



**NORTHWESTERN INDIANA
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

Together We Make The Difference

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April 26, 2010

Ms. Lisa Shrader
Production Program Director
Indiana Department of Transportation
LaPorte District Office
P.O. Box 429
LaPorte, Indiana 46352

**RE: NW Indiana FFY 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program:
Amendment #18 (Emergency)
DES 0014500: SR 53 Intersection Improvement and Reconstruction
From 93rd Ave to 109th Ave (Crown Point)
Phases: RW, UT/RR, CN**

Dear Ms. Shrader:

We herewith amend Northwest Indiana's FFY 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by restoring the above-captioned project to the TIP. This project had been removed because design changes had been proposed that caused this otherwise exempt project to become a non-exempt project with added (auxiliary) travel lanes. We take this action after having been assured that the design has been restored to that originally proposed by removal of the extended auxiliary turning lanes from the design.

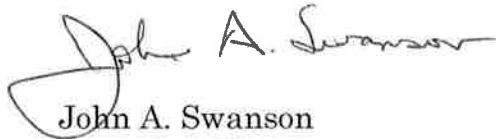
The need to improve this heavily-traveled segment of roadway is well-documented. I am advised that a delay in start of construction of this roadway brought about by waiting for the standard TIP amendment process would interfere with an already scheduled letting date (May 2010). We find it in the public's best interest that this project be constructed at the earliest possible time. Consistent with our adopted TIP amendment procedures, we are approving the addition of this project with no further action by the Commission.

The project involves full reconstruction of the pavement (from 93rd Ave to 109th Ave), addition of turning lanes and signals at five (intersections), and signal interconnection. Further, the project does not add travel lanes and is an exempt project type listed in 40 CFR Part 93.126d. We are simultaneously transmitting this amendment to the Intergovernmental Consultation Group (ICG) for concurrence that this project is, in fact, an exempt project under 40 CFR Part 93.

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either Gary Evers or myself at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John A. Swanson
Executive Director

C: Hon. Shelli VanDenBurgh, FHWA: Joyce Newland; INDOT: Mike McPhillips, Marcia Blansett; Jeanette Wilson, Angela Fegaras, Steve Hauersperger,

**Attachment to 2009-2013 TIP Amendment #18
April 26, 2010**

DES 0014500

SR 53, Lake County, IN (State STP Funds) Intersection Improvements

Description	Location	Phase	Year	Total Cost	Federal Funds	AQ Conformity	
						Finding	Reference
Intersection Improvements (at 5 locations). Includes added turn lanes, signals, lighting. Resurfacing in between & from 109th Ave to US 231.	From 93rd Ave to US 231 (Crown Point & Merrillville, IN)	RW	2010	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 800,000	Exempt	Table 2, #10, #18, #19. Table 3, #1, #2.
Intersection Improvements (at 5 locations). Includes added turn lanes, signals, lighting. Resurfacing in between & from 109th Ave to US 231.	From 93rd Ave to US 231 (Crown Point & Merrillville, IN)	CN	2010	\$ 4,129,600	\$ 3,303,680	Exempt	Table 2, #10, #18, #19. Table 3, #1, #2.
Intersection Improvements (at 5 locations). Includes added turn lanes, signals, lighting. Resurfacing in between & from 109th Ave to US 231.	From 93rd Ave to US 231 (Crown Point & Merrillville, IN)	UT/RR	2010	\$ 750,000	\$ 600,000	Exempt	Table 2, #10, #18, #19. Table 3, #1, #2.

The five intersections are: SR 53 at 93rd Ave, 101st Ave, Summit St., 107th Ave, and 109th Ave.