



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DES. # 1800045

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

Proposed Improvement at State Road (SR) 119 and County Road (CR) 7 in Elkhart County.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for an intersection improvement project at SR 119 and CR 7, approximately 1.35 miles east of SR 19 in Elkhart County. More specifically, this project is located in Sections 5 & 6 of Township 35, Range 5 East in Union Township, Foraker Quadrangle, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to reduce the frequency of total crashes by a reduction of at least 43 percent at the SR 119 and CR 7 intersection. The need is due to the above average frequency of crashes at the SR 119 and CR 7 intersection, and the above average severity of the crashes.

This section of SR 119 currently is a two-lane major collector with a speed limit of 55 miles per hour (mph). SR 119 has two 10-foot travel lanes, one in each direction, a 1-foot paved shoulder, and a 3-foot aggregate shoulder. CR 7 is a two-lane local collector that does not have a posted speed limit; therefore, the speed limit is assumed to be 55 mph. CR 7 has two 10-foot travel lanes, one in each direction, and a 1-foot aggregate shoulder.

The existing intersection has a 65-degree skew and does not have any dedicated turn lanes. Turning and through movements are shared by the single lane servicing each direction. The existing intersection has a higher-than-average frequency and severity of crashes. Right-angle crashes are occurring at the highest frequency and are attributed to failure to yield to the right-of-way or disregarding signage.

The proposed project plans to realign the intersection approximately 0.02 of a mile west of the existing intersection, eliminating the 65-degree skew and resulting in a 90-degree intersection. North of SR 119, approximately 0.18 of a mile, the existing CR 7 will be closed to through traffic and be removed. A driveway will be installed and will tie into the proposed CR 7 alignment to maintain access to the existing properties. At 0.13 mile north of the existing intersecting CR 7 will curve to the west, becoming a "s" curve as traffic approaches the new intersection. The "S" curve is designed to meet the 35 mph design criteria. At 0.11 mile south of the existing intersection the existing CR 7 will be closed to through traffic and curve to the west. Approximately 0.04 mile south of the existing intersection a residential driveway will be constructed to maintain access to the existing property.

The proposed construction of this project will require 3.27 acres of new permanent right-of-way and 0.65 acre of temporary right-of-way. No relocations will be required.

Five new small structures will be installed, and new ditches will be graded in order to perpetuate existing drainage patterns. Additionally, two outfalls will be constructed, one north and one south of SR 119. The outfalls will consist of riprap pads at the outlets of two structures. Three of the five new small structures will be roadway culverts and the additional two will be driveway culverts. Revetment riprap will be placed at the outlets of the culverts.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will occur in phases and will utilize road closures and detours. Additional information can be found in the MOT During Construction section of the Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$2,910,000 including engineering, right-of-way, and construction. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration 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 the 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. The CE-Level 2 environmental document is available to view at the following locations:

1. Wakarusa Public Library – Located at 124 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, IN 46573
2. Goshen Public Library – Located at 601 S 5th Street, Goshen, IN 46526
3. On-line via the INDOT project webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/s.r.-119-and-c.r.-7-intersection-improvement-in-elkhart-county/>

INDOT is offering the public the opportunity to request a public hearing be held. All interested persons may request a public hearing or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Dan Syrus at HNTB, dsyrus@hntb.com, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204. **All comments must be received on or before May 13, 2024.** 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 material received will be considered in the decision-making process.

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, Miguel Tucker, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808, mtucker@indot.in.gov. 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.

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.