DES. # 1800091

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for the proposed interchange modification at I-69 and SR 14/Illinois Road in Allen County.

The purpose of this project is to improve safety of the interchange associated with the existing weaving conflicts between traffic on SR 14 and the loop ramps. Weaving is defined as “the crossing of two or more traffic streams traveling in the same general direction along a significant length of highway without the aid of traffic control devices. The need for the project is due to the weaving conflicts as evidenced by the crash frequency and crash type distribution. Rear-end, ran-off-road, and same-direction-sideswipe crashes are indicative of weaving conflicts, and the crash frequency is higher than expected at this location. The traffic volumes are also higher than desirable for a full cloverleaf interchange.

The project proposes to remove the northeast loop ramp and expand the southeast diagonal exit ramp, which will be realigned to intersect perpendicularly with SR 14. The final configuration will have one left-turn lane and two right-turn lanes. A signal will be added, and the barrier wall will be removed at the ramp terminal at SR 14 to allow for left-turning movements. Additionally, the acceleration lanes for the loop ramps onto I-69 will be extended.

The proposed construction of this project will not require the acquisition of any permanent or temporary right-of-way.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan for the interchange modification proposes temporary single-lane and shoulder closures and a maximum 30-day closure of the off ramp from NB I-69 to EB Illinois Road. An official detour utilizing Jefferson Road will be used during construction. Local roads may be used by local traffic. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations, local officials and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is Spring 2021.

The construction cost associated with this project is approximately $2.5 million with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 4 environmental document. Preliminary design plans, along with the CE, are available for review on the following website:

<https://www.in.gov/indot/2703.htm>

**All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Kimberly Saunders, INDOT Fort Wayne District, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 or** [ksaunders@indot.in.gov](mailto:ksaunders@indot.in.gov) **on or before July 17, 2020.** Copies of project information may be mailed upon request.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT Fort Wayne District Offices for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Kimberly Saunders at 260-969-8319 or ksaunders@indot.in.gov. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact the INDOT Fort Wayne District Offices.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, “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 provides 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 Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2012.