

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Hively Avenue Local Trax Project in Elkhart County**

The Indiana Department of Transportation and City of Elkhart will host a public hearing to inform residents and solicit feedback about Environmental Assessment (EA) and the preferred alternative for the Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue.

The public hearing will be hosted on Thursday, July 14, at Zion Missionary Church, 1135 E. Hively Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46517. The public hearing will begin at 6 p.m., and residents will be allowed to provide verbal and written public comments. Representatives will be available at the displays to answer residents' questions from 5 to 6 p.m., and after the hearing until 8 p.m.

The purpose of the open house is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to learn about and comment on the preliminary preferred alternative for the 0.5-mile Local Trax Railroad Overpass at Hively Avenue on the southeast side of Elkhart in Elkhart County. The project limits extend from Bismark Avenue to Hazel Street and extend to crossing streets including Monger Avenue, Morton Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Main Street, Garden Boulevard, Norfolk Southern Railway, Sterling Avenue, Eddy Street, Hammond Avenue, Lowell Avenue and Warren Street.

The project is needed to address traffic congestion caused by approximately 70-100 trains that utilize the railroad tracks at E. Hively Avenue each day. The purpose of the project is to improve mobility and safety within the project area by eliminating vehicle backups and congestion while maintaining access and connectivity; improve the Level of Service (LOS) to a "C" on the new Hively Avenue alignment; and improve bike/pedestrian movements.

The preferred alternative meets the purpose and need of the project by realigning Hively Avenue to the south with a connection roadway to the north, and better accommodating truck movements in the area.

The preferred alternative:

- Includes an overpass to replace the at-grade crossing of Hively Avenue and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and allows vehicular traffic, bicycle and pedestrian movements and trains to move independently of one another. This will reduce congestion and improve mobility and overall travel reliability within the project area.
- Improves the LOS to "C."
- Includes a truck route that was included after public comments were received at public involvement meeting 2.
- Improves the sidewalk network greatly, including new, connected, ADA-compliant sidewalks along Hively Avenue and adjacent side streets.
- Allows a connection to Monger Elementary School, El Rosal supermarket, churches, and residential and business properties; which is an overall benefit to the community.
- Provides connectivity to the MapleHeart Trail and to the Environmental Center.
- Improves pedestrian access to the transit stop with ADA-compliant sidewalks and may be further enhanced by the proposed green space located between the mainline of the new roadway and bridge and the connection back to Hively on the westside.

There will be temporary and permanent right-of-way acquired for this project.

Construction is estimated to begin in 2023 and will be divided into three phases, keeping Hively Avenue and the at-grade crossings open as long as possible.

- Phase 1 will keep Hively Avenue open as construction begins south of Hively Avenue. Closures will be required on intersecting side streets including Roosevelt Avenue, Homer Avenue, Hammond Avenue, and Warren Street. During this time a detour route will be provided utilizing SR 33 and CR 45.
- Phase 2 will require temporary closures on Monger Avenue, sections of Hively Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, Warren Street; and a detour route will be provided utilizing Pleasant Plain Avenue, SR 20, and CR 13.
- Phase 3 includes the permanent closure of the existing Hively Avenue alignment and railroad crossing and allows traffic onto the new Hively Avenue alignment.

Federal, state, and local funds are proposed to be used to construct this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have agreed that, at this time, there is no substantial public controversy concerning impacts to the community or to natural resources. The environmental study was reclassified as an EA because of impacts to residential and commercial properties. The EA and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Elkhart Public Library, Pierre Moran Branch, 2400 Benham Avenue Elkhart, IN 46517
2. City of Elkhart Street Department, 2421 S. 17th St. Elkhart, IN 46516
3. INDOT District Office, 5333 Hatfield Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46808
4. City of Elkhart website: <https://elkhartindiana.org/events/hively-avenue-local-trax-project/>
5. Project documents can be mailed upon request. Contact XX

Project information, including a copy of EA, are available at the City of Elkhart's website at <https://elkhartindiana.org/events/hively-avenue-local-trax-project/>. The presentation, boards, exhibits and handouts will be available on the City's website by July 7, 2022.

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: Michael Baker International, 3815 River Crossing Parkway, Suite 20, Indianapolis, IN 46240 or [ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com](mailto:ElkhartLocalTrax@mbakerintl.com). INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by July 31, 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. Such accommodations may be arranged by contacting Erin Pipkin, by phone at (317) 966-7301 or email at [erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com](mailto:erin@compassoutreachsolutions.com).

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."; 2) 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 3) The 2021 INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the FHWA.