



## NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT

### Intersection Improvement Project on U.S. 24 at Wabash Street in Wabash County

March 2025

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) held a public hearing in October 2024 for a proposed improvement project located on U.S. 24 at Wabash Street in the city of Wabash in Wabash County, Indiana. This public hearing was held as part of the environmental analysis phase as required per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public involvement is an important element of a comprehensive decision-making process. The need for the proposed intersection improvement project is due to the high number of crashes occurring between high-speed vehicles on U.S. 24 and lower-speed vehicles coming from Wabash Street. The purpose of this project is to improve safety, by reducing the number of traffic conflict points and occurrences of right-angle crashes resulting in fatality and or injury, and reduce fatal and incapacitating injuries by 25% in 10 years.

The INDOT preferred alternative is a reduced conflict intersection (RCI) that will reconstruct the median island so that it restricts left turn and through traffic movements from Wabash Street but allows left turns from U.S. 24. Left turn lanes will be extended along U.S. 24 with U-turn access points located approximately 800 feet east and west of the main intersection. Mountable curbs will be utilized in the median to allow emergency vehicles traveling through the intersection to turn left onto U.S. 24. The existing left turn lanes will be closed by installing pavement markings, and the right turn lanes will be extended to accommodate turning movements from trucks utilizing the U-turn. Lighting will be installed at the U-turn access points. As a result of comments received at the public hearing, INDOT updated the design of the turning radius at the northwest quadrant of U.S. 24 and LaSalle Road to accommodate large trucks and farm equipment. This includes the milling and resurfacing of the existing pavement and the addition of up to 12 feet of pavement at the north radius of the intersection of U.S. 24 and LaSalle Road.

The preferred alternative will result in approximately 0.049 acre of permanent and 0.001 acre of temporary impacts to wetlands for construction of the RCI, grading activities, and construction access. Additionally, approximately 3.25 acres of terrestrial habitat disturbance is anticipated for construction of the project. No permanent or temporary right-of-way will be required for this project. Every effort to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate project impacts have been made. The overall environmental impacts of the project will be reduced by minimizing the construction footprint of the project, installing temporary erosion control measures around the construction limits, revegetating bare areas after project completion, and directing temporary lighting away from suitable habitat during the active season.

Additional details regarding the U.S. 24 at Wabash Street intersection improvement project are available via the INDOT District webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/us-24-at-wabash-st.-intersection-improvement-project/>. Response to comments received during the public hearing are included in the final environmental document.

The purpose of this notice is to communicate the status of this project to community members. As part of INDOT's commitment to public involvement, it is important to keep the community informed of project developments. This is also an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase and transition to the next phase of development.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the public hearing held at the Honeywell Center on October 29, 2024, **INDOT will advance this project to the next phase of development with construction anticipated to begin in 2025.** Environmental analysis documentation has been updated to include public involvement and response to comments received and will remain available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

1. Wabash Carnegie Public Library, 188 W. Hill St., Wabash, IN 46992
2. INDOT project webpage – <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/us-24-at-wabash-st.-intersection-improvement-project/>
3. INDOT Fort Wayne District Office – 5333 Hatfield Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46808