



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N642
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT – DES# 1383615 **Intersection Improvement at SR 55 and 73rd Avenue, Merrillville, Lake County**

MARCH 18, 2021

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) held a public hearing on October 22nd, 2020, regarding a proposed roundabout intersection improvement project on State Road 55/Taft St. at 73rd Ave. in Merrillville, Lake County. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and efficiency at the intersection.

The purpose of this notice is two-fold. Firstly, this is an opportunity for INDOT to communicate with project stakeholders regarding the status of this project. Secondly, this is an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase of the project and transition to the next phase of project development, the real estate acquisition phase.

INDOT's preferred alternative proposes to convert the existing signalized intersection into a hybrid single-lane/dual-lane roundabout. All improved roadway surfaces along SR 55 and 73rd Ave within the proposed roundabout will be surrounded by concrete curb and gutter, which will drain into a new storm sewer system. Lighting improvements are also proposed. The project will require the purchase of approximately 1.72 acres of new permanent right-of-way (property adjacent to the intersection). The maintenance of traffic (MOT) for the project will be phased such that SR 55/Taft will remain open during construction. The official detour for 73rd Ave. will involve US 30, SR 53, and W. 61st Ave.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the official INDOT public hearing held at Merrillville High School, INDOT will advance this project to the next phase of development (real estate acquisition) and anticipates construction to begin in 2022. Project documentation will remain available for public inspection during normal office hours at the Lake County Public Library, Merrillville Branch - 1919 81st Ave, Merrillville, IN, 46410. Walk-in hours are now available: 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 9 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; Closed Wednesday and Sunday. You may also visit the INDOT Northwest District web page to view project documentation at <http://www.in.gov/indot/4090.htm>.

INDOT sincerely appreciates the community's participation and interest in this project and looks forward to continuing engagement as this project advances toward construction.

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