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# U.S. 35 Pavement Replacement and Outfall Utilities Project from Boyd Boulevard to S.R. 2 in City of La Porte and La Porte County

Indiana Department of Transportation

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:00 p.m.

# Welcome

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- Purpose/explanation of public hearing
- Public hearing format
- Visit our sign-in table
- Informational handouts
- Participate during public comment session
- Submit written public comments
- Project display area



# U.S. 35 Pavement Replacement and Outfall Utilities

- Introduction of INDOT Project Team
  - La Porte District Office
    - Project Management
    - Design
    - Environmental Services
    - Real Estate
    - Communications
  - Lawson-Fisher Associates
    - Engineering and Design Team
  - Metric Environmental
- Recognition of elected and local public officials
- Sign-in at attendance table to be added to project mailing list
- A public hearing notice was mailed to known property owners within project area
- Announcement of this hearing was posted to INDOT website. A media release was also issued
- A copy of presentation and project documentation is available on-line via INDOT website
- Legal notice publishing:
  - La Porte County Herald Dispatch
  - Hometown News Now
    - February 21, 2024
    - February 28, 2024

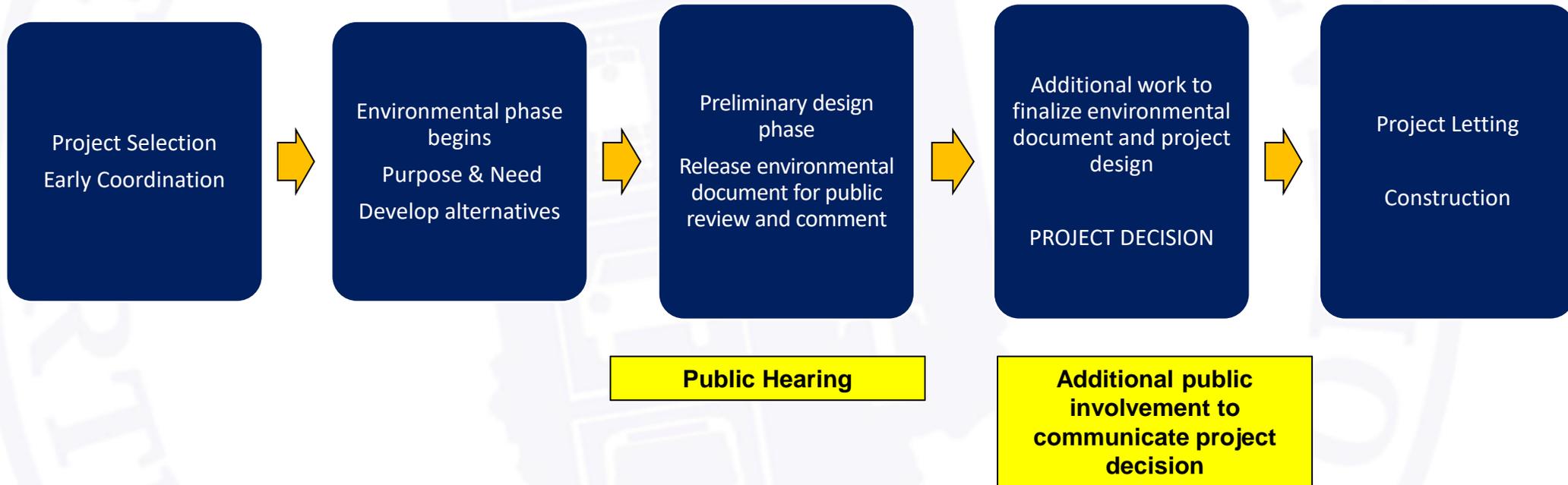
# Project Stakeholders

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- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highway Administration
- La Porte County
- City of La Porte
- Elected & Local officials
- Residents and citizens
- Commuters
- Businesses
- Emergency services
- Schools
- Community Organizations
- Churches



# Project Development



# Environmental Document

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## **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

- Requires 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?
- **Environmental document released for public involvement**
  - February 2024
  - Is available for public review
  - Categorical Exclusion Level 2 Document – based on ROW and Cultural Resource impacts

# Environmental Document

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- **Environmental Process**

- Establish Purpose and Need
- Develop possible alternatives
  - The “No Build” 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

# U.S. 35 Pavement Replacement and Outfall Utilities

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## Purpose

- To overall improve pavement condition of US 35 to a good condition, to update curbing and inadequate pedestrian facilities, and to modernize and improve capacity of water and stormwater facilities.

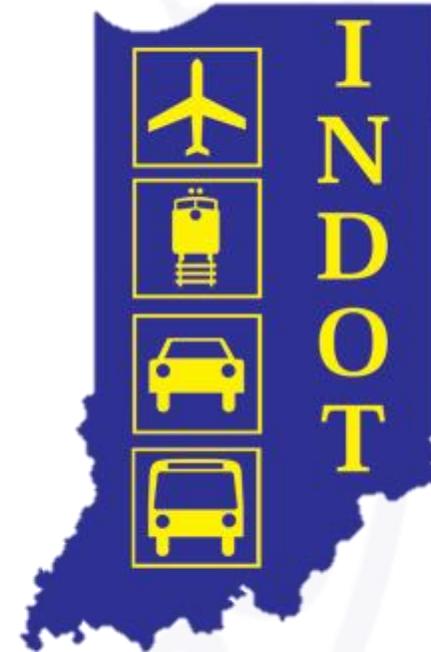
## Need

- The existing poor soil condition is unsuitable for roadbed material, has poor drainage characteristics, is highly susceptible to frost action and is a significant factor to the lack of long-term viability of the corridor infrastructure within the City of LaPorte.
- The existing underground utilities (combined sewer network and water system utility) are in poor condition based on the age of the utilities (both over 100 years old) and the utility materials.
- Many sidewalks and curb ramps will be impacted with the proposed project / utility replacement and are not compliant with current Federal and INDOT standards.

# Types of items evaluated

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- Right-of-way
- Streams, Wetlands, and Other Waters
- Floodplains
- Endangered Species
- Farmland
- Cultural Resources (Historic/Archaeological)
- Parks and Recreational Lands (Trails)
- Air Quality
- Community Impacts
- Public Involvement



# Project Impacts and Mitigation - Environmental

## IMPACTS

- Right-of-way
- Utilities
- Wetlands
- Terrestrial Impacts
- Farmland
- Cultural Resources (Historic/Archaeological)
  - Trees
  - Brick Pavers / Carriage Walks

## MITIGATION

- Agreement for Historic Resources Impacts
  - Tree Replacement and Warranty, Restoration of Property and Landscape, Vibration investigations, and Historic Property Record and Photo Journal



# Public Involvement

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- **Notice of Entry for Survey – 2021**
  - Letters mailed to properties within general area
    - Gather data for environmental analysis
- **Public involvement process – July 25, 2023 and March 6, 2024**
  - Opportunity for public to provide input regarding the proposed project
- **Communicate project decision March 2024**
  - INDOT seeking public comment and input regarding proposed project

# Project Resource Locations

- **INDOT La Porte District Office**

315 Boyd Boulevard, La Porte, IN 46350

- Planning, Project Development/Delivery, Construction, Maintenance for Northwest Indiana
- <http://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>

- **La Porte County Public Library – Main Building**

904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350

- **INDOT Public Involvement Process**

[www.in.gov/indot/public-involvement/public-involvement/the-public-involvement-process](http://www.in.gov/indot/public-involvement/public-involvement/the-public-involvement-process)

**Visit Project Web Page** [on.in.gov/US35-2-15](http://on.in.gov/US35-2-15)

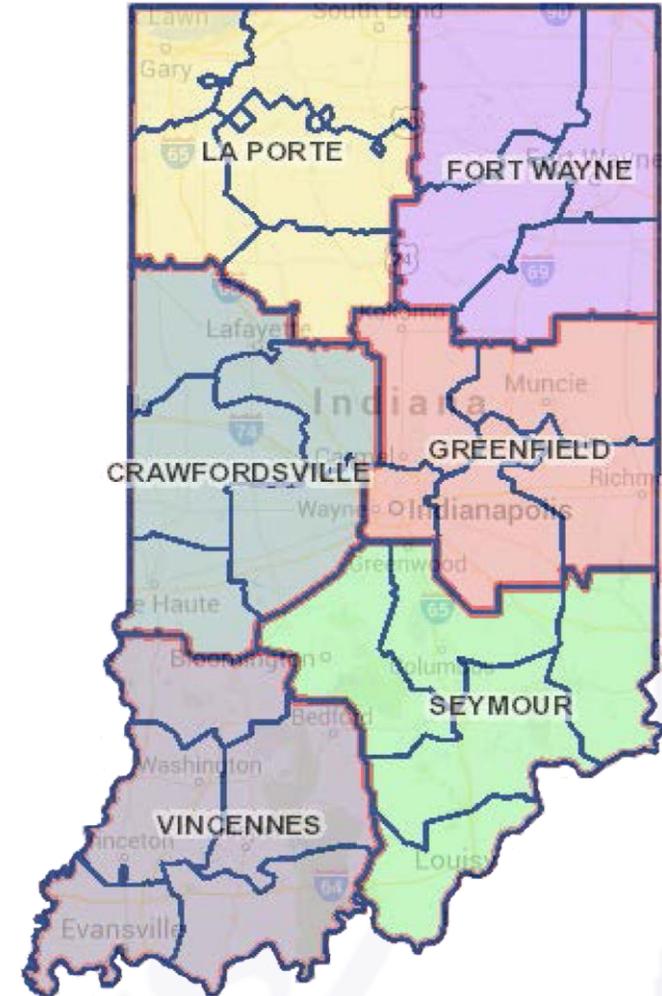
## Transportation Services Call Center

Provides citizen and business customers with a single point-of-contact to request transportation services, obtain information, or provide feedback through multiple channels of communications.

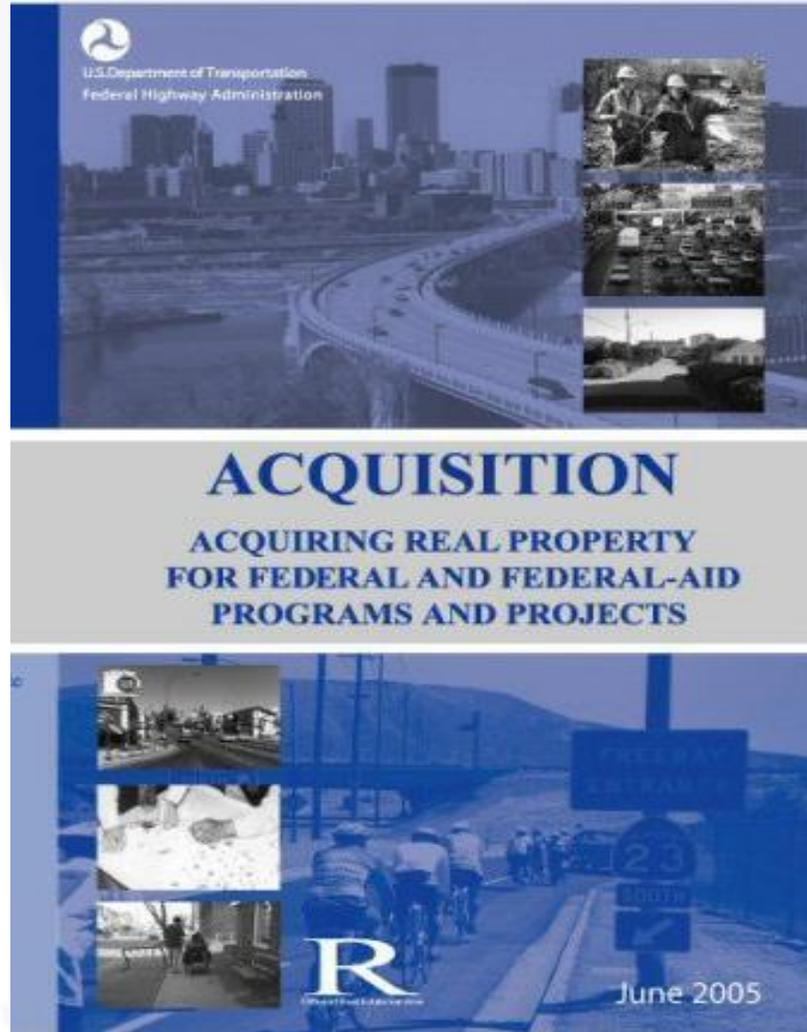
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855-463-6848



# Real Estate



# Real Estate Acquisition Process

- **"Uniform Act of 1970"**

- All federal, state and local governments must comply
- Requires an offer for just compensation

- **Acquisition Process**

- Appraisals
- Review Appraisals
- Negotiation
- **Right-of-Way (ROW) needed for project**
  - 4.37 acre of permanent new ROW (mostly agricultural)
  - Less than 0.01 acre temporary ROW
  - 3.81 acres of permanent easement
- INDOT Real Estate Team to work with impacted property owners

- **Right-of-Way (ROW)**

- **Permanent ROW**

- Land, once purchased by INDOT from legal land owner, becomes ROW owned by INDOT

- **Existing apparent ROW**

- Existing apparent ROW - INDOT acquired land by Highway Grant some years ago, transactions in some cases were not properly recorded, requires further action by INDOT

- **Temporary ROW**

- 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 and/or as part of construction-related activities

# Alternatives Considered

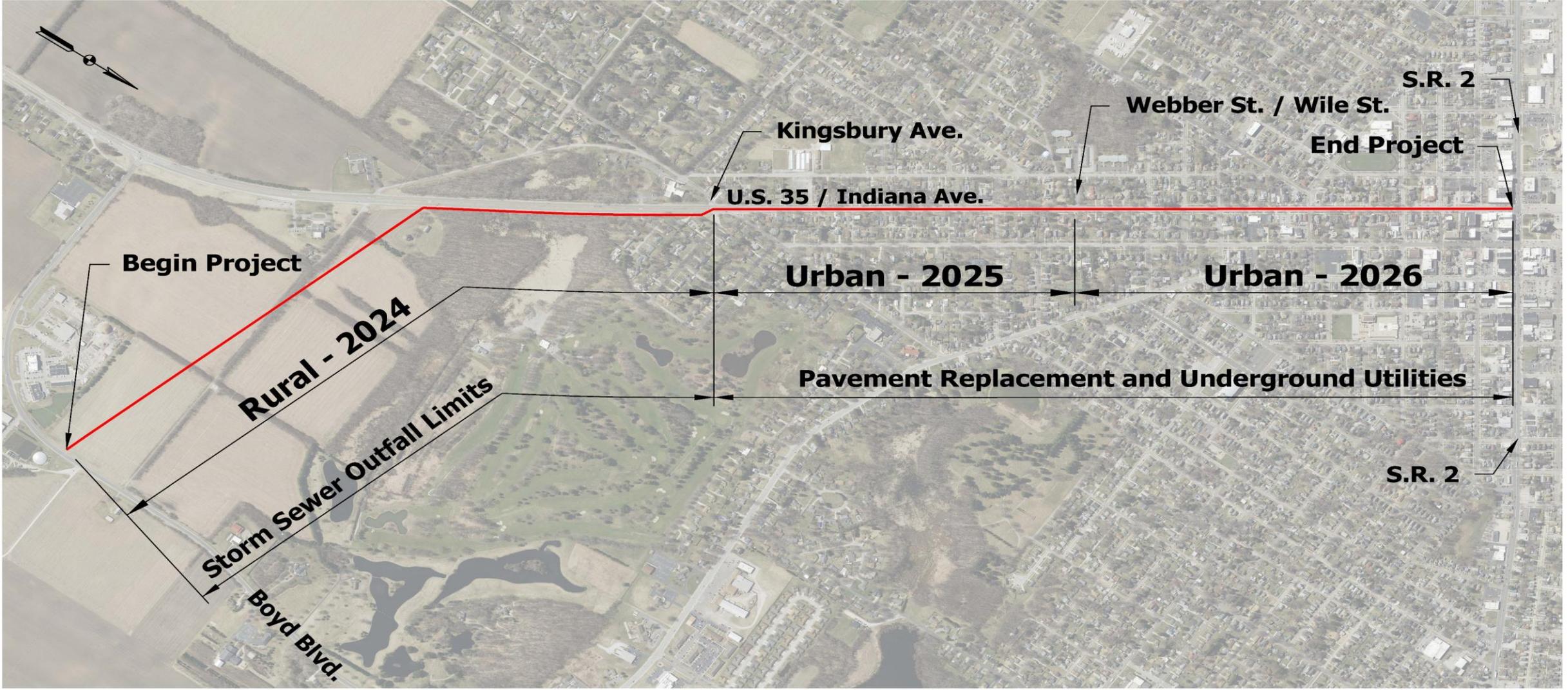
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- No Build Alternative
  - Baseline for comparison of build alternative
  - Does not meet purpose and need of project
  - Does not improve condition of the pavement & aging infrastructure under the pavement
  - Does not improve drainage issues within corridor
- Full Depth Reconstruction & Utility Upgrades
  - Separate storm collection outfall
  - Replacement and upsizing of water and sanitary sewer infrastructure
  - Traffic calming measures
  - Traffic Signal upgrades
  - Ornamental Lighting
  - Tree removal and replacement

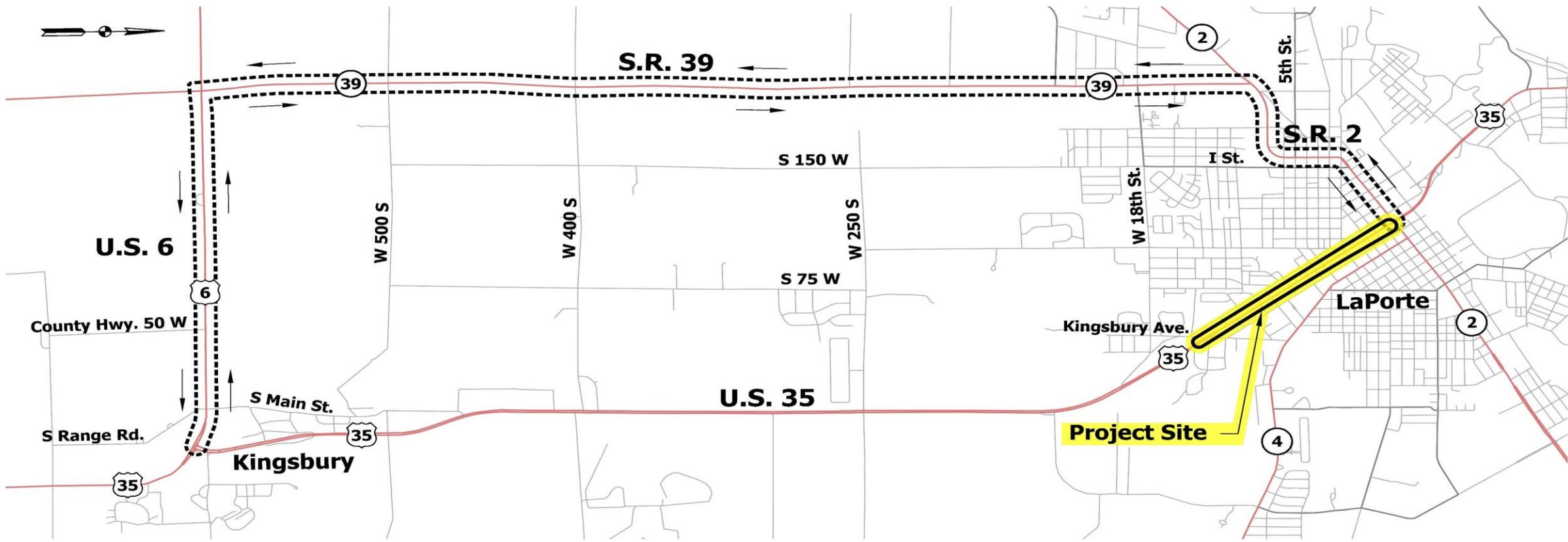
# U.S. 35 Pavement Replacement and Outfall Utilities

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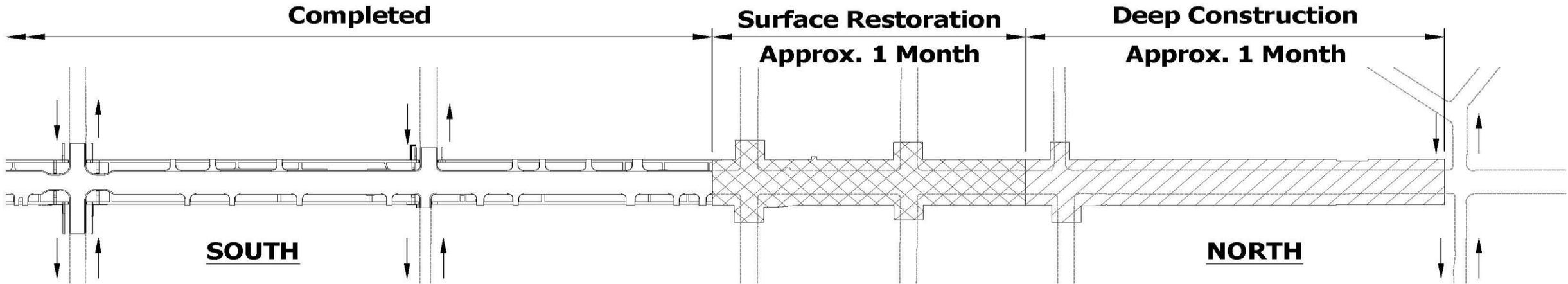
- Intersection improvements at Kingsbury Ave
- Curb bumpouts at South Ave, Warwick St., Alexander St., Osborn St., Harrison St., and Maple Ave.
- Left turn lane at Osborn on U.S. 35
- Two-way left turn lane between Harrison St and S.R.2
- Curb line adjustment and signal upgrade between Harrison St. and S.R. 2
- Drainage Improvements
- New Driveway approaches to R/W
- New sanitary laterals and water services replacement within R/W
- New ornamental lights
- Cantilever Signal poles at 4 intersections
- Storm sewer detention basin at Boyd Blvd.
- Construction in Phases, Traffic to be detoured
- Pedestrian traffic to be maintained and detoured
- Estimate Project Cost: \$36.5 million to be addressed through Federal matching funds and local funding



**PROJECT LIMITS AND APPROXIMATE TIMELINE**



**U.S. 35 MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC DETOUR ROUTE**

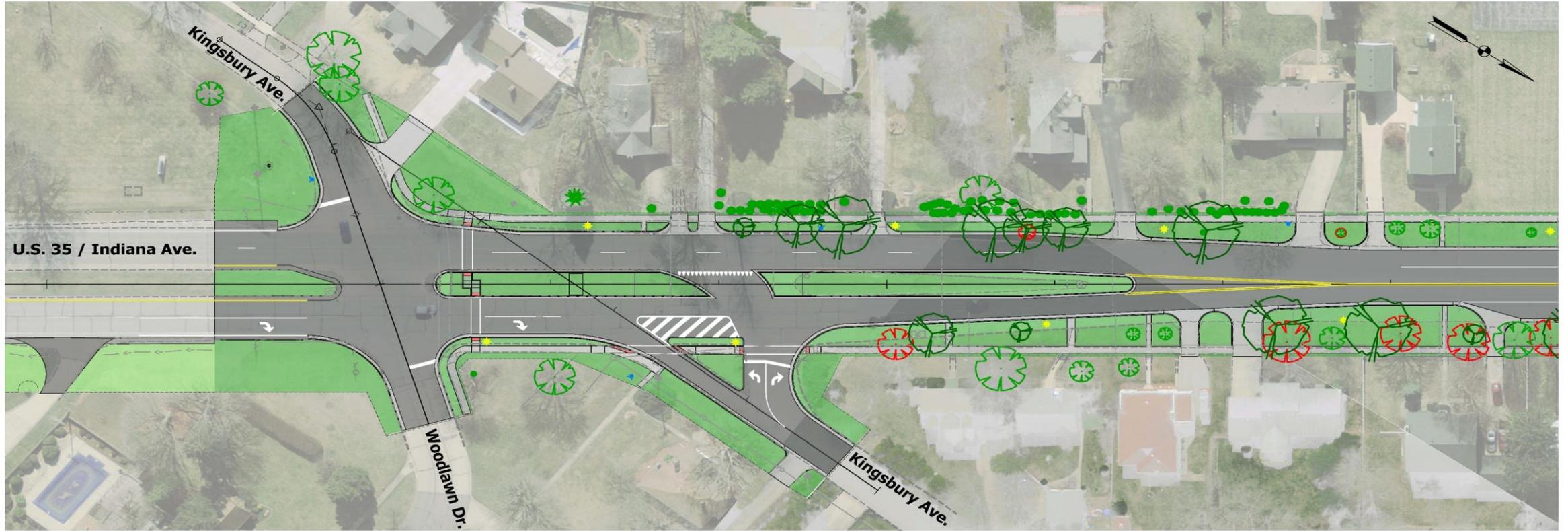


**U.S. 35 / INDIANA AVE. - URBAN CORRIDOR LIMITS TYPICAL MOVING OPERATION**



**PROPOSED WORK AREAS**

290+00      291+00      292+00      293+00      294+00      295+00      296+00      297+00      298+00      299+00

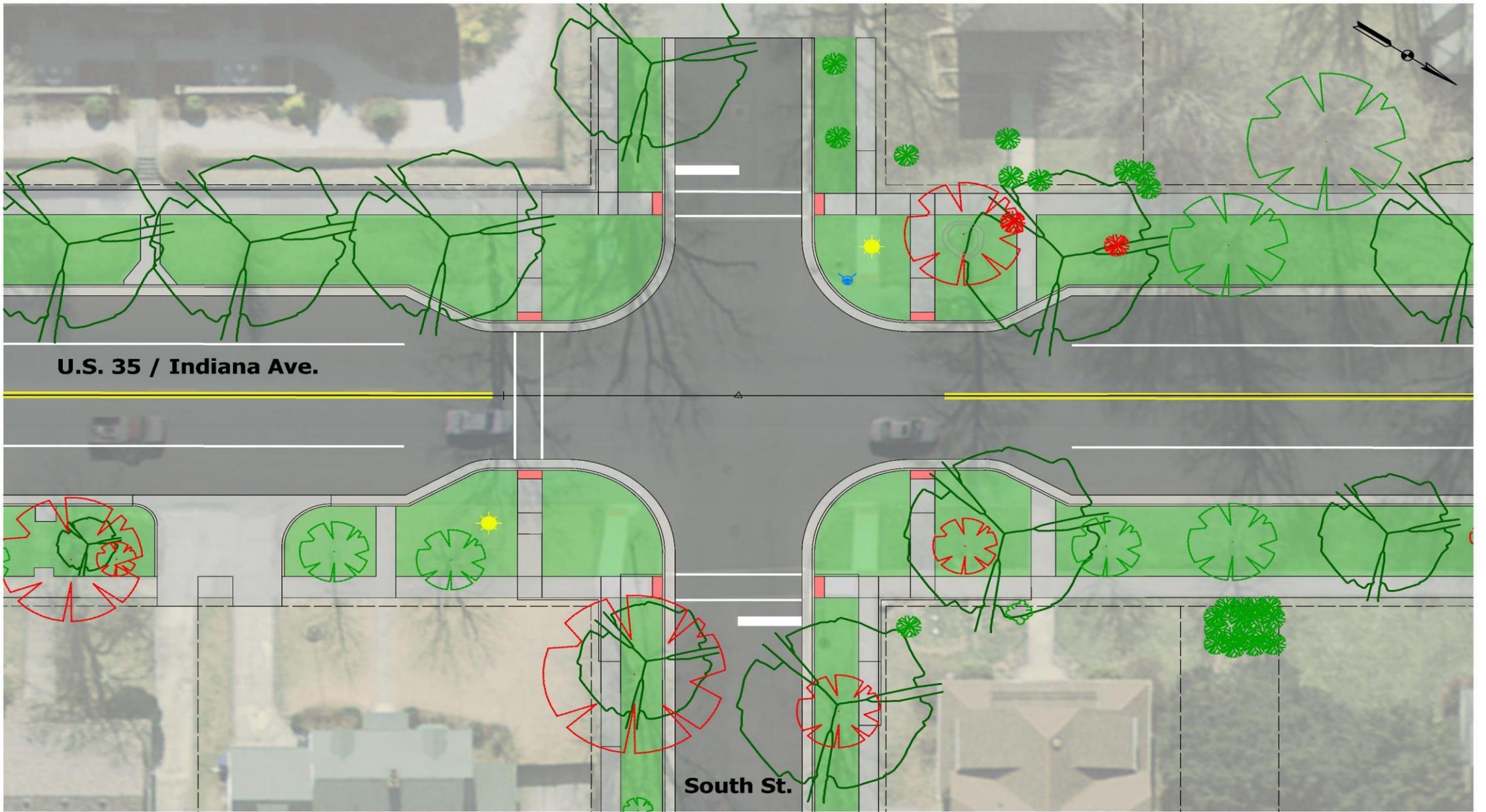


**U.S. 35 / INDIANA AVE. - KINGSBURY AVE. - WOODLAWN DR. RECONSTRUCTION**

**LEGEND:**

- |   |                             |   |   |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
|  | Existing Tree to be Removed |  | Asphalt Pavement                              |
|  | Existing Tree to Remain     |  | Nursery Sodding                               |
|  | Proposed Tree               |  | Concrete Sidewalk/Drive/Curb                  |
|  | Proposed Light Pole         |  | Concrete Curb Ramp Detectable Warning Surface |
|  | Proposed Hydrant            |   |   |



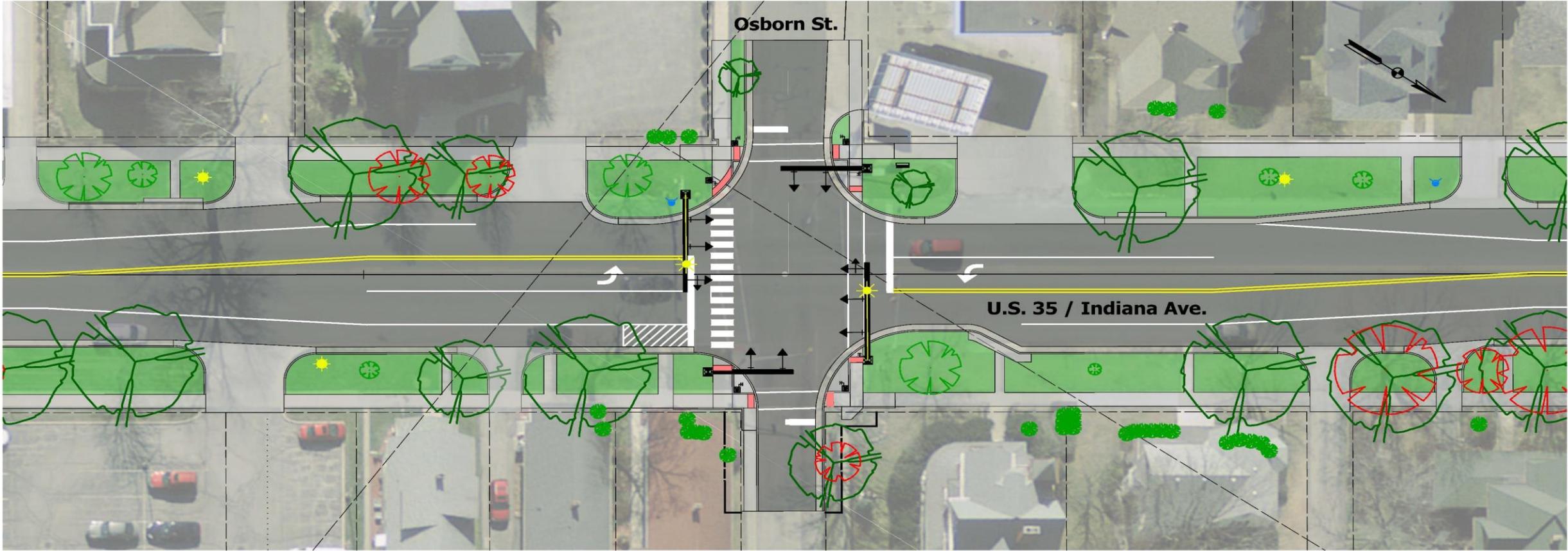


**U.S. 35 / Indiana Ave.**

**South St.**

**U.S. 35 / INDIANA AVE. AND SOUTH ST. BUMPOUT**





**U.S. 35 / INDIANA AVE. AND OSBORN ST. BUMPOUT**

349+00

350+00

351+00

352+00

353+00

354+00

355+00

356+00

357+00

358+00

Building Already Removed

U.S. 35 / Indiana Ave.

Harrison St.

Maple Ave.

Jefferson Ave.

S.R. 2 / Lincolnway

### U.S. 35 / INDIANA AVE. - HARRISON ST. TO S.R. 2 / LINCOLNWAY RECONSTRUCTION

**LEGEND:**



Existing Tree to be Removed



Existing Tree to Remain



Proposed Tree

Proposed Light Pole

Proposed Hydrant



9' Pedestrian Pushbutton Pedestal



Mast Arm and Pole



1-Way, 4-Section Traffic Signal Head (12" Red Arrow Lt., 12" Amber Arrow Lt., 12" Amber Flashing Arrow Lt., 12" Green Arrow Lt. (LED))



1-Way, 3-Section Traffic Signal Head (12" Red, Amber, Green (LED))



Signal Cabinet



Asphalt Pavement



Nursery Sodding



Concrete Sidewalk/Drive/Curb



Concrete Curb Ramp Detectable Warning Surface



Brick Pavers

# Project Schedule

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- Public Hearing: March 6, 2024
- Public comments requested by Friday, March 22, 2024
- INDOT review and consideration of public comments – March and April 2024
  - Finalize environmental document
  - Reach project decision
  - Complete design
  - Inform community and project stakeholders of project decision
- Proposed construction: 2024-2026, anticipate completion by Thanksgiving 2026
  - U.S. 35 closed 2025 and 2026
  - Pavement construction suspended during the winter

# Submit Public Comments

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- **Submit public comments using the options described in first page of information packet:**
  - Public Comment Form
  - Via e-mail
  - Participating during public comment session via microphone
  - Verbal comments recorded and transcribed for inclusion into public hearings transcript
- **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Friday, March 22, 2024**
- All comments submitted will become part of public record, entered into transcript, reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during decision making process.

# Next Steps

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- **Public and project stakeholder input**
  - Submit comments via options described in project handout
- **INDOT review and evaluation**
  - All comments are given full consideration during decision-making process
  - Address comments, 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**

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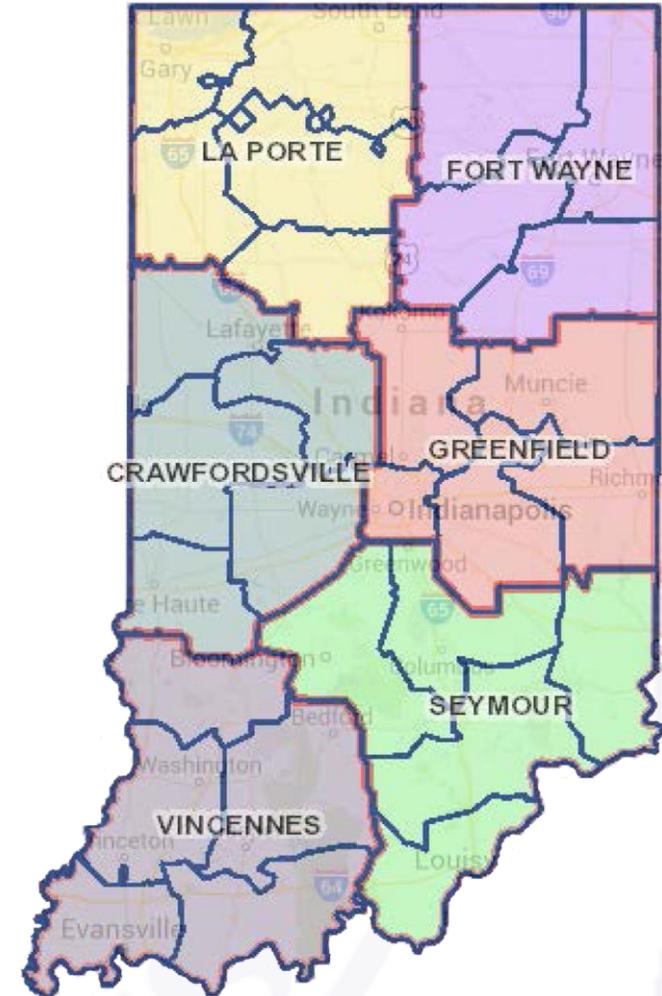
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# Public Comment Session

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- **Please visit with INDOT project officials following the public comment session**
- **Project Open House**
  - Project maps, displays, INDOT project team and informal Q & A
  - INDOT La Porte District page <http://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>
  - Comment forms may be turned in at the handout table