



DES. #: 0800910

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Indiana Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.** at **Center Point United Methodist Church, located at 200 S Cherry St, Center Point, IN 47840.**

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the environmental document, Section 106 document, and the current design plans for the proposed SR 46 bridge project over Eel River, located 4.84 miles east of SR 59 in Bowling Green, Clay County.

Bridge No. 046-11-01316C, a two-span Parker steel through-truss bridge with concrete abutments and center pier, a steel superstructure, and a concrete deck, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criterion A for its transportation significance in the settlement and development of Clay County. As part of the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory project, the bridge was determined to be Select. As inter-agency agreement dictates that a Select Bridge may not be destroyed, a six-month period has been provided for a responsible party to come forward to take responsibility for the bridge to either preserve it in-place or for its re-use at an alternate location. This public hearing will be the last opportunity for a responsible party to step forward and provide the necessary sureties to obtain ownership of the bridge.

Under the preferred alternative, the proposed project would involve relocating Bridge No. 046-11-01316C to a new location, and constructing a new bridge across the Eel River. The proposed structure is a 3-span, 435-foot long continuous composite pre-stressed concrete bulb-tee beam bridge. The bridge would have a 40-foot 4-inch "outside-to-outside" width, providing two 12-foot travel lanes with 6-foot 8-inch shoulders on each side. In order to minimize disruption to traffic and emergency services, the existing bridge would remain in place and open to traffic while the new bridge is under construction. This would require shifting the SR 46 alignment by approximately 58 feet to the south. Road work would include realigning the approaches to the new bridge location. The approach of County Road 475 East would be relocated approximately 285 feet to the west in order to improve sight distance at its intersection with SR 46.

Approximately 7.06 acres of new permanent right-of-way would be acquired. Approximately 1.25 acres of temporary right-of-way would be needed for access and driveway reconstruction. No residents or businesses would be displaced by this project. Traffic would be maintained on-site during the majority of work; however, a detour may be necessary during certain phases of construction. Approximately 0.5 acre of wetlands and 791 linear feet of streams would be impacted, requiring mitigation under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act.

INDOT conducted outreach to trail organizations across Indiana to identify any group that may be interested in taking responsibility for the bridge. The Salt Creek Trail, a multi-use path under development in Brown County that would connect Brown County State Park to the City of Nashville, was identified as the best location. Under this alternative, the two independent truss spans that comprise the bridge would be separated and relocated to provide two pedestrian bridges along the Salt Creek Trail. One of the spans would be located within Brown County State Park and owned by IDNR; the other would be located outside the park and would be owned by Brown County, which is developing the trail project. A separate Categorical Exclusion (CE) document, to be approved concurrently with this one, has been prepared to evaluate impacts at the relocation sites.

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 listed on or eligible for the National Register other than the subject bridge. 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). The project's effect on the National Register listed bridge will be addressed in accordance with the policies dictated by the Standard Treatment Approach as per Indiana's Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement. As such, the Section 106 finding of effect does not address the bridge. As no other historic resources were identified within or near the project area, INDOT, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, has issued a "No Historic Properties Affected" finding for the project. Notice of the availability of the finding and 800.11(e) document was published in the Brazil Times on July 8, 2015 and was transmitted to consulting parties, including the SHPO, for their review the same day. Comments are requested no later than August 6, 2015. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(4), the documentation of the "No Historic Properties Affected" finding specified in 36 CFR 800.11(d) is available for viewing along with the environmental document and preliminary design plans for the project at the locations below:

1. Indiana Department of Transportation, Hearings Office, Room N642, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2216, Phone: (317) 232-6601
2. Indiana Department of Transportation, Crawfordsville District office, Planning Department, 41 West 300 North, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, Phone: (888) 924-6368
3. Indiana Department of Transportation, Seymour District office, 185 Agrico Lane, Seymour, IN 47274, Phone: (877) 305-7611
4. Brazil Public Library, 204 North Walnut Street, Brazil, Indiana 47834, Phone: (812) 448-1981
5. Brown County Public Library, 205 Locust Lane, Nashville, IN 47448, Phone: (812) 988-2850

At the public hearing, a presentation will provide an overview of the project, its potential impacts, and the proposed schedule. Public statements for the record will be taken after the presentation. The preliminary plans will be available for anyone interested in talking to the engineers about the project before and after the formal presentation. Conversations will not be part of the official record. Statements made for the record and comments collected before, during and for a period of two (2) weeks after the hearing will be evaluated and addressed before final design. Comments may be sent to the attention of Dan Prevost, Parsons, 101 West Ohio Street, Suite 2121, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Comments may also be submitted by email to Daniel.Prevost@Parsons.com or by calling 317-616-1017. Comments must be received no later than Friday, August 21, 2015.

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act”, if you have a disability for which the Indiana Department of Transportation needs to provide accommodations, please call the Public Hearings Office at (317) 232-6601, by Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

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.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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