

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed intersection improvement at U.S. 35 and Johnson/Severs Road, Center Township, La Porte County, Indiana

DES# 2200046:

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Thursday, October 8, 2026 at the La Porte County Public Library Main Branch, Meeting Room B, 904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350. There will be an open house session starting at 5:30 PM CT, and the public hearing presentation will begin at 6 PM CT. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans to modify the intersection at U.S. 35 and Johnson/Severs Road in La Porte, La Porte County, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to improve the safety of the intersection.

As proposed, the project involves the construction of an intersection improvement at U.S. 35 and Johnson/Severs Road. The preferred alternative includes modification of the existing signalized intersection into a hybrid multilane roundabout. The project will include permanent lighting at the roundabout and stormwater drainage improvements, including construction of a stormwater outfall into Pine Lake on the west side of U.S. 35, south of the intersection. Approach work on U.S. 35 would begin approximately 694 feet south of the intersection and end approximately 717 feet north of the intersection. Approach work on Johnson/Severs Road would begin approximately 597 feet west of the intersection and end approximately 675 east of the intersection. The total length of the project would be approximately 0.51 mile.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will require phased construction. Phase 1 will consist of partial closure of the intersection and a new lane configuration to allow eastbound to southbound movement and northbound to westbound movement. Phase 2 will consist of temporary full closure of the intersection and the establishment of detour routes. The U.S. 35 detour route would utilize State Road 39 and U.S. 20. The Johnson/Severs Road detour route would utilize State Road 39, Waverly Road, and C.R. N 400 W. Construction is anticipated to last up to 12 months. Access to adjacent properties will be maintained at all times. Project stakeholders including local school corporations and emergency services will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2029.

The project may require up to 2.73 acres of new permanent right-of-way and up to 0.75 acres of temporary right-of-way. No residential or business relocations are proposed. The project may permanently impact up to 0.002 acres of Pine Lake. No mitigation for impacts to water resources is anticipated to be required and will be verified during the permitting process. Additionally, up to 0.95 acres of tree clearing may be required. Compensatory mitigation related to impacts to bat habitat is not anticipated to be required.

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 the natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. La Porte County Public Library – Main Branch
904 Indiana Ave, La Porte, IN 46350
(219) 362-6156
2. INDOT Northwest District
315 Boyd Blvd, La Porte, IN 46350
(855) 464-6368

A project webpage will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available online via the project sponsor's web page: bit.ly/US35JohnsonSevers. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed upon request.

Notice of Livestreamed Public Meeting/Hearing: In accordance with Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-2.9, INDOT is offering livestreams of all public hearings. Access the livestream here: bit.ly/US35JohnsonSeversHearing. Comments from livestream attendees will only be accepted in electronic written form, not verbally. A recording of the livestream will be posted to the INDOT YouTube page after the hearing and will also be linked to the project webpage where project materials are available. The recording will be available online for at least 90 days.

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 Marissa Harless, USI Consultants, Inc., 8415 E 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46216, or mharless@usiconsultants.com. INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by October 22, 2026.

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 Marissa Harless, USI Consultants, Inc. at mharless@usiconsultants.com or at (260) 450-7439.

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 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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.