

PROJECT OVERVIEW FAQ



The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is preparing to reconstruct the I-65/I-70 North Split Interchange in downtown Indianapolis. The project encompasses the I-65/I-70 interchange, south along I-65/I-70 to Washington Street, west along I-65 to near Meridian Street and east along I-70 to Valley Avenue, just west of the Keystone/Rural Street interchange.

The project will:

- Improve safety
- Reconstruct the North Split interchange
- Replace and/or reconstruct 32 bridges
- Correct deteriorated pavement conditions
- Reconstruct pavement throughout the project
- Reconfigure I-65 exit/entrance ramps along 11th and 12th street
- Improve interchange operations and reduce congestion

Where is the North Split?

The North Split is the interchange where I-65 and I-70 meet on the northeast side of downtown Indianapolis. The North Split is the most heavily traveled interchange in central Indiana.

Why is INDOT rebuilding the North Split?

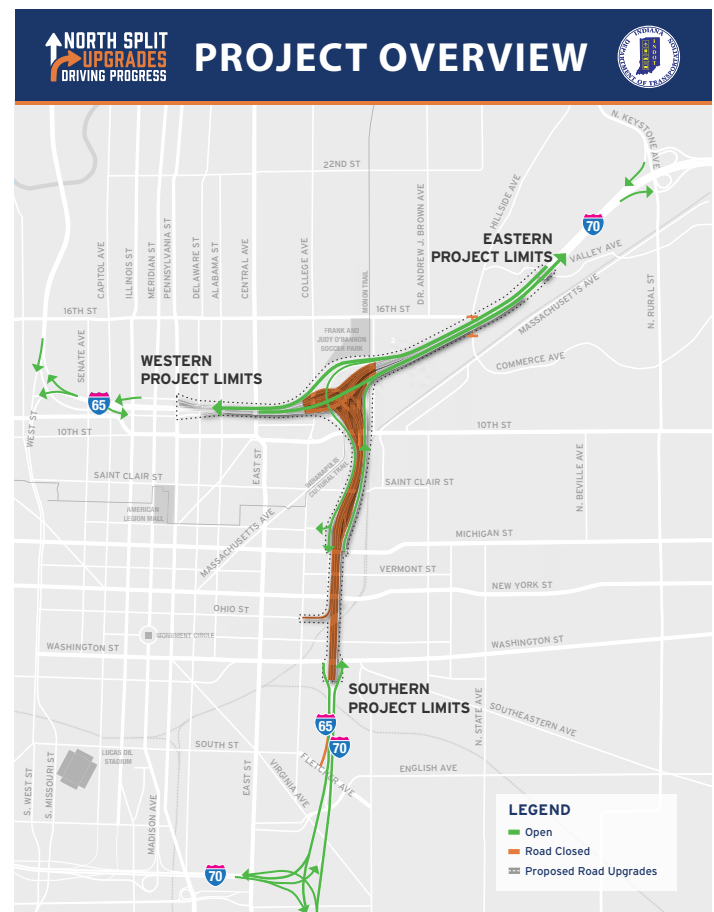
The purpose of the North Split Project is to rehabilitate and improve the existing interstate facilities within the project area and reduce or eliminate conditions that contribute to high crash rates and congested conditions.

The project started because of the condition of the roadway and bridges. The interstates were constructed in the 1960's and 70's and the infrastructure requires replacement. Pavement and bridges in the interchange area require rehabilitation or replacement due to their poor structural condition.

- All 32 bridges in the project area have deteriorating components, and 11 have only two to five years of remaining service life.
- The pavement throughout the interchange is well beyond its lifespan and needs constant repair to remain safe and functional. This project will replace all pavement within the project limits.

The project will also correct safety concerns within the project area.

- Between 2012 and 2016, there were 1,600 crashes in the project area – almost one per day. The rate of fatality crashes was 1.8 times higher; injury crashes was 2.8 times higher, and property damage crashes was 2.3 times higher than other urban interstates in Indiana. The frequent merges, weaves, and lane changes over short distances within the interchange increase the potential for crashes, cause driver confusion and disrupt traffic flow. The reconfigured interchange will address these safety concerns by providing fewer points of conflict.



When will construction take place?

Construction began in December 2020 with utility relocations. I-65 and I-70 between the North Split and Washington Street will be closed to traffic during the two-year construction period with substantial completion in November 2022.

What is the long-term impact will the project have on the area?

The project will improve safety to the traveling public by reducing or eliminating conditions that contribute to crashes along I-65 and I-70. The project will also improve operations in the North Split project area by removing weaving sections and improving level of service now and into 2041. Typically, projects are planned and designed for 20 years after the construction timeframe to take into account future conditions.

How do I get around the closure?

During construction, I-65 to I-70 connections will remain open to traffic during construction. Movements to access downtown from the interstate will also be available as well. I-70 westbound exit ramp to Michigan or Ohio streets will remain open throughout the length of construction. The Pine Street entrance ramp to I-70 eastbound will also remain open.

North Split (Northeast corner of downtown Indianapolis)



I-65 – I-70 between the North Split and Washington Street will be closed to all traffic throughout the two-year construction period.

Are there other routes I can take if I want to avoid North Split construction completely?

Drivers can take I-465 to travel around the city and avoid downtown construction of the North Split. From the west side of Indianapolis, drivers can take I-465 southbound to I-70 eastbound and then continue on to I-65 southbound. From the east side of Indianapolis, drivers can take I-465 southbound and then on to I-465 eastbound to avoid the project area.

North Split Closure Detour Routes

