



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUBOIS COUNTY, Ind. (November 1, 2022) – The Indiana Department of Transportation today announced a project to replace a dangerous intersection in Dubois County with a roundabout.

The single-lane roundabout will replace the traffic signal that controls vehicle flow through the intersection of Indiana highways 64 and 162, about six miles south of Jasper in Dubois County. Construction is expected to begin the spring of 2025 with completion in 2026.



The Indiana Department of Transportation – Vincennes District is overseeing the project. Lochmueller Group and VS Engineering, both with offices in Evansville, are the lead design

"Southwestern Indiana does not have very many roundabouts. One of the biggest misconceptions is that larger vehicles can't get through them. With proper design, larger vehicles can absolutely pass through roundabouts - and do so more efficiently and safely."

**Nick Jahn, Southern Regional Director and Senior Project Manager
VS Engineering**

Nearly 13,300 vehicles travel through the rural intersection each day, with 9,033 of those coming from the north-south Indiana 162. About 94 percent are passenger vehicles, with approximately 6 percent being trucks and other large vehicles.

Crash data from 2017-19 shows 116 crashes occurred at the intersection, including nine with incapacitating injuries, 19 with non-incapacitating injuries and 88 with property damage only. In one memorable 2017 crash, a Dubois County ambulance traveling through the intersection was broadsided by another vehicle. The ambulance was a complete loss.

The frequency and severity of crashes at 64/162 rates it well above normal for a highway intersection. Based on two common highway safety rating systems that measure crash volumes and economic impact, 64/162 rates a 2.74 on the Index of Crash Frequency and a 2.85 on the Index of Crash Cost. By comparison, an intersection considered "safe" rates a 1.0 or lower on both indexes. Any rating above 2.0 places the intersection on a priority list for reconstruction.

"The beauty about a lot of roundabouts is you totally eliminate the right angle crashes, which are the T-bones and are the most severe."

**Jared Peterson, Capital Program Management Director
INDOT's Vincennes District**

When completed, the roundabout will improve both traffic flow and safety. Drivers approaching the roundabout won't need to stop unless there are other vehicles in the roundabout. Research shows that when compared to traditional intersections, roundabouts:

- Reduce potential conflict points
- Cut fatal crashes by up to 90 percent
- Increase traffic capacity 30-50 percent
- Save \$5,000 per year on average in electricity and maintenance costs

The roundabout will be larger to accommodate large vehicles, trucks and farm machinery. That likely means a larger diameter and extra wide truck apron. Other features could include more extensive approaches, a smaller-radius central island with low landscaping and "splitter" islands to allow full access to the commercial businesses on the roundabout's northeast side. Topography and existing infrastructure also will factor into the final design.

While the 64/162 roundabout will be a first on the state-maintained highway in Dubois County, this roundabout will join the more than 250 roundabouts already in use in Indiana; 29 of which are on state-maintained roads.

"I think the general consensus is after a roundabout has been in place and people use them for a while they start to say, 'Hey, we're moving along a little quicker, and we're getting through the intersection safer."

**Rusty Fowler, Deputy Commissioner
INDOT's Vincennes District**

For more information visit the [Operation: Safe Passage](#) 64/162 roundabout website.

CONTACTS:

Gary Brian
gbrian@indot.in.gov
436.246.7592

Allison Brown
allison@blnkgp.com
317.966.1339