



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – DES. NO. 2200176 I-65 and US 52 Interchange Improvement Project, Lebanon, Boone County, IN

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) would like to update the public regarding the selection of a preliminary preferred alternative for the I-65 and US 52 Interchange Improvement Project (Des. No. 2200176). Conceptual Alternative 8 has been determined to be the preliminary preferred alternative.

Conceptual Alternative 8 would relocate the existing I-65/US 52 interchange to CR 300 N, but would be offset approximately 0.28 mile north of existing CR 300 N. Under this conceptual alternative, US 52 would be realigned to travel in an east/west direction to the interchange. East of the interchange, CR 300 N would be realigned beginning east of Witt Road and extend west on new alignment to the relocated I-65/US 52 interchange. A connection would be made to the remaining portion of US 52 south of the new alignment and this remaining portion of US 52 would terminate south of CR 250 N, prior to reaching I-65. Stormwater detention ponds (dry ponds) would be utilized as required within the interchange infields to meet the appropriate detention requirements. The existing I-65/US 52 interchange ramps would be removed including the ramp from northbound Lafayette Avenue to I-65 northbound. The Lafayette Avenue to I-65 northbound ramp would be removed because it would be too close to the proposed I-65 northbound exit ramp, which would cause potential conflicts between merging and diverging traffic. Although this access point would be removed, a new improved access point would be provided from CR 300 N that would allow vehicles access to northbound and southbound I-65, as well as westbound US 52. Additionally, Lafayette Avenue traffic would still be able to utilize the I-65 and SR 32 interchange that is approximately 1.25 miles south of the existing Lafayette Avenue to I-65 northbound entrance ramp. Conceptual Alternative 8 would improve mobility and direct access to the areas east and west of I-65, north of Lebanon, and improve the level of services (LOS) of the I-65 & US 52 interchange to LOS D or better.

Conceptual Alternative 8 was recommended as the preliminary preferred alternative after a year of analysis, evaluation, and input gathering from federal, state, and local agencies; adjacent residents; stakeholders; and other interested parties. Information was also derived from the public through forums including a public comment portal located at www.i65us52improvement.com, direct email comments, and a public meeting. Eight conceptual alternatives (as presented in the December 15, 2022 Public Information Meeting) were identified and studied to determine which would be the most appropriate. In balancing considerations in the process of determining a preliminary preferred alternative, meeting the purpose and need of the project was first considered and then engineering and environmental considerations were evaluated. Conceptual Alternative 8 best addresses the purpose and need of the project while balancing the anticipated impacts.

Due to the involvement of federal funds, Conceptual Alternative 8 will be carried forward and evaluated in more detail in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additionally, compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), which requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic and archaeological resources, is also required. Conceptual Alternative 8 will be the basis for further detailed design, analysis, and development of the project. In addition, a public meeting will be scheduled in Summer 2023 to give the public an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the preliminary preferred alternative as it is further developed.

A map of the preliminary preferred alternative, as well as the alternatives screening matrix that was used to assess the conceptual alternatives, has been made available at www.i65us52improvement.com. For any question or comments, please contact Leigh Stevenson, American Structurepoint, Inc., at (317) 547-5580, or email l Stevenson@structurepoint.com.