



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N758
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

DES. #: 2002071

LEGAL NOTICE PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has developed preliminary plans for a proposed State Road (SR) 140 bridge replacement over Big Blue River, 0.68 mile south of US 40, located in Rush and Henry Counties (DES 2002071). The limits of the project extend from 378 feet north of the north corner of CR 1200 N to 922 feet south of CR 1200 N. The project proposes to replace the bridge with a 3-span continuous composite prestressed bulb-tee beam bridge and rebuild the approaches. The project also includes, but is not limited to, replacing the guardrails, scour protection in Big Blue Creek, relocating a small tributary on the southeast side of the bridge 15 feet east of its current location, correcting roadside slopes, and reshaping roadside ditches.

The maintenance of traffic plan for this project involves closing the road to traffic and using a detour consisting of US 40, SR 3, CR 900 and Rushville Rd. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. Project stakeholders including local school corporation(s) and emergency services will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction.

Construction of the project will require approximately 1.15 acres of new permanent right-of-way with an estimated total project cost of \$5,920,000. No temporary right-of-way will be needed. Every effort to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate project impacts will be made. The permanent right-of-way impacts will be approximately 0.38 acre in the northwest quadrant, 0.35 acre in the southwest quadrant, 0.20 acre in the northeast quadrant, and 0.22 acre in the southeast quadrant of the project area. The permanent ROW will be used to replace the structure, correct sideslopes and reshape ditches, place riprap, and clear the channel. Federal and states funds are to be utilized for the construction of the project.

The Federal Highway Administration and INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 3 environmental document with no significant impacts to wetlands. It is anticipated that 0.91 acre of trees will be removed during this project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service made a "likely to adversely affect" the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and/or the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) effect determination. Erosion protection will be placed at the bases of the piers of the bridge. There is an unnamed tributary (UNT) to Big Blue River, on the southeast side of the bridge. Seven feet of the UNT will be realigned for bank stabilization at the confluence with Big Blue River changing the length of the UNT from 317 feet to 310 feet. Proposed impacts have been minimized to the extent practicable and cannot be avoided due to construction access needs and worker safety.

Preliminary design plans, along with the CE are available for review at the following locations: 1) Knightstown Town Hall, 120 Main St, Knightstown, IN 46148, 2) The INDOT Greenfield District

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Office, 32 S Broadway St, Greenfield, IN 46140, 3) WSP Indianapolis Office, 115 W Washington St, Suite 1270S, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 4) <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/>, 5) <https://www.indianaexchange.com/indiana/public-notices/search>.

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of April Arroyo-Monroe, april@kaskaskiaeng.com, 812-314-7041, 323 Main St, Suite E, Evansville, IN 47708 no later than October 11, 2024. 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 Greenfield District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Rob Gill, d30gill@indot.in.gov, 32 South Broadway, Greenfield, IN 46140. 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 Rob Gill, d30gill@indot.in.gov, 32 South Broadway, Greenfield, IN 46140.

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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.