



DES. # 1900012

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has developed preliminary plans for the replacement of Bridge No. (6)51-45-01943 B, which carries U.S. Highway (US) 6/State Road (SR) 51 over the wetland complex known as Muck Pocket, in Lake County, Indiana. The preferred alternative is a 21-span cast-in-place concrete slab superstructure on pile bent substructure units, with a raised roadway profile grade over Muck Pocket and an increased length of approximately 540 feet. Excavation/grading will take place to increase the hydraulic capacity of the structure, and riprap will be installed at the end bents for scour protection and bank stabilization. The project will include new concrete bridge approaches, bridge railing, and guardrail. The approach roadway approximately 200 feet south and 370 feet north of the bridge will be milled and resurfaced with hot-mix asphalt material. The total length of the project along US 6/SR 51 is approximately 1,110 ft.

The estimated cost associated with this project is \$4,287,589, which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. The proposed construction of this project will require 2.197 acres of new permanent right-of-way and 0.094 acre of temporary right-of-way. No relocations will occur as a result of the project. Anticipated impacts include right-of-way acquisition from ten adjacent parcels, impacts to Deep River and its associated floodway, impacts to open water areas and emergent and shrub-scrub wetlands, and tree removal. Impacts have been minimized by reconstructing the bridge on the existing roadway alignment. Proposed mitigation consists of in-lieu fee wetland and open water credit purchases and tree replacement.

The maintenance of traffic plan proposes a full closure of US 6/SR 51 with an official state detour utilizing US 6, SR 149, and US 20 during construction. The detour will add an additional travel distance of approximately 14.1 miles. Local roads may be used by local traffic. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is April 2024. Construction is anticipated to take 15 weeks.

The Federal Highway Administration and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 3 environmental document due to the amount of wetland impacts. The project will impact a total of 0.352 acre of wetlands.

Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review at the following locations:

1. Lake County Public Library, Lake Station-New Chicago Branch, 2007 Central Ave., Lake Station, IN 46405, Phone # 219-962-2409
2. INDOT LaPorte District Office, 315 E. Boyd Blvd., LaPorte, IN 46350, Phone # 855-463-6848
3. INDOT LaPorte District website, <https://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>, click on US 6 Bridge Project at Muck Pocket

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Jason Rowley, Senior Project Manager, Hanson Professional Services Inc., 6510 Telecom Drive, Suite 210, Indianapolis IN, 46278, 317-605-7860, or via email at jrowley@hanson-inc.com on or before April 6, 2023. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT LaPorte District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact David (Scott) Mason, INDOT Project Manager, at 219-325-7523, or via email at smason@indot.in.gov. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact David (Scott) Mason, INDOT Project Manager, at 219-325-7523, or via email at smason@indot.in.gov.

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 *INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual* approved by the FHWA on July 7, 2021.