

52@65

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SEPTEMBER 2023

RECENT PUBLIC MEETING WELL ATTENDED



Nearly 90 residents joined INDOT and its design team from American Structurepoint at the August 31 public meeting. Others have shared their thoughts via the 52@65 website.

Held at Lebanon High School, the project team provided information about why improvements are needed, how a new interchange will function, and its benefits. The main purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the community.

A video about the project, progress on the environmental review, and an update on the project schedule was provided at the meeting. Attendees reviewed a variety of exhibits and had the opportunity to ask the design team questions.

If you weren't able to attend the meeting, you can still provide input. All of the information from the meeting, including the video, is available at 52at65.com. You can also submit your comments about the project until October 2 on the website and via email at severhart@structurepoint.com. You can also mail comments to:

Sarah Everhart
American Structurepoint, Inc.
9025 River Road, Suite 200
Indianapolis, Indiana

This is your community.
We want to hear from you!



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PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

In May 2023, INDOT selected Conceptual Alternative 8 as the preliminary preferred alternative for the 52@65 project.

Conceptual Alternative 8, described in greater detail at 56at65.com, 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.

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 56at65.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.

NEXT STEPS

In addition to continuing to gather input on the preliminary preferred alternative and completing the environmental document, the 52@65 team is moving forward on other elements of this project. This includes traffic analysis and design, road design, and value engineering. The team will also continue to share information broadly with the community and seek input on elements of the project. You can keep apprised of developments by visiting our website and following us on Facebook and X, formerly Twitter.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The 52@65 project is in the design phase. The next step is to accept bids from construction contractors and vendors, which is anticipated in Fall 2024, with construction beginning in Spring 2025.

There will not be any traffic interruptions during the design stage. While there will likely be interruptions during construction, INDOT and its contractors will be implementing a plan to lessen the impact on motorists. Our team will communicate regularly with stakeholders to keep them informed about closures and alternate routes so drivers can plan ahead.

