



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: Monday, December 20, 2021

RE: Bridge No. 90-00106, Wells County Bridge #106, County Road 100 N over Rock Creek (Des. No. 1702735)
Public Hearing – Project Information Packet

Greeting: Welcome Local Resident, Interested Citizen, and Elected / Local Public Official:

Welcome to the Wells County public hearing regarding proposed rehabilitation of the bridge carrying County Road 100 N over the Rock Creek.

The purpose of this public hearing is to explain the proposed project and to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on preliminary design plans, environmental document, and Section 106 document. Additional information about this project may also be found by:

1. **Visiting the INDOT webpage** to learn more about this project: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/rehabilitation-of-wells-county-bridge-no.-106/>.
2. **Visiting the USI Consultants, Inc. webpage:** <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>
3. **Questions?** Contact INDOT Customer Service at 1-855-INDOT-4-U (1-855-463-6848) INDOT@indot.in.gov.

There are several ways your comments may be received this evening and following tonight's public hearing. You may submit comments in the following manner:

1. **Participate** as speaker during the comment session following tonight's presentation. All statements will be recorded and transcribed in order to be included in the official public hearing transcript.
2. **Complete** a comment form and return it to the sign-in table at tonight's public hearing. Comment forms are available at the sign-in table and also included in your information packet.
3. **E-mail** comments to John Handke at USI Consultants, Inc. (jhandke@usiconsultants.com). If a comment is emailed, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent.
4. **Mail** comments to John Handke (USI Consultants, Inc., 8415 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46216).

Submit comments by **Tuesday, January 4, 2022.** Comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the decision making process.

Public Hearing Agenda

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - a. Introduction of the Project Team
 - b. Project Stakeholders
- 2) Public Hearing Information
 - a. Hearing Intent and Format
 - b. Submitting Public Comments
 - c. Notice of Public Hearing
 - d. Project Development
- 3) Formal Presentation
 - a. NEPA Process/Environmental Document
 - b. Project Location
 - c. Historic Bridge Information
 - d. Purpose and Need
 - e. Discussion of Alternatives
- 4) Design and Project Details
 - a. Discussion of Preferred Alternative
 - b. Environmental Considerations
 - c. Maintenance of Traffic
 - d. Schedule
- 5) Public Comment Session
 - a. Communication of Project Decisions
 - b. Project Resource Locations
 - c. Project Contacts
- 6) Project Open House

All substantive comments received prior to, during and following the public hearing will be evaluated and responded to in writing within subsequent project documentation. The documentation will address concerns presented during the public hearing process and describe project decisions reached following careful consideration of the views and concerns of the public.

The project team will be available in the display area to explain project details and address questions prior to and following the public hearing.

Thank you for your participation in the public involvement process for this project.

Project Location:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Wells County Board of Commissioners are proceeding with a federal aid bridge project along County Road 100 N, 0.50 miles W of CR 400 W, near Rockford in Wells County, Indiana. The project involves Bridge No. 90-00106 which carries County Road 100 N over Rock Creek. The total project length is 325 ft. (0.062 miles).

Project Description:

The bridge is a two-span reinforced concrete arch under fill that was originally constructed in 1920 and reconstructed in 1983. It is listed as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Its character-defining features are the unsymmetrical concrete arches, pier pilasters, and scored concrete railing.

The bridge is listed in the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory as a “Select” Bridge. Designation as a “Select” Bridge means that the structure is most suitable for preservation and is considered an excellent example of a given type. “Select” bridges may not be demolished and replaced with use of FHWA funds. Because the bridge is listed as historic, the project must follow the conditions set forth in the Historic Bridges Programmatic Agreement. A Historic Bridge Alternatives Analysis was prepared by USI Consultants, Inc. on 11/1/2019. Project alternatives including Do Nothing, Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation with Construction of a Bypass Structure, and Relocation. Rehabilitation of the existing bridge was selected as the preferred alternative. Details of the preferred alternative are as follows.

The existing asphalt wearing surface and arch fill will be removed and replaced with clean fill and a concrete bridge deck. A waterproofing membrane and galvanic anodes will be installed to reduce future deterioration and corrosion of reinforcing steel. Drainage of water onto the arch will be improved. The bridge rail, curb, spandrel walls, and the outer portion of the arch barrel will be removed and replaced to address the existing deterioration. Aesthetics of the existing bridge will be matched as close as possible. The proposed railing will be taller than existing rail to be closer to current INDOT standards. Portion of the arch barrel with lesser deterioration will be repaired with cleaning and patching. Approach guardrail will be added. Approx. 237.5 ft. (0.05 miles) of approach roadway will be reconstructed. Channel clearing will be performed in the west span for improved hydraulic performance. The bridge will maintain its current single 12 ft. wide travel lane with two 2'-10.5" shoulders for a bridge clear roadway width of 17'-9". The bridge will continue to support one lane of traffic in both directions. The existing load carrying capacity of the bridge will remain the same.

Purpose and Need:

The need for this project is due to deterioration of the existing bridge. The bridge inspection report dated October 22, 2019 indicates the bridge is rated in poor condition (Culvert condition rating 4 out of 9). There is cracking, spalling, and leaching of the concrete arch components with corrosion and significant section loss of the reinforcing steel. The existing structure has a low load rating of 16 tons (H Inventory). The existing bridge rail does not meet current INDOT standards.

The purpose of the project is to restore the bridge crossing to satisfactory condition by improving the arch component ratings to at least a 7 out of 9. The project will provide upgraded bridge railing. The project seeks to increase the life of the bridge by another 25 years.

Right of Way:

The existing right of way within the project limits is 20 ft. measured each direction from centerline of roadway. 0.13 acres of permanent right of way acquisition is proposed. There will be no temporary right of way acquisition.

Schedule:

- Public Comments Due: 1/4/2022
- Finalize Environmental Document: February 2022
- Finalize Design: December 2022
- Contractor Award of Project (Letting): March 2023
- Construction Begins: Summer 2023

Cost Estimate:

The current construction cost estimate is \$1,566,000.

Maintenance of Traffic:

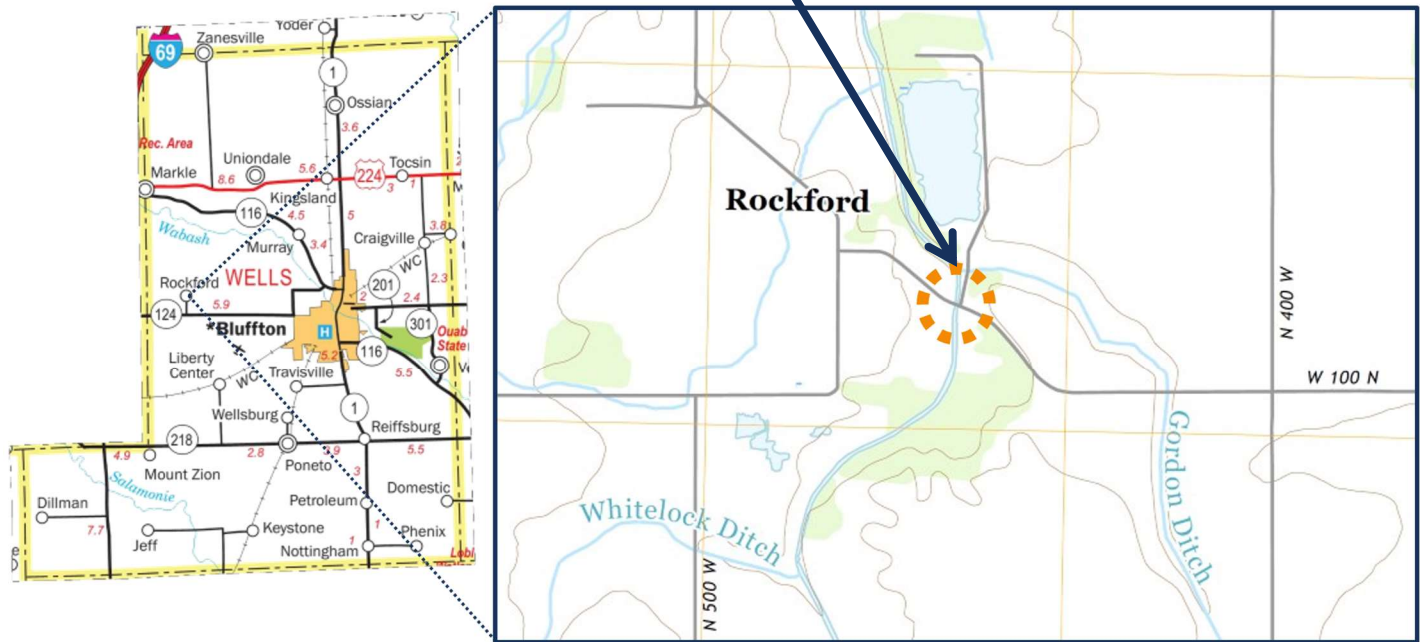
The MOT scheme for the project used full road closure with posted detour. The detour route will use CR 500 W, SR 124, and CR 400 W. The detour length is approximately 5.2 miles and will be in place for the entire construction timeline. Construction will not impact any existing pedestrian facilities. Accordingly, a pedestrian MOT plan is not included.

Project Resource Locations:

The project preliminary design plans and draft environmental document is available for public review and inspection at the following locations:

- Wells County Public Library (200 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN 46714)
- USI Consultants, Inc. Office (8415 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46216)
- USI Consultants, Inc. Webpage: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>
- INDOT Webpage: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/rehabilitation-of-wells-county-bridge-no.-106/>
- Questions: Contact INDOT Customer Service 1-855-463-6848 (1-855-INDOT4U)
INDOT@indot.in.gov

Project Location



Thank you for attending tonight's public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT SHEET

Thank you for attending and participating in this evening's public hearing. Please submit comments by using the space provided below. Please submit comments by 1/4/2022 for inclusion into the public hearing transcript. Comments should be mailed or submitted by email to the contact below.

John Handke
 USI Consultants, Inc.
 8415 E 56th St.
 Indianapolis, IN 46216
 Phone: (317) 649-2267
 Email: jhandke@usiconsultants.com

Hearing Date: 12/20/2021
Project: CR 100 N over Rock Creek, Bridge Project, near Rockford, Indiana (Des. No. 1702735)

Name (Please print): _____

Address:

Phone: _____

Email Address:

COMMENTS:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SIGNATURE: _____