



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue  
Room N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Eric Holcomb, Governor**  
**Joe McGuinness, Commissioner**

**Des. No. 1800039**

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for an intersection improvement project, State Road (SR) 15 at County Road (CR) 18, 1.03 miles south of United States (US) 20, located in Elkhart County, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to reduce the crash rate and improve intersection safety. The need for the project lies in improving the safety at the intersection of SR 15 at CR 18. Drivers in either direction of SR 15 must stop when vehicles are waiting to turn left on CR 18, which results in a high volume of rear-end collisions of vehicles waiting to make the left turn.

The project proposes to construct 12-foot-wide left turn lanes in each direction of travel on SR 15 that extend approximately 585 feet in length from the SR 15/CR 18 intersection. The SR 15 roadway will be widened to accommodate the new turn lanes, with shoulders varying between 2-4 feet in width being maintained throughout the project area. The intersection at CR 18 will be widened in each quadrant to allow for larger turn radii. Driveways within the project area will be reconstructed. Shoulders and disturbed areas will be graded and reseeded upon completion. Livestock fencing within the project area will be removed to facilitate construction. Fencing is not anticipated to be replaced or reset; the replacement costs of the fencing will be included in right-of-way (ROW) negotiations.

The existing 24-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) that traverses under SR 15 approximately 615 feet south of the intersection will remain in place. The east end of the structure will be connected to the existing retention basin outfall pipe using a shallow manhole junction; two new structures will also be installed to carry stormwater runoff to the manhole. The west end of the structure will be extended with a CMP 24-inch safety metal end section. On CR 18 west of the approach to the intersection, the existing concrete culvert will be removed and replaced with 55 linear feet of a new 15-inch structure with new end sections; the type of structure will be determined at the time of construction. Two structures under driveways will also be replaced.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan proposes to conduct the project in phases, with widening of the SR 15 roadway to allow traffic to be shifted to one side while the other side is under construction. Traffic will be controlled using roadside signs and temporary pavement markers. CR 18 will require a short-term closure west of the intersection for the concrete culvert replacement; the estimated time of the closure is two weeks. The closure of CR 18 will require the use of a detour. The detour will utilize CR 23 and CR 20 and add approximately 2.4 miles of additional travel. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. Construction is planned to begin in 2023 and is anticipated to last nine months.

The project requires approximately 0.831 acre of new permanent ROW, the reacquisition of 1.116 acres of assumed (reacquired) ROW, and 0.046 acre of temporary ROW. The project will include 0.04 acre of temporary impacts and 0.07 acre of permanent impacts to wetlands. The project will not require the relocation of any businesses or residences.

The FHWA and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. No significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment were found during the creation of this environmental document. The CE-Level 2 environmental document describes the proposed project and potential impacts to environmental, social, and cultural resources, and contains preliminary project plans.

Preliminary design plans, along with the CE document are available for review at the following locations:

- Elkhart Public Library – Pierre Moran Branch, 2400 Benham Ave, Elkhart, IN 46517
- INDOT Fort Wayne District Office, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN, 46808
- Online at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/s.r.-15-and-county-road-18-intersection-improvement-project-in-elkhart-county/>

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 Project Manager, Kevin Shaw, [kshaw1@indot.in.gov](mailto:kshaw1@indot.in.gov), (260)-969-8234, for the arrangement and coordination of services. 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 Project Manager. Special accommodations related to accessibility and auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print can be provided upon request.

All interested persons may request a public hearing or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Kevin McLane at SJCA Inc., [kmclane@sjcainc.com](mailto:kmclane@sjcainc.com), 9102 N Meridian Street #200, Indianapolis, IN 46260, (317)-566-0629 or Marc Rape at Strand Associates, Inc., [marc.rape@strand.com](mailto:marc.rape@strand.com), (812)-372-9911 ext.4310. All comments must be received on or before October 20, 2021. If a hearing is determined to be in the best interest of the public, additional notification will be prepared and the public notified. Otherwise, any comments or materials received will be considered in the decision-making process.

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 FHWA on August 16, 2012.