**DES. # 1700149**

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for proposed State Road (SR) 159 bridge replacement over Wells Ditch, 2.49 miles north of SR 67 in Knox County.

The purpose of this project is to maintain the crossing at SR 159 over Wells Ditch (also known as Tilley Ditch) for continued safe travel, and to maintain hydraulic function at the crossing. The need for the project is due to the deteriorating condition of the bridge.

The project proposes to replace the bridge. The replacement structure will be a single-span precast, reinforced concrete, three-sided box structure that is 50-foot long and 40-foot wide. Revetment riprap will be installed along both banks of the stream for the length of the bridge as scour protection. Guardrail will be replaced. Approach pavement will be replaced. The project limits have been constrained to the smallest area possible to minimize impacts to the environment.

The proposed construction of this project will require 1.66 acre of new permanent right-of-way and 0.18 acre of temporary right-of-way.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan requires the closure of SR 159 for approximately 4 months. The proposed MOT for the project is a full road closure of SR 159 with an official state detour route. The official INDOT detour route will be a state route detour utilizing SR 58 and SR 67 will be in place. The proposed detour will be approximately 13.3 miles long and will add approximately 7.2 miles to a trip through the area. Access for local traffic will be provided during construction per current INDOT Standard Specification 107.08(e). School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction.  The proposed start of construction is 2022.

The cost associated with this project is approximately $1.2 million which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review on-line at TO BE FILLED IN.

**All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Troy Arnold, INDOT Project Manager at 812-895-7348 or tarnold1@indot.in.gov on or before December 4, 2020. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT Office of Public Involvement for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Troy Arnold, INDOT Project Manager, at 812-895-7348 or tarnold1@indot.in.gov. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact the INDOT Office of Public Involvement.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.”; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(ix) stating, “Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate.”; and 3) The INDOT *Public Involvement Policies and Procedures* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2012.