



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT – SR 11 Roadway Project from SR 135/Watson Road to SR 11/Old Hwy 337/Melview Road Intersection, Harrison County (Des 2001154)

**April 2024**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) held a public hearing in August of 2023 for a proposed SR 11 roadway and bridge project located in Harrison County from SR 135/Watson Road to SR 11/Old Hwy 337/Melview Road Intersection. This public hearing was held as part of the environmental analysis phase as required per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment (EA) document was prepared due to the scope and anticipated environmental impact associated with this proposed project. Public involvement is an important element of a comprehensive decision-making process. The purpose of this notice is to announce the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The purpose of the project is to provide a roadway in the southern region of Harrison County that provides improved safety performance connecting SR 135 to SR 11 by designing and constructing a roadway that meets current design standards, which includes wider lanes, usable shoulders, clear zones, and adequate sight distances to reduce crash frequencies and crash costs.

**INDOT Preferred Alternative:** The Preferred Alternative (Refined Alternative 3) will maximize the use of existing roadways and minimize the amount of new terrain construction. The total length of the Preferred Alternative is approximately 5.1 miles and begins at the intersection of SR 135 and Watson Road and continues along Watson Road for 2.25 miles to Union Chapel Road. The Preferred Alternative then follows along Union Chapel Road for 0.6 mile before turning east on new terrain for 0.2 mile to provide access to the proposed new 0.2-mile bridge crossing of Buck Creek. After crossing Buck Creek, the Preferred Alternative remains on new terrain for 0.2 mile until it connects to an existing farm access drive (gravel lane) on the east side of Buck Creek where it continues for 0.75 mile to Melview Road. The Preferred Alternative follows along Melview Road for 0.9 mile to the eastern terminus where it connects to SR 11. Approximately 4.5 miles of the Preferred Alternative will utilize existing roadway facilities (including 0.75 mile of gravel lane) and 0.6 mile will be constructed on new terrain. The Preferred Alternative will be constructed as a two-lane Major Collector with 12-foot-wide travel lanes, 6-foot-wide shoulders, 16-foot-wide clear zones, and adequate horizontal and vertical curves to meet current design standards for a Major Collector. The Preferred Alternative will have a design speed of 55 miles per hour (mph) and a posted speed limit of 45 mph. Guardrail will be used on the bridge crossing of Buck Creek and along the bridge approaches where needed. The project includes a large bridge crossing over Buck Creek and several other smaller structures to convey roadside drainage and streams beneath the proposed roadway. In addition, karst treatments following the INDOT Karst Guidance will be installed within all karst features identified within the construction limits of the project to protect the karst from construction and post construction runoff impacts of the proposed roadway. Additional details regarding the SR 11 Roadway project are available via the SR 11 Project Website (<https://www.sr11extension.com/project-documents>) and the INDOT District webpage (<https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-seymour-district/s.r.-11-extension-project-in-harrison-county/>).

The purpose of this notice is to communicate the status of this project to community members. As part of INDOT's commitment to public involvement, it is important to keep the community informed of project

developments. This is also an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase and transition to the next phase of development.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the public hearing held at the South Harrison Community Center (5101 Main Street, Elizabeth, Indiana) on Thursday, August 31, 2023, **INDOT will advance this project to the next phase of development with construction anticipated to take place in 2025.** Environmental analysis documentation, including the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and FONSI Request Letter with a summary of comments received with responses, is available for public inspection during normal office hours at the following locations:

1. Harrison County Public Library – Corydon, 105 North Capital Avenue, Corydon, IN 47112
2. Harrison County Public Library – Elizabeth (Community Center), 5101 Main Street, Suite 109, Elizabeth, IN 47117
3. INDOT Seymour District Office, 185 Agrico Lane, Seymour, IN 47274; 855-INDOT4U (463-6848)
4. SR 11 Project Website: <https://www.sr11extension.com/project-documents>
5. INDOT Seymour District Website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-seymour-district/s.r.-11-extension-project-in-harrison-county/>

Should you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the INDOT Seymour District Office at 1-855-INDOT4U (463-6848).

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## Recommended Preferred Alternative

Refined Preferred Alternative 3 begins at the intersection of SR 135 and Watson Road, following along Watson Road for 2.25 miles to Union Chapel Road. The alternative will then follow along Union Chapel Road for 0.6 mile before turning east on new terrain for 0.2 mile to provide access to the proposed new 0.2-mile bridge crossing of Buck Creek. After crossing Buck Creek, the Refined Preferred Alternative remains on new terrain alignment for 0.2 mile until it connects to

an existing farm access road on the east side of Buck Creek where it follows the farm access road (gravel lane) for 0.75 mile to Melview Road. At Melview Road, the Refined Preferred Alternative follows along Melview Road for 0.9 mile to the eastern terminus where it connects to SR 11.

