LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

Des No. 1700141

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to replace the existing structure (Bridge No. 157-28-06075B) located on SR 157 over Branch of Lemon Creek, approximately 2.35 miles north of SR 67 in Jefferson Township, Greene County, Indiana. The project proposes replacing the existing bridge with a new prestressed, single span, box beam bridge. The scope of work for this project includes: replacing the existing structure, widening the roadway embankments and shoulders, milling and overlaying the roadway pavement, removing and replacing the guardrail, clearing and realigning the stream channel, placing riprap along the abutments and channel banks, constructing riprap drainage turnouts, replacing a pipe in the northeast quadrant, reconstructing the existing embankment slopes, and providing side slope stabilization. The construction limits will extend approximately 283 ft. to the north and 238 ft. to the south from the center of the structure.

The need for this project stems from the deteriorating conditions of the existing bridge. The existing bridge exhibits longitudinal cracking and leakage between beams on the deck of the bridge. The superstructure has signs of spalling, rusting and 100% section loss on one of the beam strands. The timber substructure also shows signs of minor section loss and the center splice cap exhibited hollow sounds. In addition, widespread minor damage due to bank slumping was seen on the channel bank. The purpose of this project is to provide a structurally and hydraulically sufficient structure on SR 157 over Branch of Lemon Creek.

Approximately 0.88 acre of permanent right-of-way (ROW) is anticipated to be needed, consisting of residential, agricultural, and forested property. The permanent ROW is required for the construction of the new bridge, realignment of the stream channel, and continued maintenance of the structure. No temporary ROW is anticipated to be acquired. In addition, this project will not require the displacement or relocation of any residents or businesses.

Impacts to Branch of Lemon Creek will be necessary for the replacement of the existing bridge. Impacts are anticipated to exceed 300 linear feet and stream mitigation may be required. No impacts to any wetlands are anticipated as a result of this project.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) for this project will require a road closure with a detour route. The best available detour route would be SR 48 to SR 59 to SR 54 to SR 67 for southbound traffic and opposite for northbound. This route would add a distance of 30.6 miles for traveling motorists. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School and emergency services will be notified prior to any construction that would block or limit access. The total estimated project cost is $3,139,263.00. This project is anticipated to begin construction in the Spring of 2022.

This project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion Level 2 Environmental Document. No significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment were found during the creation of this document. All interested parties are hereby notified of the availability of the environmental document and preliminary design plans for review online at INDOT Vincennes District webpage at: <https://www.in.gov/indot/2707.htm>. Persons with limited internet access may request project information to be mailed, please contact Raquel Walker at 260-240-4661 or [r.walker@gaiconsultants.com](mailto:r.walker@gaiconsultants.com).

In accordance with the “Americans With Disabilities Act”, INDOT can provide special accommodation for persons with disabilities and or limited English speaking ability and persons needing auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print. Should special accommodation be needed in regard to the attendance and participation during the public involvement process, please contact Kent Davis, 812-895-7385, [AlDavis@indot.IN.gov](mailto:AlDavis@indot.IN.gov).

All interested persons may request a public hearing, or express their concerns, by submitting comments to the attention of Raquel Walker at the following address: 9921 DuPont Circle Drive West, Suite 100, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825 or [r.walker@gaiconsultants.com](mailto:r.walker@gaiconsultants.com) on or before January 13, 2021. If a hearing is determined to be in the best interest of the public, additional notification will be prepared, and the public notified. Otherwise, any comments or materials received will be considered in the decision-making process.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.111 (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.