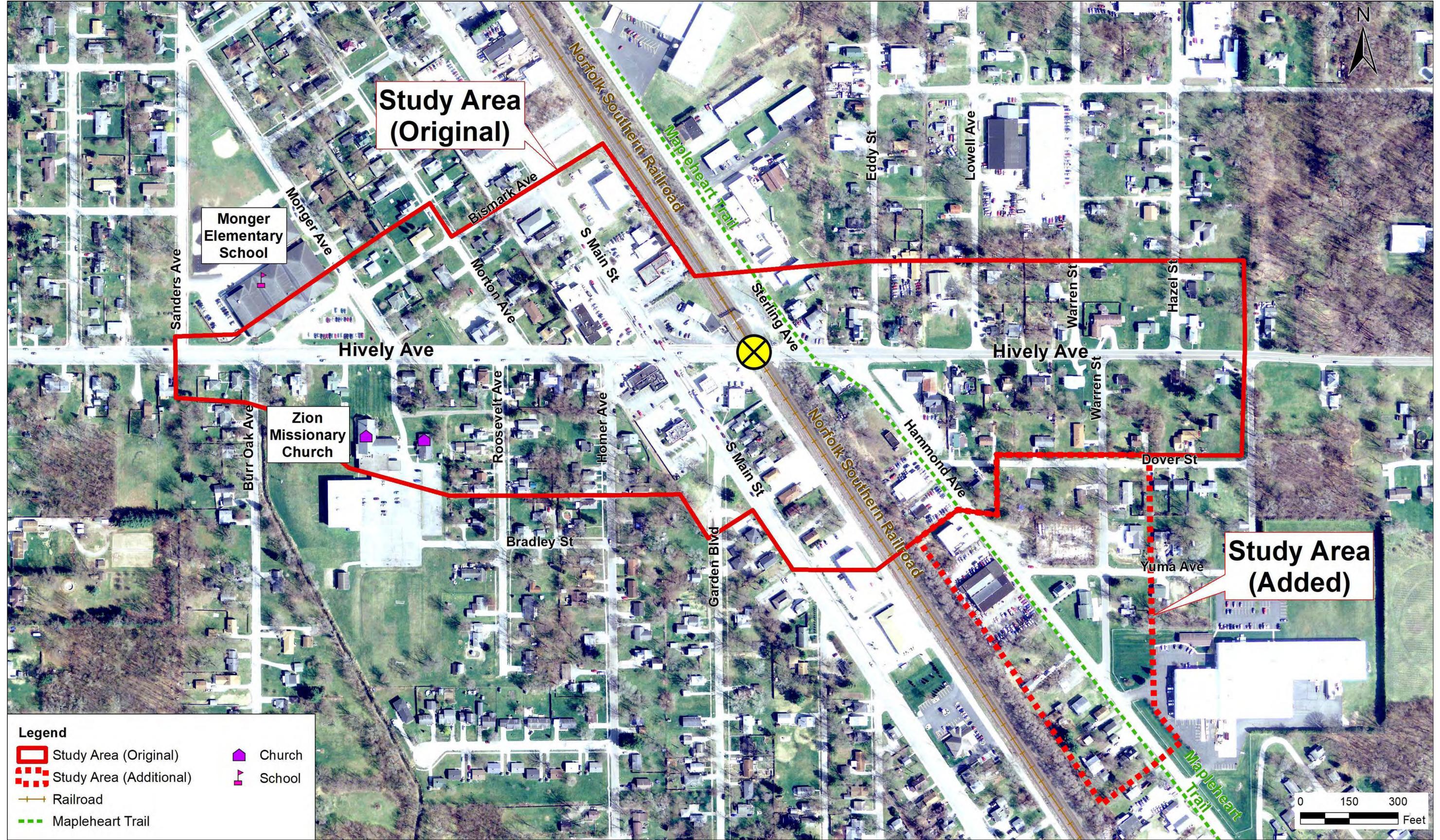
**WELCOME**



**Hively Avenue Overpass  
Project Public Information  
Meeting #3**

**In-Person  
August 31, 2021  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Zion Missionary Church**

# STUDY AREA



**Study Area  
(Original)**

**Monger  
Elementary  
School**

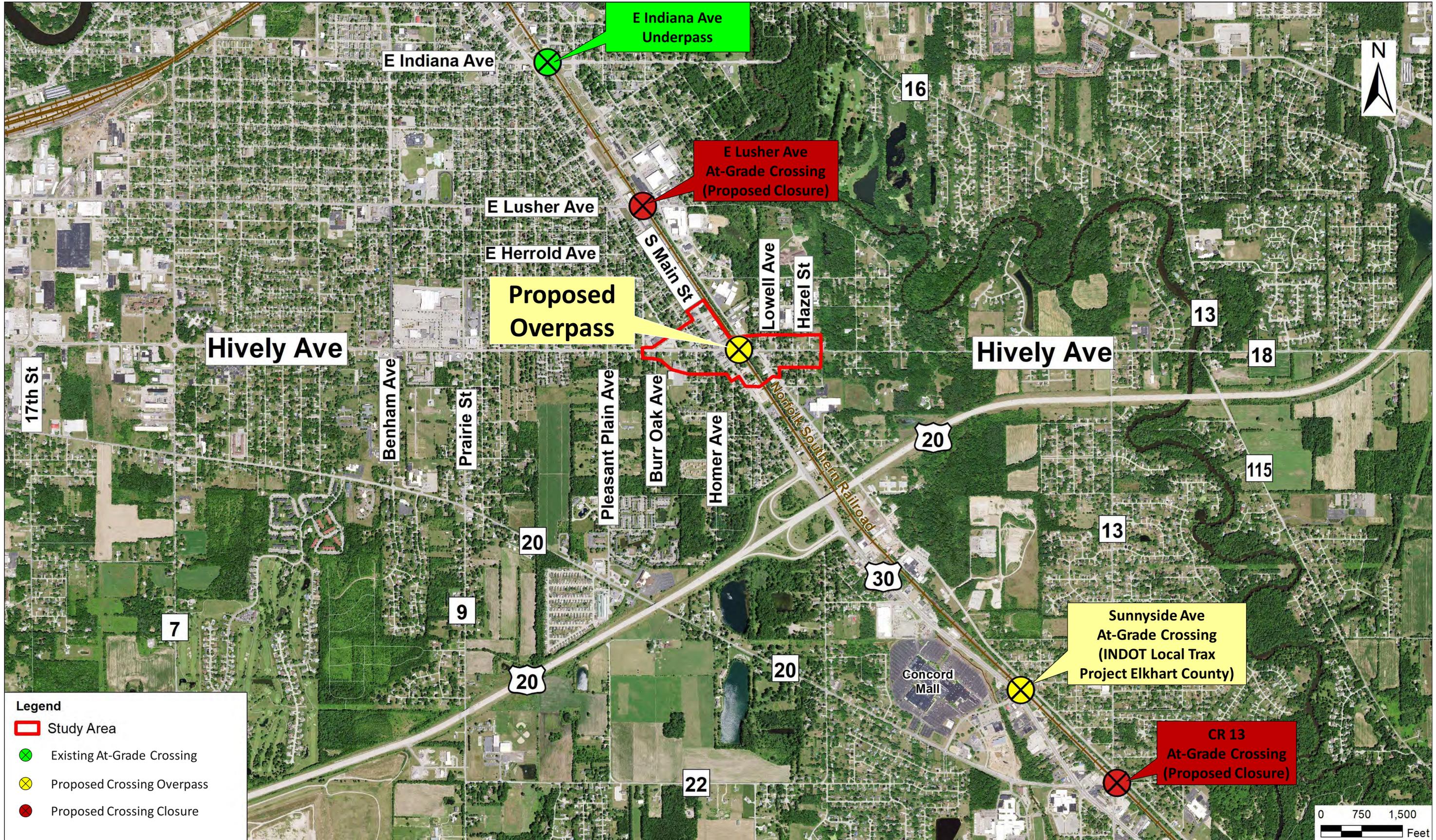
**Zion  
Missionary  
Church**

**Study Area  
(Added)**

**Legend**

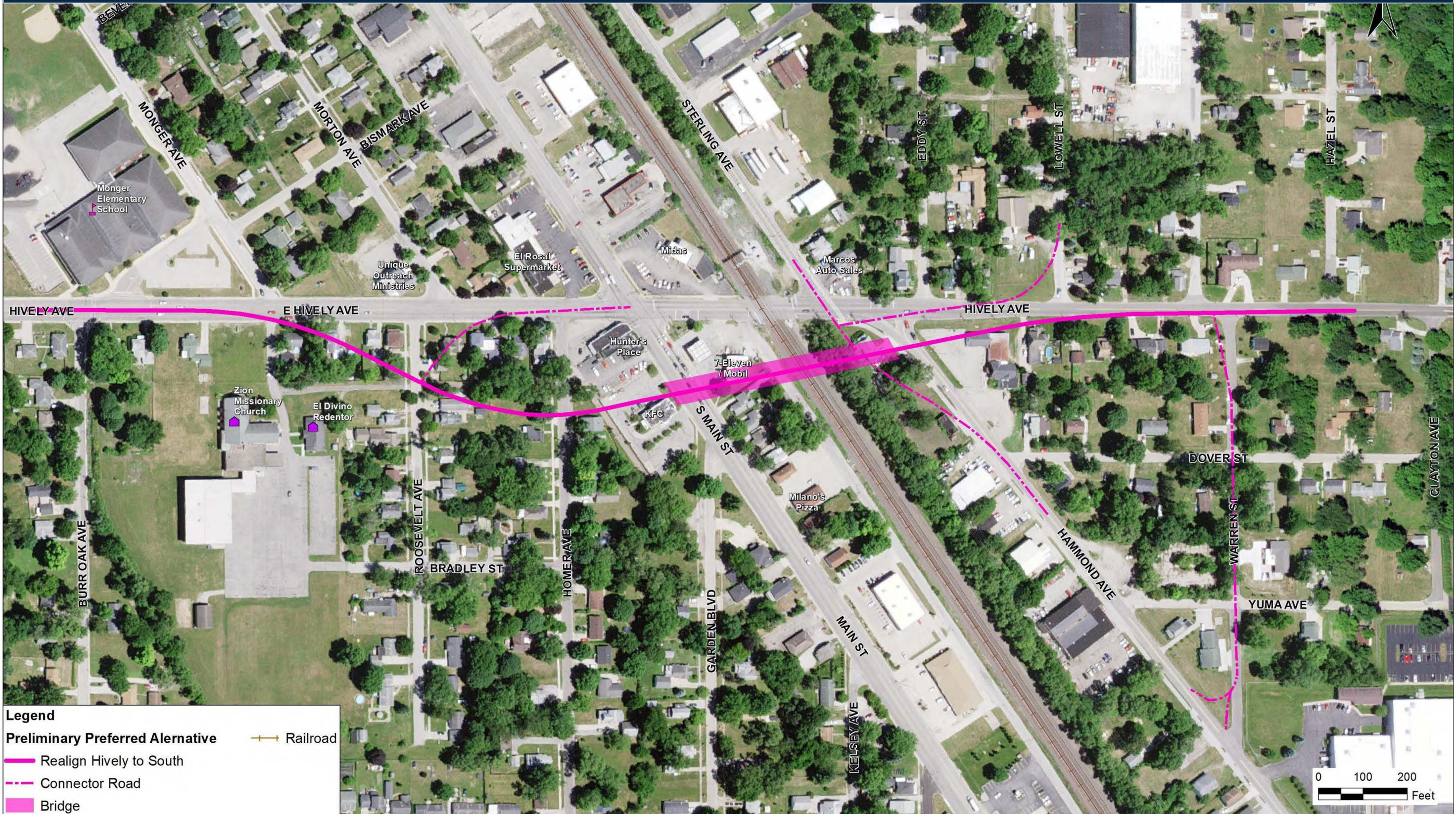
	Study Area (Original)		Church
	Study Area (Additional)		School
	Railroad		
	Mapleheart Trail		

# AREA NETWORK

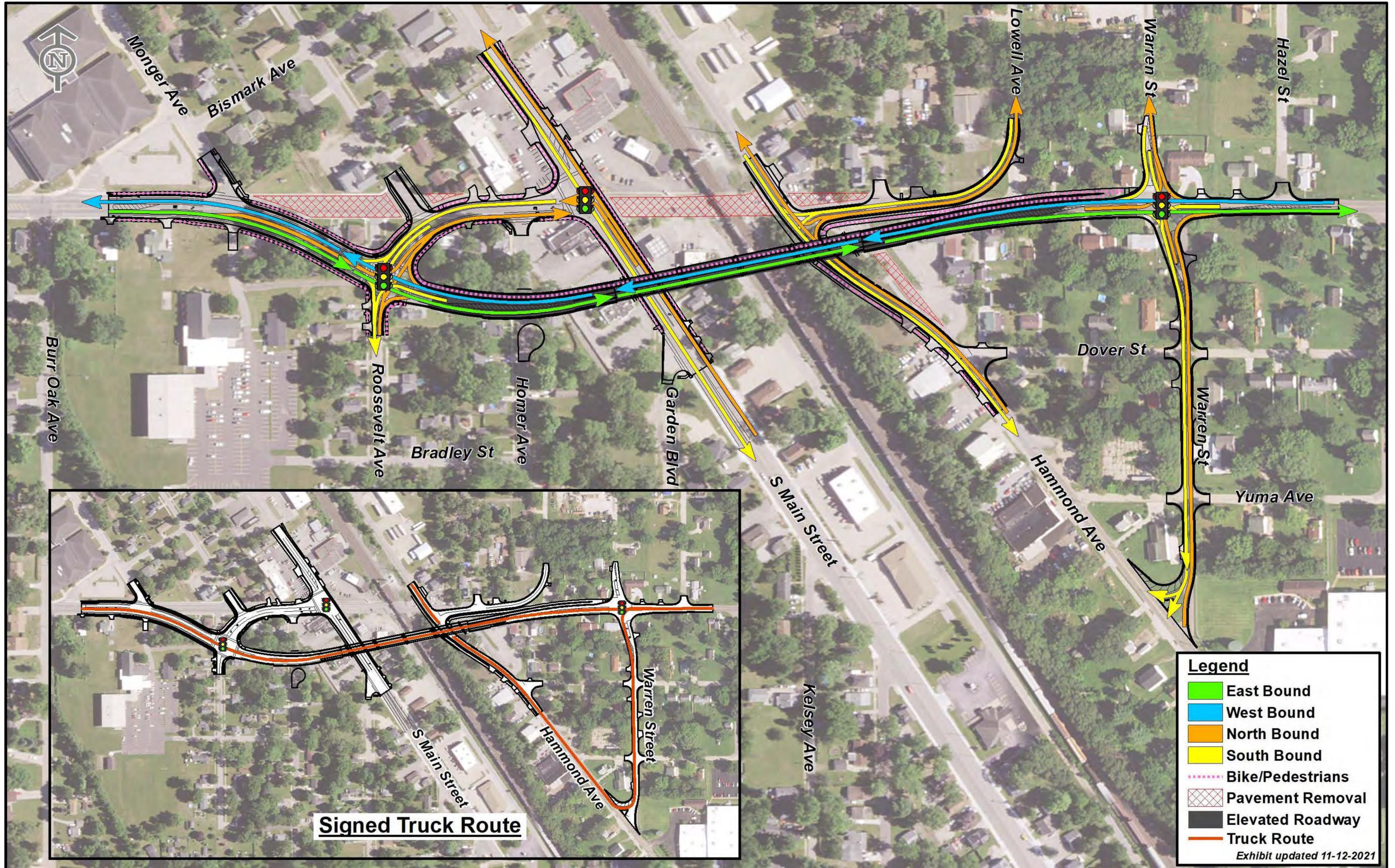


# PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

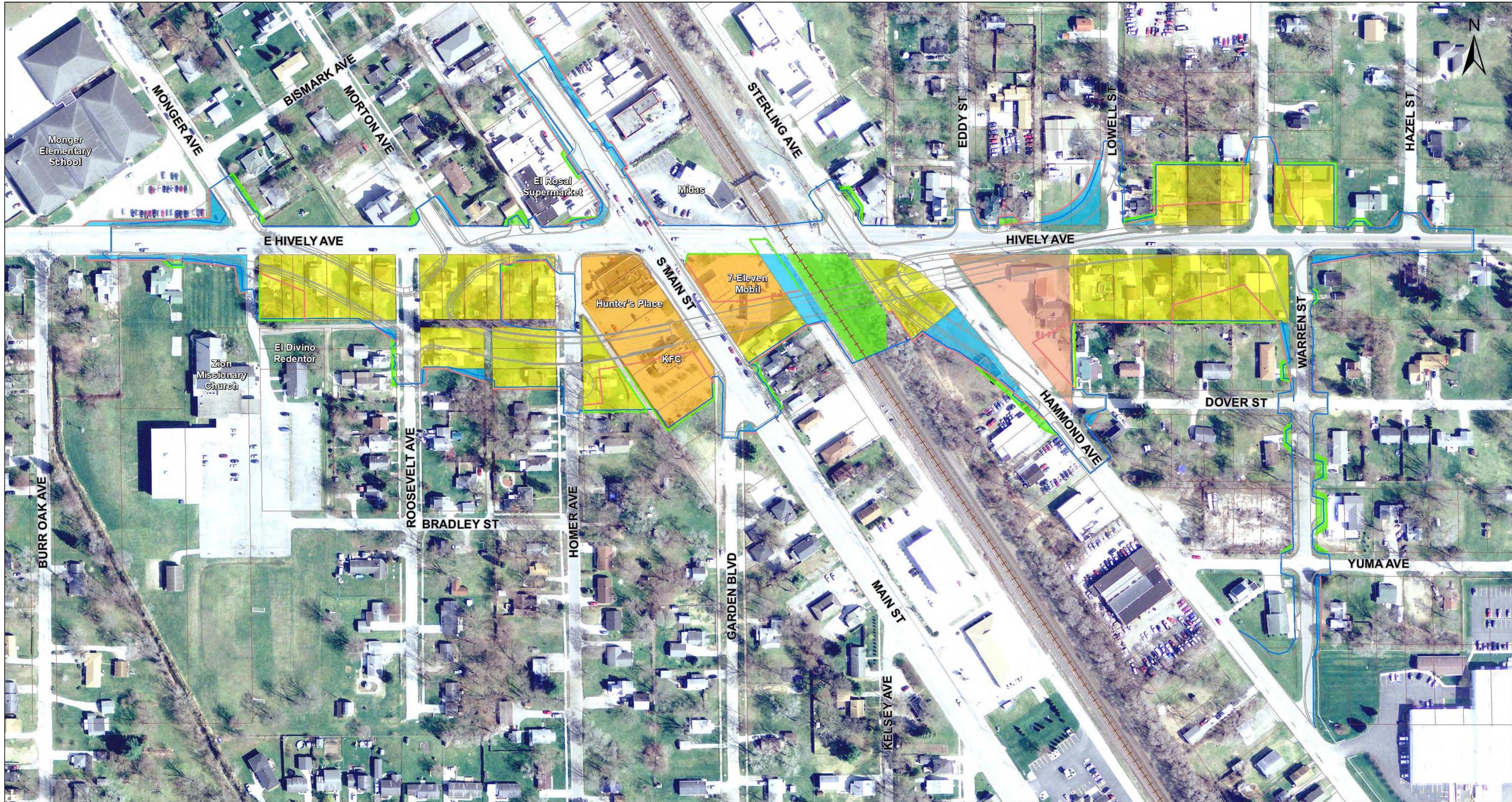
Realign Hively Ave to South with connection roadway to north



# PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL MOVEMENTS



# PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE ROW & PROPERTY IMPACTS

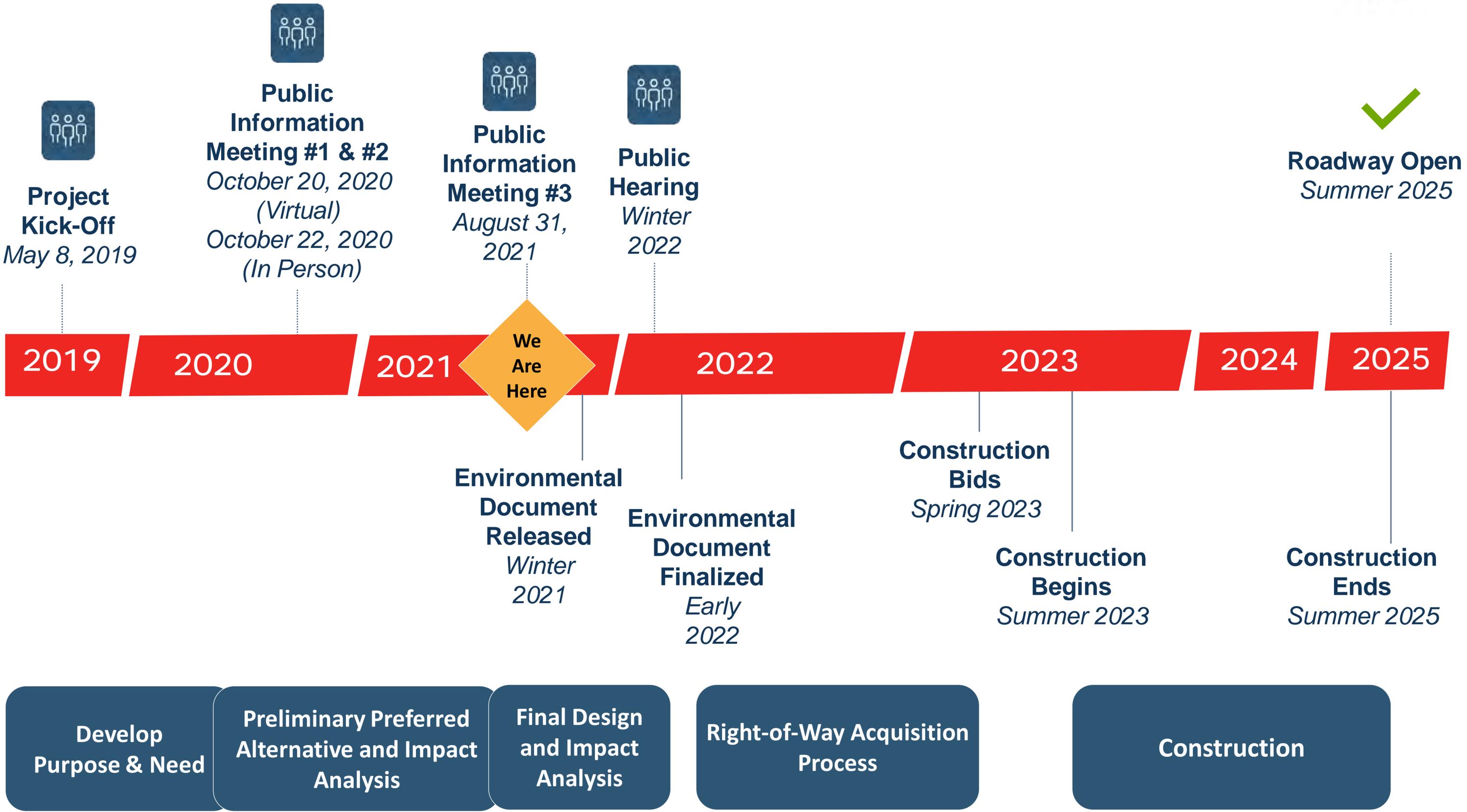


**Legend**

- |   |                 |                                    |                           |
|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| — Preliminary Preferred Alternative         | — Proposed RW   | <b>Preliminary Property Impact</b> | ■ Residential Acquisition |
| — Construction Limits Preliminary Preferred | — Temporary RW  | ■ Commercial Relocation            | ■ Permanent R/W           |
| — Railroad                                  | — Property Line | ■ Commercial Acquisition           | ■ Temporary R/W           |
|   |                 | ■ Residential Relocation           |                           |



# PROJECT TIMELINE



# PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE ANTICIPATED IMPACTS



Land Use	# of Relocations	# of Acquisitions	Total Permanent ROW (acres)	Total Temporary ROW (acres)
Residential	20	1	6.50	0.12
Commercial	4	1	3.81	0.10
Other (Church, School, Utility)	0	0	0.37	0.57
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>0.79</b>



# Appendix H: Public Comment Response Table



# Hively Avenue Overpass Project Public Comment and Response

Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		The predominant question is about the presentation and where it's available to be seen and whether there's audio included with it.	<p>All pertinent project information is provided on the City of Elkhart's website:  <a href="https://elkhartindiana.org/government/street-department/hively-overpass">https://elkhartindiana.org/government/street-department/hively-overpass</a></p> <p>There is no voice over with the presentation. An in-person public meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 22, 2022 at Zion Missionary Church from 5-7pm. Additional information is provided later in the presentation.</p>
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		What is envisioned at this time for the overpass in terms of the number of lanes, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, et cetera?	Current bridge and roadway design plans include a two-lane bridge, with two 12-foot lanes and a six-foot shoulder. Design plans also include a 10'-sidewalk/path for a pedestrian and bicycle use. On the east side of Hively, there will be a connection point to the MapleHeart Trail.
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		At what point will we know when our property will be affected or if we can volunteer our property for this project?	Additional information will be available in 2021/2022 as the project development process continues. Another Public Information Meeting will be held and, ultimately, the environmental document will be published for public review and comment and a public hearing will be conducted in early 2022.
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		Hively Avenue is heavily used for emergency services. This will not be under construction as proposed construction in the Concord Mall area crossing?	The City of Elkhart is coordinating with the County on their grade separation overpass project. The City will ensure that at least one of these crossings will remain open, to the extent possible. One major benefit of the preliminary



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
				<p>preferred alternative is that existing Hively Avenue is expected to remain open for the majority of construction. Communication between the City of Elkhart and Elkhart County will continue through design and construction.</p>
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		<p>As someone who lives east of three major construction projects at Hively Sunny Side and county roads, 18, 13 and one 15, it would be very helpful if all three project sites shared a combined timeline of project work. You sharing the same timeline would be helpful.</p>	<p>The City of Elkhart is cognizant of the timing and overlap of these projects. The City will continue to coordinate with the County to do as possible to accommodate all project construction schedule(s).</p>
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		<p>Why not do an underpass?</p>	<p>The underpass option was considered during the original engineering assessment in 2017 and dismissed from further consideration for a number of reasons: construction complexity, costs, potential for utility conflicts, hazardous materials considerations, etc. The overpass option was recommended for further study and that is what this project team is currently evaluating.</p>
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		<p>A visual representation or a table would be helpful.</p>	<p>The overlap between the construction schedules for both Local Trax Projects (City and County of Elkhart) will require close coordination. As the projects move through the development process, the City will work with the County to develop visual representations that will help relay important information in a straight-forward and efficient manner.</p>
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		<p>How far northeast on Main Street will the project stop?</p>	<p>There will be limited activity on Main Street with the dominate construction activities between one intersection to the north and one intersection to the south. And, construction schedules for other Main Street projects will be properly coordinated.</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		Will the answers to the questions asked at this meeting be available in written form after the meeting, perhaps on the project website?	Public comments are an important part of the environmental review process. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) have been compiled and are presented on the City of Elkhart's Website: <a href="https://elkhartindiana.org/government/street-department/hively-overpass">https://elkhartindiana.org/government/street-department/hively-overpass</a>
10/20/2020, Zoom Chat	Virtual Meeting		Will this project employ local people?	The project will be awarded to the contractor with the lowest bid and in compliance state and federal law. Additional information on the contractor bidding process will be available later in the project development process.
10/22/2020, Email	Public Information Meeting	Todd Klotz	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am a current resident of Hively Ave that was unable to attend the zoom call on Tuesday, or the open house today.</p> <p>I would like to pose a question about the Hively Ave project. I don't know if this has been proposed or not, but has an underpass been discussed instead of an overpass. I feel like an underpass similar to the Indiana Ave project would be much more beneficial to the local neighborhood.</p> <p>I would just like some feedback on why this is not being discussed as an option. Thank you</p>	The underpass option was considered during the original engineering assessment in 2017 and dismissed from further consideration for a number of reasons: construction complexity, costs, potential for utility conflicts, hazardous materials considerations, etc. The overpass option was recommended for further study and that is what the project team is currently evaluating.
10/22/2020, Comment Form	In-Person Public	Kerry Yaw	-What about access to church facilities during construction	Access to the church will be maintained throughout construction. Due to the realignment of Hively Avenue,



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
	Information Meeting		<p>-Can alley be opened</p> <p>-Question traffic count estimates on Hively after overpass Traffic coming from CR 17 on Hively will increase because of knowing there will not be a train blockage and with roundabout at 13 it will increase volume on the road.</p> <p>-I feel it will greatly increase traffic to point of needing 4 lanes</p> <p>-Concern of traffic not wanting to go over tracks detouring through residential and church parking lots.</p> <p>-Concern of truck traffic entering and exiting Hammond Ave, Sterling Ave, and Main Street from overpass</p>	<p>the alley between the church drive and Roosevelt Avenue will be closed.</p> <p>Detailed traffic analysis has taken into consideration the redistribution of traffic to Hively Avenue due to the removal of the at-grade railroad crossing. The average daily traffic (ADT) along Hively Ave is approximately 6,000 at the railroad crossing and 8,600 west of Monger Avenue. The 20-year horizon ADT is projected to be approximately 12,000, which is under the ADT threshold of 17,500 for the need of a 4-lane road.</p> <p>Traffic will not detour through residential or church parking lots as there is now a grade-separated crossing over the railroad tracks.</p> <p>Future truck traffic increase along Hammond Ave, Sterling Ave, and Main Street will be minimal, and is not a function of the overpass. The overpass in of itself does not generate truck traffic, this is a product of overall existing and future land use which is the basis of traffic modeling.</p>
10/22/2020, Comment Form	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Russell Johnson	1315 Hively is all for the overpass. Lets Get r'done. Let me know where to sign the paperwork.	Comment noted.
10/22/2020 (dated it 10/21/2020),	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Roger Mansfield	Spoke with Wendy regarding no good access from overpass to Hammond/Sterling if on truck traffic. Right now on all four proposals traffic would be routed through residential.	The project team revisited truck movements between Hively Avenue and Hammond/Sterling based on the feedback received at Public Meeting #2. Based on additional analysis, a specific Truck Route was developed



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
Comment Form				using south Warren Street. All vehicular traffic can use the route, but it will be signed for trucks. Truck movements to the north of Hively (Eddy, Lowell, Warren, Hazel) in this location will be prohibited.
10/22/2020, Comment Form	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Donna Sting	<p>-If we cannot get into neighborhood from Hively, the walkway on Main St needs to be removed so we can make a left off of main</p> <p>-If streets are blocked how will fire trucks and ambulances get to us.</p> <p>-With Roosevelt only being two blocks long taking 1/3 of it for the new Hively will take away a lot from our neighborhood</p> <p>-We use Homer to bring our travel trailer home so how do we get it going west on Bradley to back into the driveway</p>	<p>The median island located at the Main Street and Dewey Street intersection is needed to allow pedestrians to safely cross Main Street; therefore, will not be removed. The pavement width of Main Street and Dewey Street provides the needed area to make a left turn off of Main Street. Homes and businesses will be accessible during and after construction. As with all infrastructure projects, the City of Elkhart will coordination with the appropriate entities to ensure that emergency services are facilitated during construction.</p> <p>To go westbound on Bradley Avenue, traffic can enter the neighborhood using Dewey Street and travel on Lawton Avenue, Smith Avenue, and Homer Avenue.</p>
10/23/2020 (actually received on 10/22/2020), Comment Form	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Ruth Pletcher	Good job! I like #3 but I know how things change :)	Comment noted.
10/22/2020, Comment Form	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Christina Dougherty	I am never in favor of the displacement of businesses or families. I am very concerned over the inevitable increase in traffic on Hively. I am particularly concerned with how this affects Monger Elementary School.	The purpose of the project is to increase mobility and improve safety at the crossing and within the regional network. Traffic impacts are an important aspect of evaluating alternatives and impacts, particularly as they related to community resources such as Monger



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
			<p>I am surprised that the city is proceeding with an overpass at Hively/Main when two conduits to avoid train crossings exist at Indiana Ave (underpass) and Prairie Street (overpass). It would seem to me more helpful to citizens to complete an over/underpass at Sunnyside or CR 13 considering the only other way to escape getting caught at the tracks is to take the 20 bypass to CR 17 or drive to Goshen (SR 15).</p>	<p>Elementary School. Additional information on traffic impacts will be provided as the project continues to develop.</p> <p>Impacts to homes, businesses, community resources, natural and cultural resources, and other considerations are important elements of evaluating project alternatives. Efforts are made throughout the process to avoid and minimize project impacts to the extent possible while still working to meet the purpose and need for the project. Not all impacts are avoidable, and some require mitigation.</p> <p>Elkhart County also received an INDOT Local Trax grant to evaluate grade separation alternatives at Sunnyside. That project is also important and coordination between the City of Elkhart and the County will be on-going during design and construction.</p>
10/22/2020, Comment Form	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Brent Blough	Good job at studying it out. My same preference is 3A.	Comment noted.
10/22/2020, Comment Form	In-Person Public Information Meeting	Mary White	<p>With an older home, my concern is vibrational damage possible with the driving of pylons and supports.</p> <p>My preference is 3A.</p>	Comment noted. Additional consideration of vibration impacts will be part of the contracting process.



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
11/16/2020 [contacted Tory Irwin] & 11/25/2020	Public Information Meeting	Lois Martin/ Elkhart Speed wash	<p>[contacted Tory Irwin] Would like to have property acquired as part of the project.</p> <p>Tory: This is Lois Martin, owner of Elkhart Speedwash at 2701 So Main. I am interested in selling this. Please acknowledge receiving this email.</p> <p>Thanks. Lois</p>	<p>[responded on 12/2/2020]: Lois, I have received your request that you are interested in having your property at 2701 acquired as part of the Hively Grade Separation project. We will certainly take that into account. Thanks.</p> <p>Tory S. Irwin, P.E.</p>
6/4/2021 & 7/6/2021		Lakesha Duncan	<p>Hello hope all is well, hope your holiday weekend was wonderful,</p> <p>I just wanted to follow up with our last conversation regarding the status of the project. Has there been any updates? Also how do my grandparents go about applying for the hardship program? When are they able to apply? I can help get documents together.</p> <p>I came down to visit a week ago but while visiting my grandmother got sick and was admitted into the hospital, otherwise I would have set up a meeting with you. She's home now and doing better, but very scary. We are planning on another visit soon and I'll keep you updated.</p> <p>Have a blessed day, Lakesha Duncan</p>	<p>Ms. Duncan,</p> <p>Thank you for reaching out regarding the status of the project and your concerns regarding your grandparents' home at 1823 E. Hively Avenue. I appreciated our conversation.</p> <p>As we discussed, our team is making progress on the preliminary engineering and environmental studies that are required to receive state and federal funding. We will have a solid handle on our property impacts later this summer and we'll complete this phase of the project by Thanksgiving (public hearing and signed environmental document). While we do not yet know the final property impacts, it is quite possible that your grandparents' property could be impacted by the project given the current configuration of the new proposed roadway and bridge.</p> <p>Under normal circumstances, formal property acquisition proceedings begin after the public hearing and the</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
				<p>environmental document is signed by INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. However, there are circumstances in which property acquisition can proceed ahead of the normal process. I am providing a link to INDOT's Real Estate Manual <a href="https://www.in.gov/indot/files/Chapter%201%20-%20Real%20Estate%20Division%20Manual%20Miscellaneous.pdf">https://www.in.gov/indot/files/Chapter%201%20-%20Real%20Estate%20Division%20Manual%20Miscellaneous.pdf</a>. Page 38 discusses Hardship Acquisition.</p> <p>Again, we have to confirm the property impact before any next steps can be taken. We are getting there, these things just take time and please know that we really appreciate your patience.</p> <p>I understand that you will be in town again soon to visit, please reach out if you have additional questions or need more information.</p> <p>Thank you and sincerely, Wendy</p> <p>[Responded 7/12/2021]: Lakesha,</p> <p>Good morning to you. It is good to hear from you and I apologize for the delay.</p> <p>The INDOT real estate manual discusses hardship acquisition on page 38 of the PDF (do not look for a page # on the document, for some reason, it isn't there). Here is</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
				<p>the link: <a href="https://www.in.gov/indot/files/Chapter%201%20-%20Real%20Estate%20Division%20Manual%20Miscellaneous.pdf">https://www.in.gov/indot/files/Chapter%201%20-%20Real%20Estate%20Division%20Manual%20Miscellaneous.pdf</a>. Page 38 discusses Hardship Acquisition. Take a quick look to get a feel for what needs to be done on your end.</p> <p>I believe the first step is to receive an official letter from you or whoever has power of attorney/the appropriate legal right to act on the behalf of your grandparents that outlines the current situation and the need for the State to consider the hardship request. There are several things that need to be done on our end, I will begin working on that and get back to you with more information.</p> <p>Please stay in touch, Wendy</p>
6/22/2021	Email	Steve and Tammy Ragland	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in regards to the Hively Avenue Overpass Project. My family and I live on Keltner Road which is right off of Hively (CR 18). We are extremely concerned about how this overpass is going to affect traffic coming down our street. There are a lot of children that play in this area, including our own. We are asking that you keep a way open for traffic to get from Hively to CR 45. If this does not happen, we are afraid of how many vehicles will be cutting through the side streets to get access to CR 45 and surely they</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The project study team has conducted traffic analysis for inform engineering design and to understand and evaluate impacts. Future traffic on the proposed Hively Avenue Overpass is not expected to increase dramatically, but, the travel pattern will change and the direct connection between Hively Avenue and Hammond/Sterling will be eliminated. Instead, vehicles traveling westbound will be required to use south Warren Street and this route will also be the designated truck route. Trucks will be prohibited on residential streets to the north in this location. There is the potential for some cut through traffic, but it is anticipated to be minimal given that the signalized intersection and overall better traffic flow than under the existing condition. However, the</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
			<p>will not be driving slowly. This is an extremely important issue to consider as there are many people that use CR 45. We were very disappointed to find out the overpass would be going in on Hively as there is an underpass just two roads down on Indiana Ave. We are not sure why they are spending all this money to put one here when there is more need of one on Ferndale Road with all the shopping areas right there and traffic is always backed up.</p> <p>Please consider the safety of all the children that live and play on these side streets that many people will take if there is not an open access road for them.</p> <p>Thank you, Steve and Tammy Ragland</p>	<p>project study team will take this understand consideration to see if additional clarity can be provided. Safety on all streets, but particularly residential streets is always of concern to local municipalities and INDOT.</p>
8/31/2021	Public Information Meeting #3	Tari & Dave Gard	<p>Good format for open house. Wall displays were helpful, particularly one showing alternative travel movements and property impacts and timeline. Having program directors at each station to answer questions and explain illustrations was very helpful.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
9/2/2021	Email	Brent Blough	<p>Hello ,my name is Brent Blough. I live at 2425 Morton Ave. Corner of Morton @ Chicago. I was very impressed by your meeting Wednesday. I do have one question. What</p>	<p>The term ‘Trax’ is part of the program’s branding (TRAX vs railroad tracks) and is used on project and program materials as a way to more easily identify proposed transportation improvements that are part of this unique program.</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
			<p>does TRAX mean and stand for. How do you help in the overpass project. Thank you, Brent Blough</p>	
12/12/2021	Email	Am Al	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I wanted to let you know that the street construction between Lusher Ave. and Hively Ave. seems unsafe. I tried to let the traffic division of Elkhart know, but I can't seem to find where to contact them. I commute in that area and almost gets hit because there are no clear traffic signs on both ends of the street construction site. There was a collision at the Hively and S. Main St. involving a sheriff yesterday evening. The lanes seem way too narrow, sidewalk curbsides too wide, and the curbside of the Phillips 66 gas station are too small. I spoke with the Phillips 66 owner's family member, and mentioned that their business is being affected by the construction itself. The transitions of two-lanes and mergers are intermittent, and as a commuter, they often cause drivers to almost cause collisions.</p> <p>In closing the Lusher Ave. train crossing, it would not help dilute traffic that is one-lane on each side and the business and residents of that area would have to deal with the</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The project study team will share your comment and concerns with City of Elkhart staff. The concept of an underpass in this location was dismissed for further consideration during the 2017 Feasibility Study for a number of reasons: construction complexity, costs, potential for utility conflicts, hazardous materials considerations, etc. The overpass option was recommended for further study and has been identified as the preliminary preferred alternative. The project study team did a cursory evaluation of traffic diversion based on the proposed Lusher Avenue closure and significant impacts to the overall network are not anticipated or can be readily absorbed into the existing street network. However, the closure will result in a permanent change in general travel patterns. Safety is an important consideration for the project overall, including improving bicycle and pedestrian movements in the vicinity of Monger Elementary.</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
			<p>traffic that would try to avoid on Indiana and Hively one-lane traffic area.</p> <p>If there would be any consideration to possibly see if the overpass would be an underpass like the Indiana Ave. and Main St., it would seem less dangerous near a school zone and during winter conditions. When I commute during winter, I avoid the Prairie St. bridge because it's too steep. I know anything can't be perfect, however, please consider and present these to the city and residents.</p>	
12/17/2021	Email	Deolinda Marin	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am new to the area and I am trying to purchase a property at 1702 hively ave. In Elkhart. I see that the bypass will be coming soon. I am trying to find out how and if the property will be impacted by this. I am trying to avoid paying for a property and not being able to stay there. The pictures I have been able to find online look like it will be ok, but I didnt know if there was something newer developing. We are from North Carolina and completely new to the area. Any information you have will be helpful.</p> <p>Thanks in advance.</p>	<p>Thank you for reaching out about the Hively Overpass Project. As a quick follow-up, 1702 Hively Avenue is not identified for acquisition and will remain post-construction of the new overpass. We are in the progress of completing our environmental studies for the project and plan to have a public hearing sometime in late May or early June. The latest maps are located in the City of Elkhart's website: <a href="https://elkhartindiana.org/government/street-department/hively-overpass/">https://elkhartindiana.org/government/street-department/hively-overpass/</a>.</p> <p>Should you have additional question or require additional information, please reach out to me directly and I will do my best to answer your questions. My contact information is provided below.</p> <p>Thank you and sincerely, Wendy L. Vachet, AICP</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
3/2/2022	Email	Roger Weaver	<p>Charles Bolt, Bridge Department Manager at Michael Baker International            Charles McKenzie, Transportation at Elkhart County Highway Department Manager            Jason Kauffman, Goshen City Stormwater Manager            Joe Foy, Stormwater Utility Manager, City of Elkhart            John Heiliger, MS4 Coordinator, Elkhart County            Philip Barker, Elkhart County Surveyor            Rod Roberson, Mayor of Elkhart            Ryan Clussman, Right-Of-Way Engineer, City Of Elkhart            Steve Schweisburger, Deputy Elkhart County Surveyor            Tory Irwin, Elkhart City Engineer</p> <p>Howard Ditch drains a large area south of Elkhart, IN, roughly between CR111, CR11, CR24, CR9 and areas north of Hively Ave in the City of Elkhart. Howard Ditch empties into a 36" corrugated metal pipe at Burr Oak and Hively Ave which is undersized, rusted and needs to be upgraded to at least a 48" RCP. The 36" metal culvert at Burr Oak and Hively empties into a 48" RCP which runs east along Hively Ave to Eddy Street then goes north to the Elkhart River near the Elkhart</p>	<p>Mr. Weaver,</p> <p>Thank you for sending us your concerns with this project and please know that I'm forwarding this information to our design team for their consideration with our designs. Moving forward information like this is always helpful to know from the local public since we do not want to make any conditions worse then they presently are due to the construction of a project. While I am not prepared at the moment to address any concerns you have raised until I work with my team I do want to say thank you for this feedback.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Charles Boltz</p>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
			<p>Environmental Center. There are at least 3 City of Elkhart drains that empty into this 48" RCP along Hively Ave, 2 - 24" drains and 1 - 12" drain.</p> <p>In 2010, the corrugated metal culvert for Howard Ditch Lateral A, under Homer Avenue was replaced with a 60" RCP which was a big improvement.</p> <p>I grew up along CR111, south of CR20 (Mishawaka Rd), where the basements of my parents and neighbors flooded a number of times over the years. I now live south of the city limits on Homer Ave and most of my neighbors with basements have experienced periodic flooding. Flooding of basements along Homer Avenue occurred in 1977 &amp; 1978, March 1982, January 1991, June 1993, March 2008, March 2009 and February 2018. It has not helped that the culvert pipes for Howard Ditch Lateral A, under US20 Bypass, were installed with the inlet side lower than the outlet side. Homeowners that live in the house where I grew up at 58891 CR111, had water in their basement last week which likely relates to the error just mentioned.</p> <p>I hope the above-mentioned problems are</p>	



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
			<p>resolved before or during the construction of Hively Avenue Local Trax Project and not after its completion. Jeff Dukes, the director of the Purdue Climate Research Center said in February 2020 - "our region will likely experience more rainfall, but more of that rainfall will occur in the winter than in summer. Our summers are expected to be warmer and drier. When we do get rain, it is likely to be in heavier doses than we are accustomed to." If the drainage for the new overpass needs to be a bit oversized to help alleviate the periodic flooding in the Howard Ditch watershed, that will result in long term benefits to many city and county residents.</p> <p>Roger Weaver, retired cartographer</p>	
3/10/2022	Email	Elaine Whitley	<p>Good Afternoon, I am emailing in regards to project 1801933, Hively Avenue east of Main Street, crossing the Norfolk Southern Railway. Can you please tell me what is currently underway for this project, if right of way acquisitions have begun, and if there is an updated construction schedule available?</p> <p>Thank you in advance! Elaine Whitley</p>	<p>Let me introduce myself, my name is James Deahl, P.E. and I am the Right-of-Way manager for the E. Hively over the Norfolk Southern RR project. I have attached the FHWA Acquisition booklet as a guide to what the current activity will be.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right-of-way: We are currently starting the appraisal process in May 2022.</li> <li>• Environmental Report: A public hearing is currently being scheduled and anticipate the hearing in May 2022.</li> </ul>



Date & Method Received	Public Outreach	Name/Organization of Commenter, if known	Comment	Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project schedule: Currently the land acquisition will progress through 2022 and into early to middle of 2023. Demolition, clearing, and utility relocation is anticipated in 2023 and construction early 2024.</li> </ul> <p>If you have any further questions concerning project construction I can direct them to the appropriate individuals.</p> <p>Thanks, Jim</p>

# Additional Outreach Project Parcel Meeting Minutes

## **PROJECT PARCEL MEETING: Parcel 01** **Elkhart Community Schools** **KTM Meeting: March 30, 2022**

### INTRODUCTORY

- Introductions: Kevin Scott, Chief Financial Officer; John Chevalier, Director of Transportation; Jamie Snyder, Director of Safety, Security, and Risk Management; Tony Gianesi, Chief Operating Officer; and April Walker, Principal of Monger Elementary School.
- Purpose Meeting: To provide direct project and contact information:
  - Right-of-Way Project Manager: James Deahl, P.E.; 371-225-3202; [jdeahl.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:jdeahl.consulting@gmail.com) - Attended
  - Design Project Manager: Charles Boltz, P.E., Michael Baker International; 317-938-8542; [Charles.boltz@mbakerintl.com](mailto:Charles.boltz@mbakerintl.com) - Attended

### PROJECT NEED – Covered topics and provided the plan sheet information and overall project concept.

- Hively Avenue overpass over Norfolk and Southern Railroad to eliminate the at grade crossing. The need was discussed and acknowledged as a favorable need and a benefit to the Elkhart Community Schools.
- The project design will create:
  - A new intersection for Hively Ave. and Roosevelt Ave. The west approach is the new alignment to the new intersection that affects the school and acquisition. The acquisition is to construct new sidewalks and curb and gutter. The school district prefers 8 feet sidewalks for maintenance of snow removal. The neighborhoods around the school do walk to school. Hively remains open during construction until time to close to construct the new connection with old Hively Ave. The school will look at how to handle the walking children from the south and prefer to have them get over to Burr Oak Ave., west of the church. The buses arrive and depart in the rear of the building and all school activities are in the rear of the building. The school hours are 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM with teacher arrival times 7:00 AM and leave at 3:00 AM.
  - A new intersection with Main St. & Roosevelt as a T intersection.
  - The new bridge will span the railroad and touch down intersecting with Warren Street.
  - Hammond Street will go under Hively Ave. and create an intersection with Lowell Ave and Sterling Ave.
  - Hamond Ave. & Warren Street will be redesigned for truck traffic.
- The project is to provide safety improvements by eliminating train and car conflicts and remove delays in travel.

## LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS – Covered land acquisition topics.

Environmental – Public Hearing anticipated in April, 2022.

- Appraisal and Appraisal Review – Anticipate appraiser in 4 weeks and explained the three 93) contacts below will be notified by appraiser to setup the property inspection.
  - The Review Appraiser evaluates the appraisal report for conformity with the Federal and State requirements.
  - The appraiser will conduct an inspection of the property and the property owner is invited to attend.
  - After appraisal review of the report the City of Elkhart will approve the award value established by the appraisal report.
- Acquisition – The Offer will not be extended until the environmental document is approved about **July thru September**.
  - The Land Agent will contact Kevin Scott, Chief Financial Officer to present the offer in person and prior by certified mail. Mr. Scott noted he has worked with Mr. Jones previously.
  - The parcel owner, by law, has 30 days to review the offer. A copy of the appraisal report will be provided at the time of the offer.
- Relocation – Not Applicable

### Meeting Notes:

CONTACTS: The Elkhart Community Schools preferred contacts will be Kevin Scott, Chief Financial Officer, 574.262.5553, [kscott@elkhart.k12.in.us](mailto:kscott@elkhart.k12.in.us); Tony Gianesi, Chief Operating Officer, 574.262.5563, [tgianesi@elkhart.k12.in.us](mailto:tgianesi@elkhart.k12.in.us); and April Walker, Principal, 574.295.4860, [awalker@rlkhart.k12.in.us](mailto:awalker@rlkhart.k12.in.us)

### Other topics to note:

- Noted there are 4 empty lots to west of Sanders Ave. the school owns and can be rented for project trailers or other use.
- Need to have the RW line avoid the new electronic sign.
- The school is going to be under renovation in 2023 but no future expansion.
- Acknowledged the acquisition has minimal impact to school operations and needed use.

The next contact will be the appraiser and then the buyer, their contact information is as follows:

The Appraiser contact information is:  
Jeff Vale, MAI  
Vale Appraisal Group  
219.769.1335  
[jeffvalemaj@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvalemaj@gmail.com)

The Buyer contact Information is:  
William Jones  
Right-of-Way Jones, Inc.  
260.471.6515  
[bill@rowjones.net](mailto:bill@rowjones.net)

## **PROJECT PARCEL MEETING: Parcel 01 Jorge Tresos (EL Rosal Grocery Store) KTM Meeting: March 30, 2022**

### INTRODUCTORY

- Introductions:
- Purpose Meeting: To provide direct parcel and contact information:
  - Right-of-Way Project Manager: James Deahl, P.E.; 371-225-3202; [jdeahl.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:jdeahl.consulting@gmail.com) - Attended
  - Design Project Manager: Charles Boltz, P.E., Michael Baker International; 317-938-8542; [Charles.boltz@mbakerintl.com](mailto:Charles.boltz@mbakerintl.com) - Attended

### PROJECT NEED – Covered topics and provided the plan sheet information.

- Hively Avenue overpass over Norfolk and Southern Railroad to eliminate the at grade crossing.
- The project design will create:
  - A new intersection for Hively Ave. and Roosevelt Ave.
  - A new intersection with Main St. & Roosevelt as a T intersection. [Provided the plan sheet reflecting the new intersection design and the RW impact to the supermarket site. The site appears to lose three \(3\) parking places at the southeast corner of the parking lot.](#)
  - The new bridge will span the railroad and touch down intersecting with Warren Street.
  - Hammond Street will go under Hively Ave. and create an intersection with Lowell Ave and Sterling Ave.
  - Hamond Ave. & Warren Street will be redesigned for truck traffic.
- The project is to provide safety improvements by eliminating train and car conflicts and remove delays in travel.

### LAND ACQUISITION PROCESS – Covered land acquisition topics.

Environmental – Public Hearing anticipated in April, 2022.

- Appraisal and Appraisal Review – [Anticipate appraiser in 4 weeks and explained he will be notified by appraiser to setup the property inspection.](#)
  - The Review Appraiser evaluates the appraisal report for conformity with the Federal and State requirements.
  - The appraiser will conduct an inspection of the property and the property owner is invited to attend.
  - After appraisal review of the report the City of Elkhart will approve the award value established by the appraisal report.



# JDeahl Consulting LLC

- Acquisition – The Offer will not be extended until the environmental document is approved about **July thru September**.
  - The Land Agent will contact the parcel owner to present the offer in person and prior by certified mail.
  - The parcel owner, by law, has 30 days to review the offer. A copy of the appraisal report will be provided at the time of the offer.
- Relocation – Not Applicable

## Meeting Notes:

The supermarket EL Rosal contact information is **Fabian Corro, President**

Telephone: 574.309.7211

Email: [elrosalsupermarket@gmail.com](mailto:elrosalsupermarket@gmail.com)

Address: 201 West Union Street, Ligonier, IN 46767

Property owner is Jorge Traso, Mr. Corro is buying the property under contract and said he will work with Mr. Traso on the acquisition.

## Notes on other areas of concern or interest:

- Parking lot: The appraiser will evaluate the parking need based on the zoning requirements for the current use and the market demand.
- If there is a determination of a parking loss, then there are possibilities to cure the loss. One possibility is engineering the parking lot to accommodate more parking. The other option is a determination of damages to loss of parking.
- Mr. Corro identified the need of the project and community benefit of the bridge over the railroad. However, the supermarket was relocated from another railroad bridge project.
- Mr. Corro was pleased that Main Street was going to remain open. There may be short closing for the construction activity.

The next contact will be the appraiser and then the buyer, their contact information is as follows:

## The Appraiser contact information is:

Erick P. Landeen, MAI

Terzo & Bologna Inc.

317.849.9925

[epl@terzo.com](mailto:epl@terzo.com)

## The Buyer contact Information is:

William Jones

Right-of-Way Jones, Inc.

260.471.6515

[bill@rowjones.net](mailto:bill@rowjones.net)