



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# 1700022

Proposed intersection improvement at US 231 and Cline Ave, St. John, Lake County

The Troyer Group, in coordination with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), will host a public hearing on Wednesday, March 9 at Suncrest Christian Church, 10009 Parrish Ave, St. John, IN 46373. 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 US 231 with Cline Avenue, St. John, Lake County. The project area will extend from 0.22 mile west to 0.18 mile east of the intersection on US 231, and from 0.13 mile north to 0.12 mile south of the intersection on Cline Avenue. 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 roundabout at the intersection. The roundabout lanes will be 16 ft. wide, with 10 to 24-ft truck aprons between the travel lanes and the center island. Concrete splitters will be installed at each approach to better direct traffic flow. Additional grading will be done, at the request of the INDOT district, in the northwest and southeast quadrants to allow for the possibility of right-turn bypasses being added to Cline Ave. at a future date. No paving will be done in these areas as part of this project. In order to accommodate stormwater drainage within the proposed project limits, the existing storm sewer network will be improved. The existing storm sewer pipes will be replaced in a configuration that diverts water around the proposed roundabout. Storm sewer improvements will be limited to the minimum area needed to accommodate the project and will not include improvements outside of the project area. In addition, five culvert structures within the intersection, ranging from 15 to 24 inches in diameter, will have end sections matching the existing diameters installed to extend the structures. Permanent lighting around the intersection will be reconfigured to accommodate the proposed roundabout.

As proposed, the maintenance of traffic (MOT) for the project will be phased. During phase one,

east-west traffic on US 231 will remain open, while Cline Ave will be closed to north-south traffic. A detour using local routes following 101st Ave., Parrish St., and 117th Ave., will be implemented. This detour is approximately 4.6 miles long and will add roughly five minutes to the average commute. Phase two involves full closure of the intersection and utilization of a detour. The detour will use US 231, US 41, US 30, and SR 55. It will be approximately 16 miles long, and will add 10.5 miles to the average daily commute. This MOT plan is expected to be in place for approximately one construction season, or 8-10 months, with a roughly even breakdown between the two phases.

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 2024. The project will be entirely State funded and will not use local or federal funds. Current project costs are expected to be approximately \$2,702,321. The project is anticipated to require acquisition of approximately 8.367 acres of permanent ROW from adjacent properties. Approximately 1.748 acres of existing ROW within the US 231 and Cline Avenue corridors will need to be reacquired due to a lack of clear title, as well. No relocations are anticipated for this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) level 3 environmental document has been prepared for the project. This document lists the expected impacts across several environmental categories, including impacts to wetlands and historic properties, both of which exist within or adjacent to this project area. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior on the project webpage and at the following location:

Lake County Public Library St. John Branch, 9450 Wicker Ave, St. John, IN 46373 & Crown Point Community Library, 122 North Main St, Crown Point, IN 46307. Documents will be available during all library operating hours. Please call ahead for an appointment to access the library (St. John: 219-365-5379, Crown Point: 219-663-0270).

Community members may wish to visit the project webpage at www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-laporte-district/us-231-at-cline-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.

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 or to Michael Grylewicz, INDOT Project Manager at INDOT LaPorte District, 315 E. Boyd Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350, email address: mgrylewicz@indot.in.gov. INDOT respectfully requests all comments be submitted by 5:00 PM CT, March 23, 2022.

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.

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 450.210(a)(1)(ix) stating, “Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested Parties and revise the process, as appropriate; and The INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.