



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Eric Holcomb, Governor
Michael Smith, Commissioner

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - DES. # 1701589 SR 163 over Brouilletts Creek Bridge Project, Vermillion County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at the South Vermillion High School – 800 Wildcat Drive, Clinton, IN 47842. The formal portion of the hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans, the environmental document, and Section 106 document for the State Road (SR 163) over Brouilletts Creek Bridge Project in Vermillion County. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and project team members will be available before and following the formal hearing procedure.

The need for the project is due to the deteriorating condition and non-standard lane and shoulder widths of the existing structure, the SR 163 over Brouilletts Creek bridge in Vermillion County, Indiana, INDOT Bridge No. 163-83-01393A (National Bridge Inventory [NBI] No. 28420). The purpose of the project is to maintain a crossing of SR 163 over Brouilletts Creek with an overall condition of at least 7 out of 9 (good condition), provide a minimum HS-15 (27 tons) load rating, and improve the shoulder widths to improve safety and protect the bridge. Achieving these goals should extend the remaining life of the structure by a minimum of 30 years.

The project is located along SR 163 approximately 1.2 miles north of SR 71. The existing bridge is a 175-foot single-span Parker steel through truss bridge on vertical abutments with no skew. This bridge has two 11-foot travel lanes, one in each direction, with 1-foot outside shoulders, for a total clear roadway width of 24 feet. It has aluminum barrier rail mounted on steel posts connected to outside stringers and to truss vertical posts. There are no sidewalks on the bridge or approaches.

This bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C as a good example of a Parker through truss designed by the Indiana State Highway Commission (ISHC) and built by the Vincennes Bridge Company in 1932. The bridge was also determined to be "Select" per the parameters of the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory. Impacts to the historic bridge are being processed under the Programmatic Agreement Regarding Management and Preservation of Indiana's Historic Bridges (Historic Bridges PA).

Rehabilitation for Continued Vehicular Use - One-Way Operation is the selected preferred alternative. Under this alternative, the project will rehabilitate the existing structure to address the structural condition and reduce the roadway to a single lane. The bridge will have one 11-foot wide travel lane with 4.2-foot wide shoulders and 1.4-foot wide concrete railings. The primary elements of the rehabilitation include increasing the load capacity to HS-15 (27-tons), replacing the bridge deck, replacing all bridge railing, and placing riprap at both abutments. A signal and stop bar will be installed approximately 100 feet from either end of the bridge to maintain bi-directional travel. The SR 163 bridge approaches will have two 11-foot wide travel lanes, 4.5-foot wide shoulders, and guardrails.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2024. The proposed maintenance of traffic includes a full bridge closure for approximately eight months, and an official detour using SR 163, SR 71, US 36, and SR 63 will be provided. Maintenance of traffic details will be presented during the public hearing. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, public transit, local school corporation officials, and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible.

The project will impact approximately 435 linear feet of Brouilletts Creek and its floodway and unnamed tributary (UNT) 1 to Brouilletts Creek, due to the need for scour protection. Additionally, it will impact approximately 1.15 acres of terrestrial habitat, including up to 1.0 acre of trees, which will be cleared to provide construction access and relocate utilities. All tree clearing will occur within 100 feet of SR 163.

The proposed project will mostly occur within previously disturbed right-of-way. Approximately 0.36-acre of permanent new right-of-way will be acquired. No temporary right-of-way is proposed.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The proposed project does not involve any properties eligible for the NRHP aside from the subject bridge. INDOT, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has signed a determination of “No Historic Properties Affected” for the project.

In accordance with the NHPA, the views of the public are being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a) (4), the documentation of no historic properties affected specified in 36 CFR 800.11 (e) is available for inspection in the repository locations listed below. The documentation can also be viewed electronically by accessing INDOT’s Section 106 document posting website IN SCOPE at <http://erms.indot.in.gov/Section106Documents>. This documentation serves as the basis for the “No Historic Properties Affected” finding.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and FHWA have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. The public hearing serves as the opportunity for the public to comment on both the environmental document and the 800.11(e) documentation for Section 106. All comments collected before, during, and after the hearing through February 1, 2023 will be taken into consideration.

The environmental documentation, Section 106, and preliminary design information is available to view at the following locations:

1. Clinton Public Library: 313 S. Fourth Street, Clinton, IN 47842
2. INDOT Crawfordsville District Office: 41 West 300 North, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
3. INDOT Website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-crawfordsville-district/>
4. Copies of project documents can be mailed upon request by contacting INDOT Customer Service at 855-INDOT4U (1-855-463-6848).

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during and for a period of ten (10) days following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to Richard Gilyeat, INDOT Project Manager, Crawfordsville District Office, 41 W. 300 North, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or email: RGilyeat@indot.IN.gov. **INDOT requests comments be postmarked by Wednesday, February 1, 2023, to be included as part of the public hearing record.**

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with regards to participation and access to project information or persons with limited English proficiency who require translation services (provided by INDOT free of charge) should contact Mr. Alex Lee, (Parsons) at (317) 616-1011 or email: alexander.lee@parsons.com, at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.

In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions, please contact Mr. Alex Lee, (Parsons) at (317) 616-1011 or email: alexander.lee@parsons.com, or Richard Gilyeat, INDOT Project Manager, Crawfordsville District Office, email: RGilyeat@indot.IN.gov, to learn of any postponement of the public hearing. If the public hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled and the public comment period would be extended.

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 2021 INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the FHWA.