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## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



ROUTE: S.R. 15 FROM: RP 74+82 TO: RP 75+32
PROJECT NO.
P.E. 2000024

R/W 2000024
CONST. 2000024
PROJECT DESCRIPTION





LATTUDE: 41'29935.13" N LONGITUDE: $85^{\circ} 50^{\circ} 05.54^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W}$

## GROSS LENGTH:

NET LENGTH:
0.50 MI.

HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE: 04050001170











$\qquad$


ALUMINUM TO STEEL SPLICE CONNECTOR, TYPE A S


CONNECTION FROM ALUMINUM TO STEEL GUARDRAIL / END TREATMENT FRONT VIEW

CONNECTION FROM ALUMINUM TO STEEL GUARDRAIL / END TREATMENT PLAN VIEW

Desione: $\quad$ CFS


## APPENDIX C: EARLY COORDINATION



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

PHONE: (317)233-0800
(855) INDOT4U

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

January 4, 2022
Sample Early Coordination Letter
Email to Early Coordination Mailing List
Re: Early Coordination Letter
Intersection Improvement
Des. No.: 2000024, State Road (SR) 15, 3.1 miles north of US 6
Elkhart County, Indiana

To Whom it May Concern:
The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), with federal funding, intends to proceed with a project involving the intersection of State Road 15 (SR 15) and County Road 146 (CR 146) in Elkhart County, Indiana. This letter is part of the early coordination phase of the environmental review process. We are requesting comments from your area of expertise regarding any possible environmental effects associated with this project. Please use the above designation number and description in your reply. We will incorporate your comments into a study of the project's environmental impacts.

Project Location: The project is located is located on SR 15, 3.1 miles north of US 6 in Elkhart County. More specifically, this project is located in Sections 9 and 16, Township 35 North, Range 6 East, in Jackson Township, Indiana.

Existing Conditions: SR 15 is a two-lane free flow, principal arterial running north-south. The CR 146 is a two-lane stop controlled road running east-west.

Preliminary Purpose and Need: The safety of the SR 15 and CR 146 intersection in Elkhart County is a concern. The SR 15 and CR 146 intersection has significantly more crashes than the state average. From 2016 to 2018, a total of 21 crashes were reported of which four were Fatal and Incapacitating Crashes, none were Non-Incapacitation Crashes, and 17 were Property Damage Only Crashes. Of the 21 crashes, nine were either right angle or turning movement crashes, four were either opposite direction side swipes or same direction sideswipes, and three were rear end collisions caused by vehicles stopping to turn left.

The purpose of this project is to increase the safety of this intersection.
Proposed Project: The preferred alternative is to construct a northbound and southbound left turn lane and a northbound right turn lane along SR 15 . No trees will be cleared as part of this project.

Right-of-Way: The current INDOT right of way is 30 feet from the centerline of the roadway. The project will
not require the acquisition of temporary or permanent right of way.
Maintenance of Traffic: During construction, traffic will be maintained through construction with lane closures or lane shifts and flagging and will be completed in phases. Widening will be performed on one side at a time, while maintaining one lane of traffic in all four direction.

Surrounding Resources: Land use in the vicinity of the project is primarily rural and commercial business. HNTB staff will perform waters and wetlands determination to identify water resources that may be present. The project is anticipated to qualify for the Rangewide Programmatic Agreement for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) will be utilized to determine the project potential to affect to the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat.

Comments Request: You are asked to review this information and provide comments you may have relative to the anticipated effects of the project on areas which you have jurisdiction or special expertise. Please send your comments to Landon Little, of HNTB Corporation, at ltlittle@hntb.com or 317-917-5328. Please provide your response within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this letter. However, should you find that an extension to the response time is necessary, a reasonable amount may be granted upon request.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Landon Little, of HNTB Corporation, at ltlittle@hntb.com or 317-917-5328; or Miguel Tucker, INDOT Project Manager, at mtucker2@indot.in.gov or 260-969-8225. Thank you in advance for your input.

Sincerely,

Landon Little
HNTB CORPORATION

CC: Miguel Tucker, INDOT Project Manager<br>Doug Homan, HNTB Corporation

Attachments: Project Location Map<br>Project Aerial Map<br>USGS (1:24,000 scale) Topographic Map<br>Photo Location Map<br>Project Location Photographs

Attachments have been removed to avoid duplication. Graphics can be found in Appendix B.

Early Coordination Mailing List:
Phillip Barker, Elkhart County Surveyor
Jeff Siegel, Elkhart County Sheriff
Charlie McKenzie, Elkhart County Highway Department
Mike Yoder, Elkhart County Commissioners
Jennifer Tobey, Elkhart County Emergency Management
Randy Zimmerly, Fairfield Community Schools
John Heiliger, Elkhart County MS4 Stormwater Coordinator
Jim Hess, Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District
Chris Godlewski, Elkhart County Planning and Development
James Turnwald, Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG)
Rick Neilson, NRCS State Conservationist
Ron Bales, Indiana Department of Transportation, Environmental Service Division
Karen Novak, Indiana Department of Transportation, Fort Wayne District
Paul Allerding, US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
Indiana Geological Survey, via webform
Indiana Department of Environmental Management, via webform
Christie Stanifer, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Steven Minor, Federal Highway Administration, Fort Wayne District
Elizabeth McCloskey, US Fish and Wildlife Service

An early coordination letter was sent to INDOT, Aviation on May 2, 2023

## State of Indiana

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES <br> <br> Division of Fish and Wildlife <br> <br> Division of Fish and Wildlife <br> Early Coordination/Environmental Assessment 

## DR \#:

ER-24387
Request Received: January 4, 2022

| Requestor: | HNTB Corporation <br> Landon Little |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200 |
|  | Indianapolis, IN 46204-5178 |

Project: SR 15 and CR 146 intersection improvement, 3.1 miles north of US 6; Bes \#2000024
County/Site info:
Elkhart
The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.
Regulatory Assessment: This proposal may require the formal approval of our agency pursuant to the Flood Control Act (IC 14-28-1) for any proposal to construct, excavate, or fill in or on the floodway of the unnamed tributary (UNT) to Turkey Creek. Please submit more detailed plans to the Division of Water's Technical Services Section if you are unsure whether or not a permit will be required.
Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked.
To date, no plant or animal species listed as state or federally threatened, endangered, or rare have been reported to occur in the project vicinity.
Fish \& Wildlife Comments: The information submitted did not indicate whether or not there will be any work conducted on the stream crossing structure over UNT Turkey Creek. If work will take place on this structure, further coordination is recommended.

If no work will take place on the structure over UNT Turkey Creek, the measures below should be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources:

1. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue) and legumes as soon as possible upon completion; low endophyte tall fescue may be used in the ditch bottom and side slopes only.
2. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.
Contact Staff:
Christie L. Stanifer, Environ. Coordinator, Fish \& Wildlife
Our agency appreciates this opportunity to be of service. Please contact the above staff member at (317) 232-4080 if we can be of further assistance.


Date: February 3, 2022
Christie L. Stanifer
Environ. Coordinator
Division of Fish and Wildlife

| From: | Hurst, Allen A |
| :---: | :---: |
| To: | Christine Meador |
| Cc: | Douglas Garvin; Daniel Curtis |
| Subject: | RE: Des. No. 2000024 - SR 15 at CR 146, New Paris, Elkhart County Indiana |
| Date: | Monday, July 25, 2022 2:50:30 PM |
| Attachments: | imaqe001.pnq |
|  | image002.png |
|  | image003.pnq |
|  | image004.pnq |
|  | or-miami snowmobile.pdf |

Hi Chris,

The Elkhart County Snowmobile Club does work with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to manage the Miami Snowmobile Trail in that area, however the proposed project is $\sim 5$ miles away. There is no conflict for this project.

I've attached a PDF of the snowmobile trail and the interactive map can be found at https://indnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html? $i d=6541980 b 0 e 9 f 44559409 f c f 24 d 190 a f 2$.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. Thank you,

## Allen Hurst, Trails Coordinator <br> IDNR Division of State Parks

402 W. Washington Room W298, Indianapolis, IN 46204
OFFICE: 317-232-4070 ahurst@dnr.in.gov

Please let us know about the quality of our service by taking this brief customer survey.

From: Christine Meador [CMeador@HNTB.com](mailto:CMeador@HNTB.com)
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Hurst, Allen A [AHurst@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:AHurst@dnr.IN.gov)
Cc: Douglas Garvin [dgarvin@HNTB.com](mailto:dgarvin@HNTB.com); Daniel Curtis [dacurtis@hntb.com](mailto:dacurtis@hntb.com)
Subject: Des. No. 2000024 - SR 15 at CR 146, New Paris, Elkhart County Indiana
**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email. ****

Allen -
I am following up on my voice mail from today. INDOT, with federal funding, intends to proceed with a project involving the intersection of State Road 15 (SR 15) and County Road 146 (CR 146) in Elkhart County, Indiana. The project is located is located on SR 15, 3.1 miles north of US 6 in Elkhart County. More specifically, this project is located in Sections 9 and 16, Township 35 North, Range 6 East, in Jackson Township, Indiana. I have attached mapping of the project location.

SR 15 is a two-lane free flow, principal arterial running north-south. The CR 146 is a
two-lane stop controlled road running east-west. The preferred alternative is to construct a northbound and southbound left turn lane and a northbound right turn lane along SR 15. No trees will be cleared as part of this project.

During our initial scoping meeting, we had noted a potential conflict with a snow mobile trail along SR 15; however, there does not appear to be an official snow mobile trail at this location. Do you have any information on a potential snow mobile trail at this location and if there are any considerations for a snow mobile trail we should incorporate into the project.

Your assistance with this project is appreciated. Thank you and have a great weekend.
Chris

## Christine Meador

Senior Project Manager
Environmental Planning
Tel (317) 636-4682 Cell (317) 459-3629 Direct (317) 917-5338 Email cmeador@hntb.com

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

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This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are NOT the intended recipient and receive this communication, please delete this message and any attachments. Thank you.

## Miami Snowmobille Traill



January 20, 2022
Landon Little
HNTB Corporation
ltlittle@hntb.com
Dear Mr. Little:
The proposed project to proceed with intersection improvements at State Road 15 and County Road 146 in Elkhart County, Indiana (Des No. 2000024), as referred to in your letter received January 4, 2022, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

If you need additional information, please contact John Allen at 317-295-5859 or john.allen@usda.gov

Sincerely,
$\int$ OHA ALLEN $\begin{aligned} & \text { Digitally signed byJOHN ALLEN } \\ & \text { Date: 2022.01.28 09:54:01-05'00' }\end{aligned}$
JOHN ALLEN
Acting State Soil Scientist

| From: | McCloskey, Elizabeth [elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov](mailto:elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov) |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sent: | Wednesday, January 5, 2022 8:15 AM |
| To: | Landon Little |
| Cc: | Tucker, Miguel; Douglas Homan; Christine Meador |
| Subject: | Re: [EXTERNAL] Early Coordination Letter - (Des. 2000024) |

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

Elizabeth McCloskey
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Northern Indiana Suboffice
Ecological Services
Chesterton, Indiana

From: Landon Little [ltlittle@HNTB.com](mailto:ltlittle@HNTB.com)
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 5:39 PM
Cc: Tucker, Miguel [MTucker2@indot.IN.gov](mailto:MTucker2@indot.IN.gov); Douglas Homan [dhoman@HNTB.com](mailto:dhoman@HNTB.com); Christine Meador [CMeador@HNTB.com](mailto:CMeador@HNTB.com)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Early Coordination Letter - (Des. 2000024)

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intend to proceed with a project involving the intersection of State Road 15 and County Road 146 in Elkhart County, Indiana. This letter is part of the early coordination phase of the environmental review process. We request comments from you within your area of expertise regarding any potential environmental or community effects associated with this proposed project. Please use the above designation number and description in your reply. We will incorporate your comments into a study of the project's environmental effects.

This study will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). INDOT and FHWA have not yet determined the NEPA class of action for the project (i.e., Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, or Environmental Impact Statement). This determination will be made once more details about the proposed action are defined.

Thank you,

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DETROIT DISTRICT

477 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550
January 28, 2022

Landon Little<br>HNTB CORPORATION<br>c/o Indiana Department of Transportation<br>100 North Senate Avenue, Room N758-ES<br>Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Little:

This is in response to your letter of January 4, 2022, requesting comments on proposed safety improvements to the intersection of State Road 15 (SR 15) and County Road 146 (CR 146) in Elkhart County, Indiana (Des. No. 2000024). The project is on SR 15 approximately 3.1 miles north of US Highway 6. The preferred alternative is to construct a northbound and southbound left turn lane and a northbound right turn lane along SR 15. The project area centers on the intersection, extending approximately 3200 feet along SR 15 and 700 feet along CR 146. An unnamed tributary (UNT) to Turkey Creek passes under SR 15 within the southern end of the project area. The following information is provided in accordance with our responsibilities under our Regulatory and Civil Works Programs.

Your project may require a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Any of the proposed work that occurs within a water of the United States or adjacent wetlands, will likely require prior authorization through our regulatory permit process. For further information on permit requirements and the application process, please contact the Michiana Section of our Regulatory Branch in South Bend, Indiana, at 574-232-1952.

There are no current plans under our Civil Works Program to develop waterways in the vicinity of your project; nor do we have any current or proposed flood risk management studies for the area described in your letter.

The project site is outside of any floodplains designated under the National Flood Insurance Program; however, state and local floodplain regulations may apply to the UNT that flows to Turkey Creek. We recommend that you coordinate with local officials and with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources regarding the applicability of a floodplain permit prior to construction. This coordination would help ensure compliance with local and state floodplain management regulations and acts, such as the Indiana Flood Control Act (IC 13-2-22). If you obtain information indicating any part of your project would impact the floodplain, you should consider other alternatives that, to the
extent possible, avoid or minimize adverse impacts associated with use of the floodplain.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed safety improvements to SR 15 at CR 146 in Elkhart County, Indiana. Questions regarding our Regulatory Program should be directed to Mr. Don Reinke, Regulatory Branch, at 313-226-6812. Any other questions may be directed to Mr. Paul Allerding of my staff at 313-226-7590 or me at 313-226-2476.

Sincerely,


Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section
Copies furnished:
Don Reinke, Corps, Regulatory Branch, Detroit MI
Aaron Damrill, Corps, Michiana Regulatory Section, South Bend IN
Garrett D. Ray, Corps, Floodplain Management Services, Detroit MI

Organization and Project Information

## Project ID:

Des. ID:<br>Project Title:<br>2000024<br>Name of Organization: INDOT<br>Requested by: Mackenzie Knotts

Environmental Assessment Report

1. Geological Hazards:

- Moderate liquefaction potential
- Floodway

2. Mineral Resources:

- Bedrock Resource: Moderate Potential
- Sand and Gravel Resource: High Potential

3. Active or abandoned mineral resources extraction sites:

- None documented in the area
*All map layers from Indiana Map (maps.indiana.edu)


#### Abstract

DISCLAIMER: This document was compiled by Indiana University, Indiana Geological Survey, using data believed to be accurate; however, a degree of error is inherent in all data. This product is distributed "AS-IS" without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to warranties of suitability to a particular purpose or use. No attempt has been made in either the design or production of these data and document to define the limits or jurisdiction of any federal, state, or local government. The data used to assemble this document are intended for use only at the published scale of the source data or smaller (see the metadata links below) and are for reference purposes only. They are not to be construed as a legal document or survey instrument. A detailed on-the-ground survey and historical analysis of a single site may differ from these data and this document.

This information was furnished by Indiana Geological Survey Address: 1001 E. 10th St., Bloomington, IN 47405 Email: IGSEnvir@indiana.edu Phone: 812 855-7428 Date: April 17, 2023




## Mackenzie Knotts

| From: | Lewandowski, Tyler [TLewandowski@indot.IN.gov](mailto:TLewandowski@indot.IN.gov) |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sent: | Wednesday, May 3, 2023 8:20 AM |
| To: | Mackenzie Knotts |
| Subject: | RE: Early Coordination Letter - Des 2000024 |

Good morning,

After review, no tall structure permit is required for the project if all equipment being used is under 130 feet in height. Please let our office know if you have any further questions.

Thank you,

Tyler Lewandowski
Project Manager
INDOT Office of Aviation
(317) 495-4875
tlewandowski@indot.in.gov
www.aviation.indot.in.gov


From: Mackenzie Knotts [mknotts@HNTB.com](mailto:mknotts@HNTB.com)
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 3:11 PM
To: Lewandowski, Tyler [TLewandowski@indot.IN.gov](mailto:TLewandowski@indot.IN.gov)
Subject: Early Coordination Letter - Des 2000024
**** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intend to proceed with a project involving the intersection of State Road 15 and County Road 146 in Elkhart County, Indiana. This letter is part of the early coordination phase of the environmental review process. We request comments from you within your area of expertise regarding any potential environmental or community effects associated with this proposed project. Please use the above designated number and description in you reply. We will incorporate your comments into a study of the project's environmental effects.

Thank you,

## Mackenzie Knotts <br> Environmental Planner <br> Environmental Planning

Tel (317) 636-4682 Cell (317) 554-7815 Dir (463) 777-3682 Email mknotts@hntb.com

## HNTB CORPORATION

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

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# United States Department of the Interior 

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE<br>Indiana Ecological Services Field Office<br>620 South Walker Street<br>Bloomington, IN 47403-2121<br>Phone: (812) 334-4261 Fax: (812) 334-4273

In Reply Refer To:
April 12, 2023
Project Code: 2022-0012143
Project Name: SR 15 at CR 146, Intersection Improvements (Des. 2000024)
Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:
The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations ( 50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

Please use the species list provided and visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Region 3 Section 7 Technical Assistance website at - http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/ s7process/index.html. This website contains step-by-step instructions which will help you
determine if your project will have an adverse effect on listed species and will help lead you through the Section 7 process. For all wind energy projects and projects that include installing towers that use guy wires or are over 200 feet in height, please contact this field office directly for assistance, even if no federally listed plants, animals or critical habitat are present within your proposed project or may be affected by your proposed project.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF
Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.
The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-tobirds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of

Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/ executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands


## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:
Indiana Ecological Services Field Office
620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403-2121
(812) 334-4261

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2022-0012143
Project Name: SR 15 at CR 146, Intersection Improvements (Des. 2000024)
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intend to proceed with a project involving the intersection of State Route (SR) 15 and County Road (CR) 146 in Elkhart County.

The intersection improvement project is located on SR 15, 3.06 miles north of US 6 in Elkhart County. This section of SR 15 is a two-lane free flow, principal arterial running north-south. The CR 146 is a two-lane stop-controlled local road running east-west. The SR 15 and CR 146 intersection has significantly more crashes than the state average. The purpose of this project is to increase the safety of this intersection. The preferred alternative will be to install northbound and southbound leftturn lanes. There will be no work on any existing culverts or bridges.

There are multiple trees suitable for roosting by the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat along SR 15 within the project area. Approximately 0.09 acre of tree clearing is currently anticipated for this project. Tree clearing activities will take place during the inactive bat season. No mitigation is anticipated as part of this project. No permanent lighting is anticipated for this project, though temporary lighting may be necessary. Construction activities not associated with tree clearing and roadway work will not increase noise levels beyond what is typical for this location. A query of the USFWS Bat Database by INDOT Fort Wayne District staff conducted on December 6, 2021 did not identify any documented sites within 0.5 mile of the project area. Construction is anticipated to take place from September 2024 to July 2025.

## Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https:// www.google.com/maps/@41.4931586,-85.83490586368421,14z


Counties: Elkhart County, Indiana

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.
Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries ${ }^{1}$, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

| NAME | STATUS |
| :--- | :--- |
| Indiana Bat Myotis sodalis <br> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. <br> Species profile: $\underline{\text { https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949 }}$ | Endangered |
| Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis <br> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <br> Species profile: $\underline{\text { https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045 }}$ | Endangered |
| Tricolored Bat Perimyotis subflavus |  |
| No critical habitat has been designated for this species. <br> Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515 | Proposed |

## BIRDS

NAME
STATUS
Whooping Crane Grus americana
Population: U.S.A. (AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, NM, OH, SC, TN, UT, VA, WI, WV, western half of WY)
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758

Experimental Population, NonEssential

## INSECTS

NAME STATUS

Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus
Candidate
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ${ }^{\underline{1}}$ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ${ }^{2}$.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

## The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the

 USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

| NAME | BREEDING <br> SEASON |
| :--- | :--- |
| American Golden-plover Pluvialis dominica |  |
| This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA <br> and Alaska. | Breeds <br> elsewhere |
| Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus |  |
| This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention <br> because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types <br> of development or activities. | Breeds Dec 1 to <br> Aug 31 |

NAME
Black-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus erythropthalmus
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA
and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9399

BREEDING
SEASON
Breeds May 15
to Oct 10

Breeds May 20
to Jul 31

Breeds May 20
to Aug 10

Breeds Apr 22
to Jul 20
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2974
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

## Henslow's Sparrow Ammodramus henslowii

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https:///ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3941
Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Rusty Blackbird Euphagus carolinus
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

## Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

## PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the

FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

## Probability of Presence ( ${ }^{-}$)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10 km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 124 -week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25 .
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05 , and that the probability of presence at week 12 ( 0.25 ) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25 / 0.25=1$; at week 20 it is $0.05 / 0.25=0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

## Breeding Season ( )

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

## Survey Effort (l)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10 km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

## No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

## Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

| SPECIES | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| American Goldenplover <br> BCC Rangewide (CON) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bald Eagle <br> Non-BCC |  | 111 | + | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vulnerable |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Black-billed <br> Cuckoo <br> BCC Rangewide <br> (CON) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bobolink BCC Rangewide (CON) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada Warbler BCC Rangewide (CON) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cerulean Warbler BCC Rangewide (CON) | $++\ldots++++++++++\|\|\| \|+1+1+1+++++++++++++\ldots++\ldots$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chimney Swift BCC Rangewide (CON) | $++++++++1+\|\|\|\|\|\|\|\|+1\|, 1-1,1+1+\| 11+11+++\ldots+$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Henslow's Sparrow BCC Rangewide (CON) | $++\cdots+++++++++++\|\|\|\| \|+1, \cdots,-1,1,1,+++++++++\cdots+++$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lesser Yellowlegs BCC Rangewide (CON) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Red-headed <br> Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rusty Blackbird <br> BCC - BCR | $++\cdots++++\|+\|\|\|\|\|\|++++++\cdots+-++++++++++\|\|1\| \ldots++1 \ldots-$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wood Thrush BCC Rangewide (CON) |  | ++ | ++ | $++$ |  |  |  |  |  | + |  | $+$ |

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/ collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/ documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf


## MIGRATORY BIRDS FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.
Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

## What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10 km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?
The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

## How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point

