



To: Town Council
From: Jim Marino, Town Manager
Meeting Date: December 1, 2025
Subject: Road Safety Audit

Summary

Staff worked with SEH to participate in the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) Road Safety Audit Program. Our application for an audit of the intersection at Calumet Avenue and Ridge Road was selected for the program. NIRPC will fund at least 80% of the project cost through Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. The Local Public Agencies (LPAs) will be responsible for up to 20% of the project cost. This amounts to \$1,806.00 for the Town of Munster.

A road safety audit (RSA) is a safety performance review of a street segment or intersection conducted by a multidisciplinary team. The RSA will identify elements of the roadway that are contributing to unsafe conditions, determine which road users are unsafe, and understand the circumstances during which they are unsafe (e.g. darkness, snowy conditions, etc.) and then identify opportunities to improve the safety of the roadway by eliminating those elements or mitigating those conditions.

The main goal of the NIRPC RSA program is to build a pipeline of projects with proven safety benefits that can receive Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding either through the NIRPC Transportation Improvement Program or through INDOT's state HSIP. Participation in this program moves a project to the front of the line for these funds.

The RSA research and analysis involves two steps:

Data Collection and Analysis - will be completed by NIRPC staff and a consultant, Corradino, LLC. A virtual meeting will be held with municipal staff to kick off the process and discuss preliminary findings. The following tasks will be performed:

- Collecting and analyzing crash data
- Validate Crash Locations are Accurate
- Confirm Manner of Collision & Crash Severity Reflect Police Narrative
- Generate Collision Summary Tables

- Generate Collision Diagrams
- Generate Crash Frequency & Crash Cost Scores
- Identify Potential Safety Countermeasures
- Collecting and analyzing traffic data
- Collect traffic counts data
- Conduct Existing Condition Analysis
- Generate a Future No Build Analysis
- Identify Annual Traffic Growth Rate
- Identify Design Year (2050)
- Use INDOT's Intersection Decision Guide to screen potential build alternatives that align with safety countermeasures

Field Checks & Consensus Building - once the data is compiled and formatted, NIRPC and Corradino LLC will schedule and conduct a site visit with appropriate municipal staff (could include Planning, Public Works, PD, FD, etc.) to field check the data and discuss potential near- and long-term solutions. The site visit includes:

- Review Crash History & Traffic Analysis
- Observe Traffic Patterns
- Identify Near Term & Long-Term Countermeasures
- Build Consensus on Recommended Improvements

Financial Impact

Funding Source: Municipal Wheel Tax

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost: \$1,806.00

Recommended Council Action

By motion and voice vote approve a memorandum of understanding between the Town of Munster and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission to conduct a road safety audit.

Attachments:

1. NIRPC Safety Audit Memorandum of Understanding