



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N758-ES
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (855) 463-6848
(855) INDOT4U

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Michael Smith, Commissioner

Legal Notice of Planned Improvement - DES. #: 1702997 & 2001886

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) LaPorte District, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intends to proceed with a roadway project along US 6 in northeastern Marshall and southwestern Elkhart Counties in Indiana. The proposed project involves the application of a new hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay (Des. No. 2001886) and shoulder widening (Des. No. 1702997) along US 6 from the east junction of State Road (SR) 106 to 2.03 miles west of SR 19.

The need for the project stems from the deteriorated condition of the existing pavement, shoulder, and many of the drainage structures along US 6 as well as the lack of safe, multi-modal connectivity between the communities of Bremen and Nappanee. The purpose of the project is to address the deterioration of the existing roadway along US 6 and provide accommodations for safe multi-modal connectivity between Bremen and Nappanee.

The preferred alternative involves milling approximately 1.5 inches of the existing pavement and applying 4 inches of HMA overlay. Where the existing shoulders are less than 8 feet wide, they will be widened to 8 feet to accommodate horse-drawn carriages and bicyclists in the area. Additionally, there are 41 drainage structures within the project area that will be removed, replaced, repaired, or extended. Most of the structures will have riprap placed at their outlet. The total amount of riprap to be placed is approximately 0.05 acre. The structure work includes replacing the large side-by-side culverts (CLV-100157 & CLV-100155) that convey the east crossing of George Marberger Ditch with a single 84-inch diameter culvert. CLV-100157 and CLV-100155 are the only large culverts within the project area that will be impacted by the project. The remaining impacted structures consist of smaller driveway culverts and culverts under roadways, all less than 24 inches in diameter. The project will also involve regrading the roadside ditches to accommodate the widened shoulders. The proposed improvement will maintain the existing travel lane widths and will not introduce any added travel lanes or turn lanes. Guardrails will be removed and replaced at the southeast corner of the intersection of SR 106 and US 6, at the culvert carrying the west crossing of George Marberger Ditch, and at the side-by-side culverts carrying the east crossing of George Marberger Ditch.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan will occur in six phases to accommodate traffic during construction. The first phase will involve complete closure of US 6 to replace the structures at the east crossing of George Marberger Ditch. Phases II through V will involve various lane closures to accommodate shoulder and overlay work. Phase VI will have intermittent closures of one lane at a time and have a mobile flagging operation in place. A flagger will be in place to facilitate traffic through the construction area for phases II through VI. A detour will be in place during each phase of construction and will utilize SR 19, US 20, and SR 331. This detour is planned to be in place for approximately 9 months. The detour will add approximately 25.4 additional travel miles and approximately 29 additional minutes. Short local detours will be available for use by horse and buggy traffic in the area. These details are forthcoming. Access to all residences and businesses within the project area will be maintained throughout construction.

The project will require approximately 20.41 acres of new permanent right-of-way (ROW) and 1.05 acres of temporary ROW. The project is anticipated to permanently impact approximately 0.8461 acre and temporarily impact approximately 0.0101 acre of wetlands. Mitigation for wetland impacts will likely be required. The project is also anticipated to permanently impact 122 linear feet of George Marberger Ditch. The project is anticipated to impact approximately 23.73 acres of terrestrial habitat, including 1.09 acre of tree clearing.

The cost associated with the project is approximately \$17,433,000 which includes preliminary engineering, ROW, and construction costs. The FHWA and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level-3 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the draft CE-3 document are available for review at the following locations:

1. Nappanee Public Library (157 N Main St, Nappanee, IN 46550)



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2. INDOT LaPorte District Office ((855) INDOT4U; 315 Boyd Blvd, LaPorte, IN 46350)
3. INDOT LaPorte District Website (<https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-laporte-district/>)

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Chris Kunkel, Environmental Specialist, Lochmueller Group, 3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 150, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46268, at 317-334-6818 or via email at CKunkel@lochgroup.com on or before September 6, 2024.

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 for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Shawna DeGraff at 219-214-3442 or sdegraff@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 Shawna DeGraff at 219-214-3442 or sdegraff@indot.in.gov.

In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. 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.