



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue  
Room N642  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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

## **LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DES# 1600693**

### **Proposed intersection improvement at SR 51 and SR 130/Cleveland Avenue, Hobart, Lake County**

The Troyer Group, in coordination with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), will host a public hearing on October 6, 2021 at the City of Hobart Community Center, 111 E. Old Ridge Rd. Hobart, IN 46342. The hearing will begin at 6:00 P.M. CST. Prior to the official public hearing, project representatives will be available during a project open house from 5:00 P.M. CST. Following the public hearing, a second project open house will occur. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans to modify the intersection at State Road (SR) 51 with SR 130 and Cleveland Avenue, Hobart, Lake County. The need for this project stems from the intersection's existing safety deficiencies. The intersection sees a high rate of traffic accidents and injuries, due in part to the current intersection geometry. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase operational safety at the intersection and to reduce the frequency of severe accidents at this location.

The public hearing will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance health and safety protocols, including encouraging the use of face coverings, providing hand sanitizer, providing ample access to handwashing facilities, implementing social distancing, and monitoring the number of attendees participating to comply with local ordinances. Face coverings will be available upon request.

For those wishing to participate in the hearing, but not attend in-person, the public hearing will be streamed live over the internet via Facebook Live from INDOT Northwest's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/INDOTNorthwest/>).

As proposed, the project involves the conversion of the existing signalized intersection into a single-lane roundabout with right-turn bypass lane for southbound traffic on SR 130 turning onto SR 51. The roundabout lanes will be 17 ft. wide, with 15-ft truck aprons between the travel lanes and the center island. In conjunction with the roundabout installation, 10-ft wide sidewalks will be constructed adjacent to the roundabout for pedestrian traffic. The sidewalks will run from the Oak Savannah trail terminus in the southwestern quadrant of the project area around the southern and eastern legs of the roundabout and will terminate at a conjunction with the trailhead portion of the Oak Savannah Trail in the northeast quadrant. Crossing areas will be established within the southern and eastern approaches for the new sidewalk, and at the western approach to tie the existing sidewalk into the newly constructed portions. Pedestrian islands will be installed at the crossing areas to give pedestrians the ability to safely cross one lane at a time.

In order to accommodate stormwater drainage within the proposed project limits, the existing storm sewer network will be improved. The existing 24" storm sewer pipe will be replaced in a configuration that diverts water around the proposed roundabout. In addition, a new segment of pipe will be installed parallel to SR 51 along its west side, heading north from the intersection. This pipe will outlet into a low-lying area south of the southern bank of Frog Creek, and riprap will be

installed at the end of the pipe. The other ends of the improved storm sewer facilities will be connected into the City of Hobart's existing facilities.

As proposed, the maintenance of traffic (MOT) for the project will be phased. During the first phase, the intersection will remain open while construction takes place on the auxiliary lane that permits southbound traffic to turn right. The shoulder adjacent to SR 51 west of the intersection will be closed, and lanes will be shifted southward. In the second phase, the intersection will be closed to traffic and the previous construction on the SR 130 auxiliary lane will be used to convert that area to two-way traffic. Traffic heading east on SR 51 will be able to continue north on SR 130, while southbound SR 130 traffic will be able to travel west on SR 51. Other traffic approaching the intersection will utilize a detour involving SR 149 and US 6. This detour will be 10.1 miles long and will add approximately 2.2 miles to total travel distance. For the final phase, the previously utilized auxiliary lane will be closed along with the intersection. In addition to the previously described detour route, this phase will implement a second detour for traffic from SR 51 south to SR 130 north and vice versa. This detour will utilize US 30, I-65, and I-80/94, and will be approximately 13.7 miles long. It will add roughly 2.2 miles of distance to the average commute. The overall MOT plan is expected to be in place for roughly one construction season, with phases two and three making up the bulk of that time.

Additional project details will be presented during the public hearing and will be also made available via the INDOT website.

Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring of 2023. 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. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following location:

Lake County Public Library Hobart Branch, 100 N. Main St. Hobart, IN 46342. Documents will be available during all library operating hours. Please call ahead for an appointment to access the library (219-942-2243).

Community members may wish to visit the project webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-laporte-district/sr-51-at-sr-130-cleveland-ave.-intersection-improvement/> to view project information. Community members may submit comments to the project team via mail or email. Persons with limited internet access may contact the project team to request project information be mailed to them. Please contact Troyer Group, Attn: James Landry, 3930 Edison Lakes Pkwy, Mishawaka, IN 46545, (574) 259-9976 or [jlandry@troyergroup.com](mailto:jlandry@troyergroup.com).

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 Troyer Group, Attn: James Landry, 3930 Edison Lakes Pkwy, Mishawaka, IN 46545, email address: [jlandry@troyergroup.com](mailto:jlandry@troyergroup.com) or to Michael Grylewicz, INDOT Project Manager at INDOT LaPorte District, 315 E. Boyd Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350, email address: [mgrylewicz@indot.in.gov](mailto:mgrylewicz@indot.in.gov). INDOT respectfully requests all comments be submitted by 5:00 PM CT, October 20, 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 an accommodation be required, please contact Lisa Shrader, INDOT Consultant Service Manager at INDOT LaPorte District, 315 E. Boyd Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350, email address: [lshrader@indot.in.gov](mailto:lshrader@indot.in.gov).

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1), which 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.