



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

DES. # 1700089

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Improvement of the Intersection of US 24 and SR 19 in Miami County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Wednesday August 18, 2021 at the Peru High School, 401 N Broadway, IN 46970. The doors will be open at 5:00 p.m. to give participants time to view displays and talk to project representatives prior to the start of the meeting. The Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. Please enter through door #7 of the east side of the High School. To accommodate those unable to attend in person, the public meeting presentation and comment period will also be broadcast live via the INDOT Northeast Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/INDOTNortheast/>. In addition, a video recording of the presentation to be presented at the public hearing has been made available for viewing at <https://www.in.gov/indot/4265.htm>.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for a proposed intersection improvement project at United States Highway (US) 24 and State Route (SR) 19 in Peru, Indiana, Miami County (DES 1700089). Specifically, the project proposes to convert the existing two-way stop-controlled intersection into a reduced conflict intersection (RCI).

The purpose of the project is to enhance safety at the intersection by reducing the frequency and severity of vehicular collisions at this location.

The preferred alternative is to reconfigure the intersection into a reduced conflict intersection with a median closure. This alternative will reduce conflict points and thereby increase safety at this location by removing the ability for traffic on SR 19 to cross US 24 to make left turns. Traffic on SR 19 wishing to turn left onto US 24 will make a right turn onto US 24 before using the U-turn within the median to head in the opposite direction. Traffic on US 24 wishing to turn left onto SR 19 will continue on US 24 past SR 19 before using the U-turn within the median to head in the opposite direction before turning right onto SR 19. Median delineators will be constructed at the US 24 and SR 19 intersection to prevent traffic from cutting through the median. There will be no access to Lovers Lane north of US 24. Lovers Lane Road south of US 24 will be converted to a "right-in, right-out" only access point. These access restrictions will increase the operational safety of the reduced conflict intersection.

Proposed construction of the intersection improvement is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2022 and would be constructed utilizing phased construction.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project includes temporary lane and shoulder closures. MOT details will be presented during the public hearing. Access to properties will be maintained at all times during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible.

The project will not require permanent or temporary new right-of-way, impact wetlands, or affect historic properties.

Federal and State funds are anticipated to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 4 environmental document with minimal environmental impact anticipated. Preliminary design plans, along with the CE document, are available for review at the following locations:

1. INDOT Fort Wayne District Website (<https://www.in.gov/indot/4265.htm>)
2. Peru Public Library, 102 E Main Street, Peru, IN 46970, Phone # (765) 473-3069

Project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. Please contact Rich Connolly, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or rconnolly@HNTB.com or 317-636-4682.

The in-person public meeting will include appropriate social distancing measures. Hand sanitation stations will be available.

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to: Rich Connolly, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or rconnolly@HNTB.com. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by September 2, 2021.**

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact Rich Connolly, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis IN 46204 or rconnolly@HNTB.com.

This notice is published in compliance with 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." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary." approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on August 16, 2012.