

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – DES# 1382598

Roadway Improvements along County Line Road between US 6 (Ridge Road, W. 37th Avenue) and approximately 400 feet south of Cleveland Avenue (W. County Road 700 North) in Lake County and Porter County, Indiana.

The City of Hobart will host a public hearing on September 10, 2020 at the City of Hobart Senior Center Gymnasium, 705 E. 4th Street, Hobart, IN 46342. The doors will open to the public at 5 PM for an informal project open house, followed by a formal presentation on the project to begin at 6 PM. The formal presentation will be followed by a public statement session in which members of the public will have the opportunity give verbal statements for record in front of all attendees (this will not be a question/answer session). Representatives of the city and their design consultant will be available for informal project discussions after the public statement session. The public hearing will also be available live online at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/520855213> and by phone at (872) 240-3212 using access code 520-855-213.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans to reconstruct and widen County Line Road between US 6 (Ridge Road, W. 37th Avenue) and Cleveland Avenue (W. County Road 700 North) in Lake County and Porter County. The purpose of the project is to improve the pavement conditions on County Line Road between US 6 and Cleveland Avenue and to reduce flooding and areas of standing water along the corridor.

The project proposes pavement reconstruction and widening, sidewalk replacement and extension, and drainage improvements. The typical section between US 6 and Coral Drive will consist of an 11-foot wide travel lane in each direction with a 14-foot wide two-way-left turn lane (TWLTL). The typical section between Coral Drive and Cleveland Avenue will consist of an 11-foot travel lane in each direction with an 11-foot northbound turn lane switching to a southbound left turn lane at the intersection of County Line Road and Cleveland Avenue. A concrete curb and gutter will be installed on each side of the road. All private drive and local street connections to County Line Road will be reconstructed to tie into the improved roadway. New street lighting will be installed along the west side of County Line Road.

The existing sidewalk on the west side of County Line Road between Cleveland Avenue and approximately 160 feet north of Coral Drive will be replaced and new concrete sidewalk will be constructed along the west side of County Line Road to the northern project terminus. Replacement sidewalks will be 6 feet wide between Cleveland Avenue and approximately 108 feet north of Coral Drive. The remainder of the sidewalk will be 8 feet wide. Improvements will be made to the Oak Savannah/Prairie Duneland Trail crossing of County Line Road, including a mid-crossing refuge, new signage and pavement markings, and a crossing signal. The sidewalks and trail crossing will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant.

Two (2) existing culverts, located in the northern half of the project area, will be replaced with longer structures on similar alignments. Approximately 1,000 feet of storm water drainage pipe will be installed along the north side of Arbor Lane west of County Line Road. This stormwater drainage pipe will extend north from the north side of Arbor Lane and will outlet into an unnamed tributary to Deep River. A storm sewer system will be added underneath County Line Road throughout the project area.

The proposed construction of this project will require approximately 3.39 acres of new permanent right-of-way and 1.21 acres of temporary right-of-way. No relocations are expected. The cost associated with this project is approximately \$9.85 million which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction using both federal and local funds.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) will be handled through a combination of phased construction and detour. A detour of no more than 30 days will be put in place for the construction of the proposed culverts. For the remainder of the project construction, a single lane of traffic will be maintained in one direction only and a detour route will be provided. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible.

Attendees are advised that face coverings and adherence to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for social distancing are recommended. A limited number of face coverings will be available for public use upon entry.

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 Level 2 Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project due a “no adverse effect” Section 106 finding for the project, and permanent right-of-way acquisition that exceeds 0.5 acre. The project will result in approximately 168 linear feet of stream impacts, and 0.08 acre of wetland impacts. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available for public viewing at the City of Hobart Engineering Department, City Hall, 414 Main Street, Hobart, Indiana 46342, 219-942-8271, pgralik@cityofhobart.org.

Preliminary design plans along with the CE are also available for review at the following website: <http://hobartimprovements.com/>. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed; please contact Elizabet Biggio at Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc., 317-713-4615, ebiggio@bfsengr.com. Please RSVP to Elizabet Biggio at the phone number or email address listed above if you plan to attend the public hearing. An RSVP is requested for planning purposes in accordance with CDC guidelines, but is not required for entry.

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 Elizabet Biggio at Butler, Fairman, and Seufert, Inc., 317-713-4615, ebiggio@bfsengr.com. The City of Hobart respectfully requests comments be submitted by September 25, 2020.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the City of Hobart for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact ADA Coordinator, Mike Hannigan, at 219-947-3407 or mhannigan@cityofhobart.org. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact the City of Hobart.

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