



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DES. # 2100059

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Improvements of Intersection at US 41 and SR 18 in Benton County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on April 23, 2025, at Benton Central Jr./Sr. High School auditorium located at 4241 E. 300 S. in Oxford, Indiana 47971. The hearing will begin at 5:30 PM EST. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for the proposed intersection improvements at United State Route (US) 41 and State Route (SR) 18, from approximately 0.16 mile south of SR 18 to approximately 0.17 mile north of SR 18, located in Benton County, Indiana.

The purpose of this improvement project is to lessen the number or severity of potential vehicle to vehicle conflicts and improve traffic movements and safety at the intersection. The need for the project is due to the increased level of fatal and incapacitating injury accidents occurring at the intersection.

The project proposes to convert the existing intersection into a Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI) at the intersection location of US 41 and SR 18. This RCI design prohibits direct through movement of traffic of SR 18, and will require drivers to turn right from SR 18 onto US 41, then conduct a U-turn maneuver at a one-way median opening at least 400 feet after the intersection. Median turns will be added to the north and south of the intersection to allow motorists on SR 18 the ability to perform a U-turn movement. The median turns will be regraded and paved with asphalt and concrete. Curb and gutter methods will be used to propagate drainage. Loops will be added along the outside shoulder to provide enough pavement width for trucks and other larger vehicles to maneuver the turnaround movement. Additionally, there will be improvements to drainage structures including new 48-inch culverts that will be installed under both approaches to SR 18. Drainage inlets will be installed in the existing grassy median and connected to 15-inch to 24-inch pipes to convey drainage beneath US 41 to the roadside ditches. Lastly, utility relocations of some existing underground fiber may be required. There will also be upgrades to lighting, pavement markings, and signage to better delineate the revised approaches at the intersection. Proposed lighting will include 16 new LEG light poles along the outside of US 41 between the median turn locations. Light poles will be 40 feet in height with an eight-foot mast arm.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan proposes phased single-lane closures in each direction of US 41, with a complete closure for SR 18 and associated detour. The SR 18 closure will utilize SR 352, SR 71, and US 52 as a detour route. Local roads may be used by local traffic. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed construction will not require the acquisition of any permanent or temporary right-of-way (ROW) and will be constructed within existing INDOT-owned ROW. The proposed start of construction is Spring of 2026.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have agreed that this project poses minim impact to natural environments. The FHWA and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical

Exclusion (CE) Level 1 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE-1 are available for review at the following locations:

1. Benton County Public Library, 102 North Van Buren Avenue in Fowler, IN 47944;
2. INDOT Crawfordsville District Office, 41 West 300 North in Crawfordsville, IN 47933;
3. Project webpage: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-crawfordsville-district/us-41-at-sr-18-reduced-conflict-intersection/>

Emergency Situation Guidance: During emergency situations, public viewing locations may be limited or prohibited as part of the Notice of Planned Improvement. Project documents may only be available on-line during emergency situations. The notice must offer the public the opportunity to request project documents be mailed. INDOT and/or the project sponsor will mail project documents upon request.

A project webpage will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available on-line via the INDOT Crawfordsville District page at on.in.gov/US41-at-SR18-RCI.

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 Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC, 477 South 3rd Street, Suite 280, Geneva, IL 60134. E-Mail: ckelly@kaskaskiaeng.com. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by May 7, 2025.**

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 Kaitlyn Taylor, INDOT (765-376-4754 and kattaylor@indot.in.gov).

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 July 7, 2021.