



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DES. # 2000041/ 1601984

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Improvement SR 9 and Northport Road, Rome City Indiana

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on September 16, 2021 at the Rome City Elementary School, 400 Jefferson Street, Rome City, Indiana. 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. 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/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/s.r.-9-and-northport-intersection-improvement-in-noble-county/>.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans of an intersection improvement at SR 9 and Northport Road in the town of Rome City (Des 2000041). The purpose of the project is to provide connectivity of SR 9 and Northport Road with an at-grade intersection and to remove the existing bridge which is in need of repair and no longer serves its intended function (Des 1601984).

The preferred alternative is to construct a four-legged at-grade intersection that would include the demolition of the Northport Road Bridge and excavation to lower the grades of both the East and West approaches of Northport Road. The grade of SR 9 would be raised to meet at intersection with Northport Road. The at-grade intersection would include dedicated left turn lanes on SR 9. This would also include the removal of the Kelly Street access to SR 9 while leaving part of Kelly Street in place to maintain the existing parking lot access. SR 9 would have 450 feet of combined storage and deceleration length within the added left turn lanes. SR 9 would remain free-flow with Northport Road being stop controlled. The proposed SR 9 roadway will provide two 12-foot wide travel lanes, one in each direction, with 10-foot paved shoulders. The Northport Road roadway will match the existing roadway with two 11-foot wide travel lanes, one in each direction, with 2-foot paved shoulders.

Proposed construction of the intersection improvement is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2022.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves closures of SR 9 and Northport Road. 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 3.37 acre of permanent new right-of-way, needed during construction. The project will not need any temporary right-of-way or the reacquisition of the existing right-of-way. The project will not 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/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/s.r.-9-and-northport-intersection-improvement-in-noble-county/>)
2. Limberlost Branch Public Library, 164 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN 46784
3. INDOT Fort Wayne District, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. Please contact Jeff Andrews, Burgess and Niple, 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 920, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or jeff.andrews@burgessniple.com, or (317) 237-2752.

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: Jeff Andrews, Burgess and Niple, 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 920, Indianapolis, IN 46204. E-Mail: jeff.andrews@burgessniple.com. **Burgess and Niple respectfully requests comments be submitted by September 30, 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 Jeff Andrews, Burgess and Niple, 251 N. Illinois Street, Suite 920, Indianapolis, IN 46204. E-Mail: jeff.andrews@burgessniple.com.

The public hearing will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance for health and safety protocols. Any unvaccinated attendees are encouraged to wear a face covering.

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.