**DES. # 1700182**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT – US 31 and SR 135/Thompson Road in Marion County**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are planning to proceed with an intersection improvement project at the intersection of US 31 and SR 135/Thompson Road in Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. The need for this project is reduced traffic flow and efficiency along US 31, excessive traffic queuing that interferes with the I-465 exit ramp, and poor pedestrian facilities at the intersection. The purpose of this project is to improve traffic operations of the intersection and increase pedestrian accessibility.

The proposed construction activities will modify the existing signalized intersection to a partial displaced left turn intersection. A displaced left turn intersection, also called a continuous flow intersection, is an alternative design for an at-grade intersection. This configuration moves the left turn conflict out of the intersection and synchronizes it with the signal cycle of the intersecting road. In the same way as a regular intersection, all traffic flow is controlled by traffic signals. This project will displace the left turns for both US 31 northbound and US 31 southbound. This requires traffic to turn left in advance of the main intersection at US 31 and SR 135/Thompson Road. US 31 northbound to westbound SR 135/Thompson Road would turn left 400 feet in advance of the main intersection, utilizing a new traffic signal. US 31 southbound to eastbound SR 135/Thompson Road would turn left at Elbert Street (600 feet north of the main intersection), also utilizing a new traffic signal. Reconstruction of the medians, relocations of the stop bars, and restriping of pavement will occur in order to allow for the displaced left turns. Additional right turn lanes will be constructed to accommodate traffic, including large trucks, turning right from SR 135/Thompson Road onto US 31. The I-465 eastbound to US 31 southbound exit ramp will be reconfigured from a free flow movement to a signalized intersection with US 31 southbound. Pedestrian crossings through the intersection will be provided north and south of SR 135/Thompson Road, and sidewalks will be constructed along US 31 on both sides of the street to connect the intersection to the bus stops located south of the intersection. The project will require approximately 2.24 acres of permanent right-of-way and 0.37 acre of temporary right-of-way. One commercial relocation is anticipated. This project involves federal and state funding sources totaling approximately $4,850,000.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) for the project will be contained within the existing roadway, reducing traffic to two lanes in each direction during construction. INDOT is coordinating all projects within the area to prevent multiple closures at the same time.

FHWA and INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion Level 4 Environmental Document. No significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment were found during the creation of this document.

All interested parties are hereby notified of the availability of the environmental document for inspection and the preliminary design plans for viewing at the following website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/2704.htm>.

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed. Please contact Kate Williams, HNTB Corporation, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-917-5332 or [klwilliams@HNTB.com](mailto:klwilliams@HNTB.com).

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act”, if you have a disability for which INDOT needs to provide accessibility to the above documents such as interpreters or readers, please contact Kate Williams, HNTB Corporation, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-917-5332 or klwilliams@HNTB.com.

All interested persons may request a public hearing, or express their concerns, by submitting comments to the attention of Kate Williams, HNTB Corporation, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-917-5332 or klwilliams@HNTB.com on or before August 15, 2020. If a hearing is determined to be in the best interest of the public, additional notification will be prepared and the public notified. Otherwise, any comments or materials received will be considered in the decision-making process.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.” 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 provide full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate.”; and 3) The INDOT *Public Involvement Policies and Procedures* approved by the FHWA on August 16, 2012.