

Legal Notice of Planned Improvement

St. Joseph County, with oversight by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is planning an intersection improvement project at Cleveland Road and Beech Road, located 0.46 mile south of I-80/I-90 (Des. No. 1900448), with work anticipated to begin in 2023.

The need for the project stems from the poor operational efficiency (measured by Level of Service, or LOS) at the current four-way stop-controlled intersection. The 2019 LOS at the intersection is an overall LOS designation of E/F (poor/worst operating conditions) in the AM and PM periods, respectively, and is forecasted to continue operating at LOS F into the design year (2043). According to the *Indiana Design Manual*, a LOS of C is required for the current functional classifications of Cleveland Road and Beech Road, which are considered Principal Arterial and Minor Collector facilities, respectively. Therefore, operations at the existing stop-controlled intersection are unacceptable, resulting in the need for an intersection improvement. The purpose of this project is to improve the intersection's operational efficiency to a LOS of "C" or better in the design year.

As proposed, the project involves conversion of the existing four-way stop-controlled intersection to a roundabout. The roundabout will feature a 180-foot inscribed diameter and will be a hybrid design consisting of a two-lane circulating travel lane for the eastbound and westbound traffic, and a single circulating travel lane for the northbound and southbound traffic. The roundabout will feature a concrete truck apron, concrete curb and gutter, and a landscaped center island. Approach lanes will be separated by raised center medians. The roundabout will be offset approximately 33 feet north and 25 feet east of the current intersection, minimizing impacts to adjacent properties. Drainage will include roadside swales and a closed stormwater system consisting of two basins located in the northeast and southeast intersection quadrants. Four driveways will be replaced. In total the project extends approximately 2,614 feet along Cleveland Road and 825 feet along Beech Road.

The project will require 3.77 acres of new permanent right-of-way (ROW) and 0.09 acre of temporary ROW. Environmental impacts include 31 linear feet of permanent stream impacts and 1.36 acre of tree removal including mitigation for removal of 0.03 acre of suitable bat habitat. No wetlands will be impacted. One residential relocation is anticipated to occur as part of this project, located northeast of the existing intersection. The acquisition and relocation program will be conducted in accordance with 49 CFR 24 of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 as amended.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) during construction will involve road closures with detours for both Cleveland Road and Beech Road and will include a separate truck route. The Cleveland Road detour route will involve Ash Road, Douglas Road, and Bittersweet Road (3.69 miles). The Beech Road detour route will involve Anderson Road, Ash Road, and Douglas Road (4.24 miles). The truck route will involve John Weaver Parkway, Nappanee Street, McKinley Highway, and Capital Avenue (13.15 miles). Access will be maintained for property owners during the construction of the project. The MOT will be in place approximately 60 to 90 days. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction.

The cost associated with this project is approximately \$2,897,500 which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction with both federal and local funds anticipated to be used. The Federal

Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level-3 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the draft CE are available for review at the following locations:

- St. Joseph County Public Document Website: <https://www.sjindiana.com/1877/Public-Works>

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act”, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats or persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) are encouraged to contact Frank Fotia at (574) 235-1819 or Michael Misch at (574) 288-1510 to provide accommodations pertaining to the accessibility to the above documents.

All interested persons may request a public hearing or submit comments to Lochmueller Group, attention to Carson Hoogewerf at CHoogewerf@lochgroup.com or at (574) 334-5491 on or before March 19, 2022. Any person with limited internet access may request a hard copy of the project information and can contact Carson Hoogewerf using the contact information above. 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 materials received will be considered in the decision-making process.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1); 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(ix); and 3) The INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.