

INDOT Begins Studies Along U.S. 30 and U.S. 31 Corridors

INDOT asks for public's input in ProPEL U.S. 30/31 studies

INDIANA – The Indiana Department of Transportation is asking for the Hoosiers' input as it begins streamlined planning studies that will be different than previous studies along the U.S. 30 and U.S. 31 corridors in Northern Indiana. The ProPEL U.S. 30 and ProPEL U.S. 31 studies seeks to ProPEL our communities forward by using a collaborative approach to consider environmental, community and economic goals early in the process.

The studies span 180 miles across 12 counties. The studies will follow the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process used by transportation agencies, such as INDOT, to assess innovative ways to address transportation problems. PEL studies allow INDOT to listen to communities as they imagine what a road should be in the future.

The process includes the development of alternatives which balance that imagined future with transportation engineering needs and environmental concerns. The information, analysis and decisions made during the PEL process can be leveraged in later phases of project development, including the environmental review process based on requirements established in the National Environmental Policy Act.

The project area includes U.S. 30 from Valparaiso to the Indiana/Ohio state line (excluding the Fort Wayne bypass), as well as U.S. 31 between Hamilton County and Plymouth (excluding the Kokomo bypass). It includes Allen, Fulton, Hamilton, Howard, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Miami, Porter, Starke, Tipton and Whitley counties.

The studies are scheduled for completion by Fall 2024. With the community support, each study will likely identify multiple alternatives, including a no-build alternative, for the corridors.

Information Gathering

The PEL studies will be collaborative, data-driven and inspired by the public's ideas. Throughout the studies, INDOT is asking for the public's help in identifying what they want the corridors to look like in the future. With help from residents, motorists, businesses and others, INDOT can build infrastructure to better serve our communities. ProPEL studies gather questions, concerns and creative ideas through a variety of means, including project websites, social media and in-person and virtual public information meetings.

The first round of public information meetings will take place this fall. More information on each meeting will be available via the project websites, social media channels and media advisories at a later date.

The PEL studies are about what is possible. Together we will look at transportation problems and include your ideas on how to improve the corridors. Engineers and planners will evaluate the public's suggestions to provide smart recommendations using engineering, environmental, economic and community factors with a goal to create smarter transportation and stronger communities.

After the PEL studies are complete and funds are identified for a project, INDOT will move into the project development process using the feedback and alternatives developed in the PEL studies as the starting point. There are four main components to the project development phase:

- Environmental review/preliminary engineering
- Final Engineering
- Right-of-way acquisition
- Construction

For more information on the project, and to share your comments, a website for each corridor is available. The websites can also be used to sign-up for mailing lists to stay informed about the studies and to receive notifications of planned public involvement activities.

For U.S. 30, [click here](#).

For U.S. 31, [click here](#).