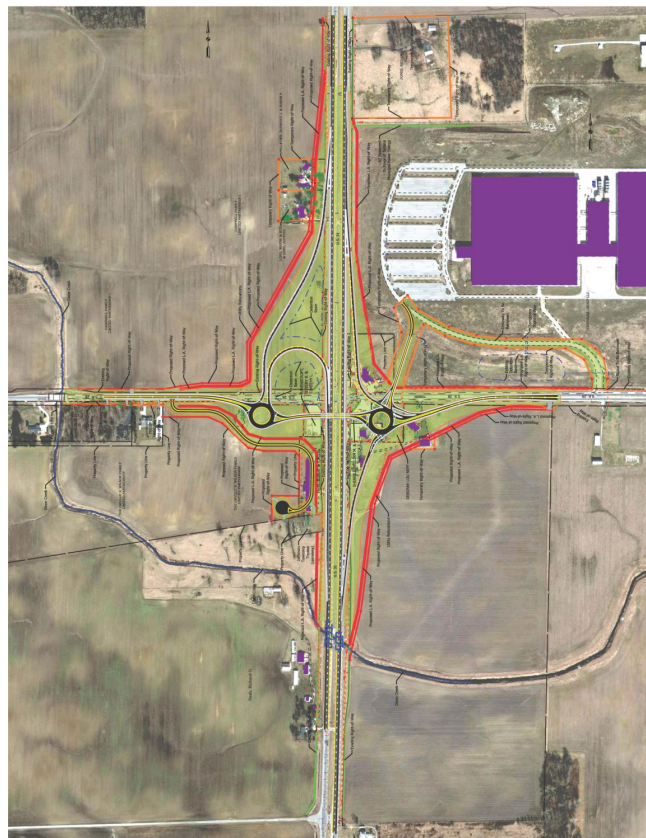


http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/indot-awards-contract-for-u-s-indiana-project/article_a0e59598-a8ca-11e5-8dfc-cbc48c504969.html

FEATURED

INDOT awards contract for U.S. 31, Indiana 28 project

By Josh Sigler Dec 22, 2015



The Indiana Department of Transportation presented this diagram of what the new construction project at U.S. 31 and Indiana 28 will look like when it's finished. Tuesday, INDOT announced it had awarded a contract for the work.



TIPTON – A day after celebrating the official opening of a portion of road construction on U.S. 31 in Hamilton County, the Indiana Department of Transportation Tuesday morning announced it had awarded a contract for the upcoming overhaul of the U.S. 31 and Indiana 28 intersection.

INDOT had estimated the project cost at \$13 to \$15 million at a February community feedback meeting, but in a press release Tuesday, said Rieth-Riley Construction Company had been awarded the contract for \$10.8 million.

That bid was the lowest among five firms which applied to receive the contract for the work.

The project will eliminate the stoplight at the intersection of the highways five miles east of Tipton, a crossroads which has long been known by locals to have the potential to be dangerous.

“Removing the stoplight at U.S. 31 and Indiana 28 marks the next step forward to finish what we started in reducing travel time between Indianapolis and South Bend,” Gov. Mike Pence said in a statement. “Investing in Indiana’s highways ensures that we have the type of infrastructure that supports economic development and invites job creation.”

The project calls for a diamond interchange with a loop in the northwest quadrant to prevent interference with Tucker Cemetery, as well as roundabout intersections on the east and west sides of the overpass which will take Indiana 28 over U.S. 31. The overpass will be a bridge made of concrete and steel. The east roundabout will include a direct-access exit to Chrysler’s Tipton Transmission Plant.

“The roundabout is specifically designed to accommodate agricultural equipment, increased commuter and truck traffic, and future development near the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Transmission Plant,” INDOT said in a statement.

Now that the contract is awarded, Reith-Riley will start the preliminary stages of construction after they receive notice to proceed from INDOT. INDOT anticipates that initial work, including the relocation of utilities, clearing of right-of-way and the demolition and removal of existing structures around the intersection, will begin in early 2016.

Road construction is anticipated to begin in April, and Indiana 28 is anticipated to be closed for around 120 days beginning in June.

The new interchange is preliminarily expected to be open to traffic by February, and all work outlined in the contract is estimated to be completed in 2017.

Since the state outlined its plan for the Major Moves road construction project in 2005, 32 traffic lights between Indianapolis and South Bend have been eliminated, which saves motorists 30 minutes of travel time, INDOT estimates.

Though traffic will not be opened to the official final configurations next week, INDOT celebrated an official opening of the U.S. 31 road project in Westfield and Carmel on Monday, where traffic has been shifted onto new bridges which overpass 106th and 116th streets in Carmel. U.S. 31 is now open to three lanes of traffic in both north and south directions, and the project eliminated the last two traffic lights on the highway through Carmel.

The overhaul just north of Indianapolis also created a free-flowing ramp from Interstate 465 onto northbound U.S. 31.

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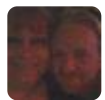
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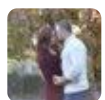


[Galen Paul Shipp](#) from Facebook

Dec 25, 2015

Yeah, I know they aren't related. Nobody's ever mentioned them in the same story. It's just sad that a family business has to close down because what the state thinks their property is worth isn't enough for them to relocate elsewhere. Meanwhile, in another part of the neighborhood, a landowner who has sat on farm fields for 30 years is trying to get a truck stop built now that he's got prime real estate.

Like Reply



[Jackie Treehorn](#) from Facebook

Dec 25, 2015

The two aren't really related.

Like Reply

[Josh Holland](#) from Facebook

Dec 23, 2015

Division road and the tracks are the dangerous sections



Like Reply



Greg Mund from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

Exactly what I thought!

Like Reply



Michael Garst from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

It's going to suck for a while. I was really hoping they'd get rid of the silly roundabouts

Like Reply



Gary Campbell from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

Getting tired of all this construction going to Indy

Like Reply



Papa Bear

Dec 22, 2015

That looks like a very confusing diagram. I need to see a larger one before I can determine if that intersection looks as confusing as it does now.

Like Reply



Alan Ferguson from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

This is waste of our tax money

Like Reply



Josh Sigler from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

As of right now there are no plans to change that intersection. But INDOT says that's always subject to change.

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Decarlos Green from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

Light keeping it lol

Like Reply



Tammy Adams from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

What will happen to the light at division road?

Like Reply



Galen Paul Shipp from Facebook

Dec 22, 2015

and roundabouts galore when the construction's done. Let us all mourn Sherrell's as they put in the new Love's truck stop.

Like Reply



[Thomas Wilson](#) from Facebook

Oh, great. Construction.

Dec 22, 2015

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Christmas at the Seiberling
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