



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - DES. #1592223 and 1802827 Proposed Intersection Improvements and Small Structure Replacement on SR 7 in Queensville, Jennings County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the North Vernon Education and Training Center (Elsner Hall) located at 1200 West O & M Avenue, North Vernon, IN 47265, the hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans to improve intersections and replace a small structure on SR 7 in Queensville in Jennings County. The purpose of the project is to address current roadway deficiencies and reduce the likelihood of crashes at the intersections of CR 275 W, Country Squire Boulevard, and the entrance to Dollar General along SR 7. An additional purpose of the project is to improve the condition rating of the culvert located just north of CR 275 W to at least a 7 (good) out of 9 (excellent).

As proposed, the project involves improvements on SR 7 at the intersections of CR 275 W, Country Squire Boulevard, and the entrance to Dollar General. The posted speed limit will decrease from 55 mph to 50 mph before or during project construction. Additionally, the vertical alignment of SR 7 will be adjusted to meet stopping sight distance standards for a 50 mph design speed. As part of the proposed intersection improvements, CR 275 W would be closed to SR 7 and a cul-de-sac constructed on the roadway. A left-turn lane will be installed on northbound SR 7 for Country Squire Boulevard and the current substandard passing blister will be removed. A left-turn lane will be installed on northbound SR 7 at the entrance to Dollar General. The existing 60-foot-long, 5-foot-tall, and 5-foot-wide reinforced concrete box culvert that is located on SR 7 just north of the intersection of CR 275 W (CV 007-040-26.89) will be replaced, lengthened, and upsized. The proposed typical cross-section for SR 7 will consist of one 12-foot-wide travel lane in each direction with a 12-foot-wide northbound left-turn lane at Country Squire Boulevard and at the entrance to Dollar General. In general, existing drainage will be maintained.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves short term closure of SR 7 and the use of a detour utilizing Interstate (I)-65, United States Highway (US) 50, and SR 750. 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 4.737 acres of permanent right-of-way (including 2.434 acres reacquisition of apparent existing right-of-way) and approximately 0.462 acre of temporary right-of-way.

The hearing will include appropriate social distancing measures. Attendees are advised that face coverings and adherence to CDC guidelines for social distancing are recommended. Hand-sanitization stations as well as hand-washing facilities will be available.

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. This document and project information can be mailed upon request. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Jennings County Public Library (2375 IN-3, North Vernon, IN 47265)
2. American Structurepoint, Inc. webpage www.structurepointpublic.com/sr7
3. INDOT Seymour District webpage: <https://www.in.gov/indot/2706.htm>

A project webpage and virtual open house will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information, including the hearing presentation, is available on-line via the American Structurepoint, Inc. webpage (www.structurepointpublic.com/sr7) and will be linked on the INDOT Seymour District page (<https://www.in.gov/indot/2706.htm>).

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: Leah Perry, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-Mail: lperry@structurepoint.com. Comments can also be submitted on the project webpage: www.structurepointpublic.com/sr7. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by June 10, 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 Leah Perry, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-Mail: lperry@structurepoint.com.

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.