



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - DES. #1601029 Proposed Bridge Improvements in Cutler, Carroll County, Indiana

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at the Cutler General Store/Cutler Merchant Building located at 73 East 485 South, Cutler, IN 46920, 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 to improve a historic bridge on SR 75 over Wildcat Creek in Cutler, Carroll County, IN. The purpose of the project is to improve the legal load rating of the bridge to 36 tons or more so that restrictions are not required according to FHWA Load Rating policy, to improve the superstructure rating from a 5 to a 7 (good), and to improve the wearing surface rating from 5 to an 8 (very good) or 9 (new).

As proposed, the project involves rehabilitation of the existing structure for continued vehicular use by increasing the structural capacity to at or above the required load rating. The existing bridge deck will be removed from both spans and a new concrete deck will be constructed. The existing approach slabs will be removed and replaced. Additional rehabilitation of the deck will include installing a new expansion joint at pier 2, creating a new drainage system for the structure and replacing pavement markings in-kind matching previous roadway striping.

Shear studs will be installed on top of beams to increase load carrying capacity. Damaged or deteriorated stringers or other structural steel components will be cleaned and patched or replaced "in-kind." Existing railing will be replaced along with railing transitions at all four ends. The original railing (constructed in 1947) will stay in place. Approximately 88 rivets that have been determined inadequate will be replaced with high strength bolts to increase the load carrying capacity. After the repairs are done, the structural steel will be painted. To meet minimum useable shoulder width requirements, the lane width will be reduced from 11.75-feet to 11-feet to increase the shoulder width to 3-feet. The structure length will be increased by 0.89 feet from 240 feet to approximately 240.89 feet.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project will require a full closure of the bridge and a detour during construction utilizing SR 18, US 421, and SR 26, a distance of approximately 19.5 miles from closure point to closure point. The closure of the bridge will be limited to June-August. MOT details will be presented during the public hearing. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible. The project is not anticipated to require any permanent or temporary right-of-way.

The hearing will include appropriate social distancing measures. Attendees are advised that face coverings and adherence to CDC guidelines for social distancing are recommended. Hand-sanitization stations as well as hand-washing facilities will be available.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment.

A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. This document and project information can be mailed upon request. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Flora Public Library (109 N. Center Street, Flora, IN 46929)
2. American Structurepoint, Inc. webpage: www.structurepointpublic.com/sr75wildcat
3. INDOT LaPorte District webpage: <https://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>

A project webpage and virtual open house will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information, including the hearing presentation, is available on-line via the American Structurepoint, Inc. webpage (<http://www.structurepointpublic.com/sr75wildcat>) and will be linked on the INDOT LaPorte District page (<https://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>).

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 two (2) weeks 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: Leah Perry, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-Mail: lperry@structurepoint.com. Comments can also be submitted on the project webpage: <http://www.structurepointpublic.com/sr75wildcat>. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by July 16, 2021.**

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact Leah Perry, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-Mail: lperry@structurepoint.com.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary." approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on August 16, 2012.