

Appendix C: Early Coordination



The HNTB Companies

Infrastructure Solutions

111 Monument Circle

Suite 1200

Telephone (317) 636-4682

Indianapolis, IN 46204-5178

Facsimile (317) 917-5211

www.hntb.com

November 20, 2019

Sample Early Coordination Letter - Initial Letter to Recipients

Cam Sholly

Regional Director

National Parks Service- Midwest Regional Office

601 Riverfront Drive

Omaha, NE 68102

Re: Des. No. 1900095

Added Travel Lanes

U.S. 20 - Section 2 (CR 35 to SR 13)

Elkhart County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Sholly:

community effects associated with this proposed project. Please use the above designation number and request comments from you within your area of expertise regarding any potential environmental or environmental effects. description in your reply. We will incorporate Indiana. This letter is part of the early coordination phase of the environmental review process. We Highway 20 (US 20) between County Road 35 (CR 35) and State Road 13 (SR 13) in Elkhart County, propose the addition of a two-way left turn lane and additional travel lanes along United States The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) your comments into a study 으 the project's

between Elkhart and Middlebury, Indiana. The project area lies within Sections 9, 16, 15, 22, Township 37 North, Range 7 East on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 Minute Middlebury Quadrangle Topographic Map. Project Location: The project area is located from 2.13 miles west of SR 13 to SR 13 in Elkhart County

purpose of the project is to reduce congestion and correct geometric deficiencies through the corridor. roadway. The current and projected traffic volumes are causing unacceptable traffic delays. The Need and Purpose: The need for this project is based on congestion and geometric deficiencies of

and two paved shoulders (each approximately 6-feet wide). Minor Arterial. Within the project area, U.S. 20 has two travel lanes (each approximately 12-feet wide) Existing Conditions: U.S. 20 is currently a two-lane undivided highway, functionally classified as a Rural

project will include widening of the pavement and embankment, and installation of new pavement Proposed Project: The proposed project will widen a portion of U.S. 20 to accommodate the addition of one travel lane in each direction and a Two-Way Left Turn Lane throughout the corridor. The proposed markings. The resulting typical section would be a five-lane section with paved shoulders.

exact amount has not yet been determined, (approximately 40 acres). **Right-of-Way (ROW):** INDOT anticipates the need to acquire right-of-way to complete this project. The exact amount has not yet been determined, but it is expected to be greater than 0.5 acre expected greater

Maintenance of Traffic (MOT): Traffic along U.S. 20 is expected to be maintained throughout construction by maintaining one lane in each direction on US 20 at all times.

protection area or an Urban Area Boundary (UAB). findings. The project is not located within a regulated floodplain, and is not located within a wellhead determination will be performed and possible wetlands delineated. A Waters Report will summarize the **Surrounding Resources:** Land use in the vicinity of the project area is primarily agricultural, residential, and industrial. Pumpkinvine Nature Trail passes through the project area. A waters/wetland

potential to affect the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. wide programmatic informal consultation for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The USFWS Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPaC) will be utilized to determine the project's This project qualifies for the application of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) range-

days from the date of this letter, it will be assumed that your agency feels that there will be no adverse relative to the anticipated effects of the project on areas which you have jurisdiction or special expertise. Please send your comments to Richard Connolly, of HNTB Corporation, at Comments Request: You are asked to review this information and provide any comments you may have response time is necessary; a reasonable amount may be granted upon request. effects incurred as a result of the proposed project. However, should you find that an extension to the rconnolly@hntb.com or 317-917-5333. Should we not receive your response within thirty (30) calendar Richard

sseculoff@indot.in.gov or 260-399-7337. Thank you in advance for your input. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Richard Connolly , of HNTB Corporation, at rconnolly@hntb.com or 317-917-5333 or Steve Seculoff, INDOT Project Manager, at

Sincerely,

HNTB CORPORATION

1 wing ame

Richard Connolly

Science Project Manager

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location Map
Figure 2: Project Area Aerial

Figure 3: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quad Map

Project Location Photographs

Cc: Phillip Barker, Elkhart County Surveyor
Jeff Siegel, Elkhart County Sheriff

Charlie McKenzie, Elkhart County Highway Department Mike Yoder, Elkhart County Commissioners

Andrew Wood, Northridge High School

Jane Allen, Middlebury Community Schools
Jennifer Tobey, Elkhart County Emergency Management

Mary Cripe, Middlebury Town Manager Gary O'Dell, Middlebury Town Council Ronald Chupp, Middlebury Water Department

Tom Enright, Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department

Business Manager, Das Dutchman Essenhaus

David Yoder, Elkhart LaGrange Settlement Representative, Amish Steering Committee

John Heiliger, Elkhart County MS4 Stormwater Coordinator

Jim Hess, Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District

Chris Godlewski, Elkhart County Planning and Development

Dale Brier, IDNR Outdoor Recreation Streams and Trails Section

Scott Miller, Pathway Assembly of God

James Turnwald, Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)

Rick Neilson, NRCS State Conservationist

Rickie Clark, Indiana Department of Transportation, Manager of Public Hearings

Michael Jett, Indiana Department of Transportation, Utilities and Railroad

Ron Bales, Indiana Department of Transportation, Environmental Services Division

Karen Novak, Indiana Department of Transportation, Fort Wayne District

Paul Allerding, US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

Cam Sholly, National Parks Service-Acting Midwest Regional Director

Paul J. Lehmann, US Department of Housing & Development

Indiana Geological Survey

Christie Stanifer, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Joyce Newland, Federal Highway Administration

Elizabeth McCloskey, US Fish and Wildlife Service

William Spaulding, USEPA Region 5 Groundwater and Drinking Water Branch

Steve Seculoff, INDOT Project Manager

Chris Schultz, HNTB Corporation

on December 16, 2019 An early coordination letter was sent to the Crystal Valley Missionary Church

Attachments were removed to avoid duplication. They can be found in Appendix B of this CE document.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue Room N642 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (855) 463-6848

Eric Holcomb, Governor Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

November 22, 2019

Richard Connolly HNTB Corporation (317) 917-5333 rconnolly@hntb.com

Re: Early Coordination Review, Des. 1900095

U.S. 20 from County Road (CR) 35 to State Road (SR) 13 - Added Travel Lanes, Elkhart County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Connelly:

to assist you on the project referenced above. Pursuant to your early coordination request for an environmental review, we The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Environmental Services Division (ESD) appreciates the opportunity have performed a preliminary search of the project area.

is provided below. There appears to be at least four active project you should be aware of near the project area. A summary of each project

Project Sponsor: Indiana Department of Transportation; Project Manager: Steven Seculoff

- DES: 1802043 Demolition Building Removal from SR 15 to CR 35; Timeline: Construction 2021
- DES: 1600517 Added Travel Lanes on U.S. 20 from SR 15 to CR 35; Timeline: Construction 2022
- DES: 1802025 Small Structure Replacement over Hilltop Pond Timeline; Construction 2022

Project Sponsor: Indiana Department of Transportation; Project Manager: Matthew Witt

DES: 1600219 - HMA Overlay on U.S. 20 from SR 13 to 2.48 Miles East of SR 13; Timeline: Construction 2022

If your project will require the use of state right-of-way please contact the In-House Services Manager at the INDOT Fort Wayne District Office.

Meghan Hinkle: 317-232-1490 or MHinkle@indot.IN.gov. for the opportunity to assist you with your project. If you have any questions, please contact a member of my staff As always, be sure to follow all applicable processes as well as federal and state laws and local requirements. Thank you

Sincerely,

Ron Bales
Environmental Policy Manager,
Environmental Services Division



From:

Subject: RE: Early Coordination Letter - US 20 Added Travel Lanes Elkhart County Section 2 (CR 35 to SR 13) Des. No.

1900095

Monday, December 9, 2019 12:27:26 PM

Date:

Attachments:

Hi Richard

not be providing a comment letter. concerns regarding the project (Des. No. 1900095, US 20, Section 2) at this time. Therefore, we will We have reviewed the enclosed early coordination packet and we do not have any environmental

Best Regards

Karen M. Novak

5333 Hatfield Road Sr Environmental Mgr Supervisor

Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Office: (260) 969-8302

Email: knovak@indot.in.gov





From: Richard Connolly [mailto:rconnolly@HNTB.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 8:22 AM

To: Novak, Karen <KNovak@indot.IN.gov>

Subject: Early Coordination Letter - US 20 Added Travel Lanes Elkhart County Section 2 (CR 35 to SR

13) Des. No. 1900095

click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. **** **** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or

Ms. Novak,

Lanes Elkhart County Section 2 (CR 35 to SR 13) Des. No. 1900095. If you have any questions Please see the attached early coordination letter and supporting graphics for the US 20 Added Travel regarding this project, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Thanks.

Richard J. Connolly, CPESC

Science Project Manager

November 27, 2019

Richard Connolly HNTB Corporation 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Connolly:

received November 20, 2019, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland. 35 to State Road 13) in Elkhart County, Indiana, (Des No 1900095), as referred to in your letter The proposed project to proceed with added travel lanes along US 20 – Section 2 (County Road

If you need additional information, please contact John Allen at 317-295-5859

Sincerely,

JERRY RAYNOR Digitally signed by JERRY RAYNOR Date: 2019.11.29 17:10:07 -05'00'

JERRY RAYNOR
State Conservationist

From: McCloskey, Elizabeth

Richard Connolly

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Early Coordination Letter - US 20 Added Travel Lanes Elkhart County Section 2 (CR 35 to SR 13) Des. No. 1900095

Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 1:11:15 PM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>

endangered species are known to be present, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not be providing a comment letter. Good afternoon, because the proposed project will have minor impacts on natural resources, and no Federally

Elizabeth McCloskey
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Northern Indiana Suboffice
Chesterton, Indiana

On Thu, Nov 21, 2019 at 7:21 AM Richard Connolly < rconnolly@hntb.com > wrote:

Ms. McCloskey,

Please see the attached early coordination letter and supporting graphics for the US 20 Added Travel Lanes Elkhart County Section 2 (CR 35 to SR 13) Des. No. 1900095. If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Thanks.

Richard J. Connolly, CPESC

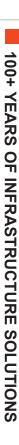
Science Project Manager

Environmental Planning

Tel (317) 917-5333 Fax (317) 917-5211

HNTB CORPORATION

111 Monument Circle Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 | www.hntb.com





This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the

From: To: Cc: Bosscher, Valerie

Subject:

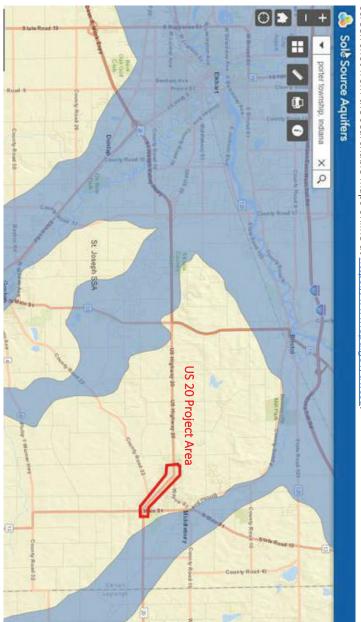
U.S. 20 between S.R. 13 and C.R. 35 - Added travel lanes - Des. No. 1900095 Tuesday, December 10, 2019 11:48:18 AM

Date:

Good morning, Mr. Connolly,

not required. within a designated Sole Source Aquifer review area, so an EPA Sole Source Aquifer project review of this project is location along U.S. 20 between S.R. 13 and C.R. 35, located between Middlebury and Elkhart, Indiana, is not located In reply to your early coordination letter about the above referenced project, my review confirmed your project

screen shot from the searchable maps online at https://www.epa.gov/dwssa: The project location (highlighted in red below) is outside the St. Joseph SSA project review area, as shown in this



safeguards are in place to ensure that ground water is not endangered. Such safeguards would include securing and developing contingency plans to handle the release of any hazardous materials adequate precautions for fueling/servicing large equipment, using "green infrastructure" practices where possible, While this project is not subject to Sole Source Aquifer review, we suggest that during construction appropriate

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you would like a formal response letter.

Thank you,

U.S. EPA Region 5 Ph 312-886-6731 Ground Water & Drinking Water Branch Chicago, IL 60604 77 W. Jackson Blvd. (WG-15J) **Environmental Engineer** Valerie Bosscher, P.E.



December 16, 2019

HNTB
111 Monument Circle
Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5178

RE: Des. No. 1900095

Added Travel Lanes

U.S. 20 – Section 2 (CR 35 to SR 13)

Elkhart, Indiana

Dear HIVIB,

administration central office. Consequently, our input about this proposed project is going to school, middle school, intermediate school, elementary school, Boys and Girls Club and an adjacent to our Middlebury Community Schools district property. Our main campus has a high proposed addition of a two-way left turn lane and additional travel lanes along US Highway 20 concentrate on the safety of our students. between County Road 35 and State Road 13 in Elkhart County, Indiana. US 20 going east is Thank you for the opportunity to present our comments concerning the INDOT and FHWA

Student Safety:

- Heritage Drive to Wayne Street stoplight: Barrier/Fencing on north side of US 20 from CR 35 to Mullet Property and from
- barrier/fencing along the north side of US 20 where it borders our campus very dangerous for our students to cross the highway. There is currently no near the high school or near Heritage Drive where our soccer fields are Additional lanes of traffic plus the wider shoulders for buggy lanes will be
- additions, restaurants, and gas station across from the school property. We currently have students crossing US 20 to go south to the housing Additional lanes would increase the danger of students crossing US 20.
- 0 Median Crosswalk: It is our opinion that a crosswalk from north to south with a median island would be necessary between CR 35 and the stoplight at Wayne Street.
- 0 Stoplight at US 20 and Wayne Street: We feel that the stoplight is necessary for the configuration of the curve and straightening the intersection. student safety because it slows down the traffic. We would be in favor of changing



Administration Center: 56853 Northridge Drive, Middlebury, Indiana 46540 Phone: (574) 825-9425 * Fax: (574) 825-9426 * Web Appendix E. Signature & Landing and Administration Center: 56853 Northridge Drive, Middlebury, Indiana 46540

0 Speed Limit: The speed limit will need to be adjusted to compensate for all of the Heritage Drive pedestrians (students and school patrons) crossing US 20 near the high school and

School Bus/Buggy Safety:

- Over 35 of our school buses travel on US 20 and turn north onto the school campus additional lanes will also affect the large horse and buggies turning left on both sides of the turn lane will increase the distance of road travel. The and south into the subdivisions that border the south side of US 20 many times every day during the school year. The turn lane will help, however adding two lanes
- 0 any road construction and after the project is completed. intersection of US 20 and Wayne Street. We will still need to access that area during The entrance/exit to and from our Transportation Maintenance garage is near the

School District Property Modification:

- Heritage Drive: Concern about the impact of the project on the school district's ability to use this road to and from campus onto US 20.
- 0 soccer fields this year. The parking area will avoid the current right-of-way on the Soccer Fields/Parking: We will be constructing parking along the south edge of the further north. north side of US 20 but we are concerned the expansion of US 20 will need to go

patrons, and buses along that corridor will improve of this project. We know that traffic issues we currently experience with our student drivers the Middlebury Chamber of Commerce, and other business and property owners. We are in favor We have discussed the widening of US 20 between CR 35 and SR 13 with the Town of Middlebury,

including us planning stages. As I stated earlier, our number one concern is our student safety. We would be more than willing to continue discussion of this proposed project in the future. Thank you for We appreciate your willingness to allow us to address our comments and concerns early in the

Sincerely,

Jane Allen, Superintendent

Joanna King, President of Middlebury Community Schools Board of Trustees



Infrastructure Solutions The HNTB Companies

111 Monument Circle

Suite 1200

Telephone (317) 636-4682

Indianapolis, IN 46204-5178

Facsimile (317) 917-5211

www.hntb.com

December 27, 2019

Middlebury, IN 46540 56853 Northridge Drive Middlebury Community Schools

Attn: Ms. Jane Allen

RE: US 20 From CR 35 to SR 13, INDOT Des No 1900095

Dear Ms. Allen

each of the items identified in the letter dated December 16, 2019. Thank you for providing the valuable feedback on this project. We have prepared responses below for

Comment:

- Student Safety:
- Barrier/Fencing on north side of US 20 from CR 35 to Mullet Property and from Heritage Drive to Wayne Street stoplight:
- near the high school or near Heritage Drive where our soccer fields are barrier/fencing along the north side of US 20 where it borders our campus very dangerous for our students to cross the highway. There is currently no Additional lanes of traffic plus the wider shoulders for buggy lanes will be located.

Response:

A pedestrian fence will be considered to prevent pedestrians from crossing US 20 at unmarked locations.

Comment:

We currently have students crossing US 20 to go south to the housing additions, restaurants, and gas station across from the school property. Additional lanes would increase the danger of students crossing US 20

Response:

evaluated including the cost benefit analysis of a grade separated crossing that will consider the number of pedestrians crossing US 20 today. The design team is considering options for a pedestrian crossing near Heritage Drive. Options are being

Comment:

0 Median Crosswalk: It is our opinion that a crosswalk from north to south with a median island would be necessary between CR 35 and the stoplight at Wayne Street.

Response:

entire roadway width without having to stop in a center refuge island or median. A pedestrian crossing phase at the traffic signal would be long enough for pedestrians to cross the The design team is carefully considering a pedestrian crossing at the Wayne Street / CR 16 intersection.

Comment:

Stoplight at US 20 and Wayne Street: We feel that the stoplight is necessary for student safety because it slows down the traffic. We would be in favor of changing the configuration of the curve and straightening the intersection.

Response:

intersection by lengthening the curve which would shift US 20 slightly to the south. The intersection will continue to be signalized after the project is complete. The design team is looking at improving the horizontal curve along US 20 at the Wayne Street / CR 16

Comment:

Speed Limit: The speed limit will need to be adjusted to compensate for all of the pedestrians (students and school patrons) crossing US 20 near the high school and Heritage Drive.

Answer:

speed limit during school days. The project is being designed for 45 mph. The posted speed limit will be set to encourage safe driving conditions along the road. A school zone speed limit can be considered to reduce the enforceable

Comment:

- School Bus/Buggy Safety:
- additional lanes will also affect the large horse and buggies turning left. on both sides of the turn lane will increase the distance of road travel. The every day during the school year. The turn lane will help, however adding two lanes and south into the subdivisions that border the south side of US 20 many times Over 35 of our school buses travel on US 20 and turn north onto the school campus

Answer:

With the increase of traffic along US 20, a 2nd travel lane in each direction is needed. A center two-way signal at CR 35 can also be used to access the subdivision to the south. left turn lane will be installed for vehicles to safely turn left at driveways and side roads. The traffic

Comment:

The entrance/exit to and from our Transportation Maintenance garage is near the any road construction and after the project is completed. intersection of US 20 and Wayne Street. We will still need to access that area during

Answer:

Temporary access will be maintained during construction, and all existing access points along US 20 will be preserved with the project.

Comment:

- School District Property Modification:
- Heritage Drive: Concern about the impact of the project on the school district's ability to use this road to and from campus onto US 20.

Response:

recent counts and consider options for improvements at this intersection, including the feasibility of recently along US 20 including the Heritage Drive intersection. The design team will look into the Access to Heritage Drive will be maintained with the project. Traffic counts have been performed removing access to US 20, or creating a pronounced splitter island preventing vehicles from turning

Comment:

0 soccer fields this year. The parking area will avoid the current right-of-way on the Soccer Fields/Parking: We will be constructing parking along the south edge of the north side of US 20 but we are concerned the expansion of US 20 will need to go further north.

Response:

property owner will be compensated during land acquisition. are anticipated to be minimal. Any impacts to the property will be assessed by an appraiser and the properties along the corridor. Impacts to the north side of US 20 near the soccer fields/parking area Preliminary widening options are being developed and will be examined for overall impacts to the

Sincerely,

HNTB Indiana, Inc.

Christopher J. Schultz, PE

Sr. Project Manager