**DES. # 1801935**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Proposed Improvement CR 1300 N Extension in Kosciusko County**

**The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on April 29, 2021 at the Kosciusko County Justice Building, 121 N Lake Street, Warsaw, IN.** The doors will be open at 5 pm to give participants time to view displays and talk to project representatives prior to the meeting. The Public Hearing will start at 6:00pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans of a grade separation that extends CR 1300 N over Norfolk Southern Railroad to connect to SR 15, north of the Town of Milford in Kosciusko County. The purpose of the project is to improve local and regional mobility by providing a connection between the communities of Milford, Syracuse, Goshen, and Warsaw.

As proposed, the project involves the construction of an overpass bridge that will eliminate the need to use the at-grade crossings of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in the Towns of Milford and Milford Junction. Main Street will be realigned to the east to allow for the new bridge to cross both the Norfolk Southern Railroad and Main Street. The proposed extension of CR 1300 N will terminate at SR 15 and will be controlled by a stop sign. The proposed bridge will provide two 12-foot wide travel lanes, one in each direction, with 9-foot 6-inch shoulders. The CR 1300 N extension roadway will provide two 12-foot wide travel lanes with 8-foot paved shoulders. New underdrains and guardrails will be installed as needed throughout the project area. Main Street will retain its 10-foot travel lanes with 2-foot usable shoulders. SR 15 will retain its existing configuration but will be widened near the proposed intersection with the CR 1300 N extension to allow for a right turn lane for northbound traffic from SR 15 to CR 1300 N and a passing blister for southbound traffic on SR 15. The proposed roadway in this section will include two 12-foot travel lanes, one 12-foot right turn lane, and one 12-foot passing blister. The usable shoulders will be 8 feet wide on the east side of SR 15 and 4 feet wide on the west side of SR 15.

This alternative meets the purpose and need of the project to provide a connection from the current endpoint of CR 1300 N at Old SR 15/Old Street Road to SR 15 that does not require motorists to travel north or south on Old SR 15, which contributes to congestion and traffic delays when trains are traveling through the Town of Milford and Milford Junction on the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The project will construct a new, continuous roadway that connects two existing roadways, SR 15 and CR 1300 N.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves closures of Main Street, Old SR 15/Old Street Road, and CR 1300 N. MOT details will be presented during the public hearing. Access to all properties will be maintained 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 require approximately 15.44 acre of permanent new right-of-way, in addition to approximately 0.33 acre temporary right-of-way needed during construction.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view on INDOT’s website prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available on-line via the INDOT Fort Wayne District website at [https://www.in.gov/indot/4281.htm](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.in.gov%2Findot%2F4281.htm&data=04%7C01%7CLaura.Jack%40mbakerintl.com%7C950f7210c856441c31d608d8fdde9878%7C4e1ee3db4df64142b7b9bec15f171ca4%7C0%7C0%7C637538479789227444%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Uo0Bm1DCgZmeP%2F7QOXIHOBxj5k2LIqf%2BUlwbRmnYVh0%3D&reserved=0)[.](http://www.FortWayne.indot.in.gov.) The project documents will also be available at a public viewing location:

Milford Public Library

101 N. Main St.

Milford, IN 46542

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: Michael Baker International, 3815 River Crossing Parkway, Suite 20, Indianapolis, IN 46240. E-Mail: KosciuskoLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com. Michael Baker International respectfully requests comments be submitted by May 14, 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 Toni Mayo, INDOT Fort Wayne District, phone: 206-969-8314, email: tmayo@indot.in.gov.

The in-person public meeting will include appropriate social distancing measures. Meeting attendees and the project team are required to wear face covering per statewide and local ordinance and will practice social distancing. Attendee who do not have a mask will be provided one, and hand sanitation stations will be available.

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.