



Public Hearing

Wells County Bridge No. 106

CR 100 N over Rock Creek

Historic Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Des. No. 1702735

Monday, December 20, 2021

5:30 PM ET

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose and format of public hearing
- Environmental Document and Historic Bridge Project Development Process
- Project Alternatives
- Description of Preferred Alternative
- Remaining project schedule
- Formal public comment session
- Adjourn
- Post-meeting informal Q&A

Project Team

- Wells County Highway Department
 - Nate Rumschlag, County Engineer
- USI Consultants, Inc.
 - John Handke, Project Manager
 - Ben Beer, Vice President
- SJCA, Inc. (Environmental)
 - Christian Radcliff
- Federal Highway Administration
 - Steven Minor, Planning and Environmental Specialist

Project Stakeholders

- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highway Administration
- Wells County
- Town of Rockford
- Elected & Local officials
- Residents & citizens
- Commuters
- Businesses
- Emergency services
- Schools
- Churches
- Community Organizations
- Section 106 Consulting Parties

Purpose of Hearing and Format

- Federal aid project
- Requirement of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement (HBPA)
- Provides opportunity for public to understand the project and submit comments to be considered in the design and development of the project
- Formal presentation
 - Project design information
 - Formal public comment session for the audience to come forward
- Comments addressed in the Environmental Document
- Opportunity for informal meeting and Q&A afterwards (off-the-record)

Public Comment

- **Verbal:**

- Audience members may come forward with questions or comments at this meeting
- Sign-in sheet required for participants
- Comments will be recorded and transcribed

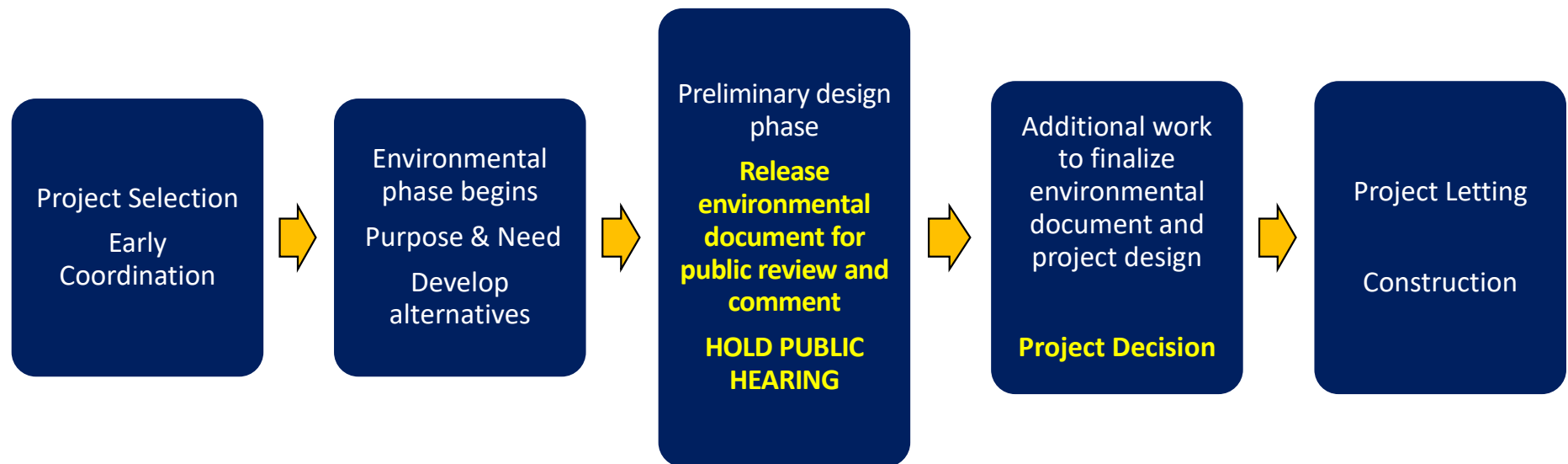
- **Written:**

- Comment form included in the Project Information Packet
 - At the sign-in table
 - Found online at: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>
 - May be emailed (acknowledgement receipt will be provided)
 - May be sent via US Mail
 - May be dropped in the comment box at the end of this meeting
- All comments must be received by **1/4/22** to become part of the public record, be entered into the transcript, reviewed, evaluated, and given full consideration in the decision-making process

Notice of Public Hearing

- Legal notice of public hearing published in the Indianapolis Star and the Bluffton News Banner newspapers on 12/4/21 and 12/11/21
- A notice of the public hearing was mailed to known property owners within project area and project stakeholders on 11/29/21
- Announcement of this hearing and project documentation were posted to USI website:
<https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>
- A media release was also issued by INDOT.

Project Development



NEPA Process

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
 - Requires INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
 - NEPA is a decision-making process
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives Screening
 - Preferred Alternative
- **Impacts analyzed, evaluated, and described in an environmental document**
 - What are the impacts this project might have on the community?
 - How can impacts be avoided?
 - Can impacts be minimized?
 - Mitigation for impacts?
- **Draft environmental document (CE-4) released for public involvement on 11/8/21**

Environmental Document Evaluates Impact

- Right-of-way
- Streams, Wetlands, and Other Waters
- Floodplains
- Endangered Species
- Farmland
- Cultural Resources
(Historic/Archaeological)
- Parks and Recreational Lands (Trails)
- Residential development
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Community Impacts
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Permits
- Mitigation
- Public Involvement
- Commercial Development

Project Resource Locations

Project documents (hard copies) may be viewed at:

USI Consultants, Inc. Office

- Address: 8415 E 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46216
- Phone: (317)-544-4996
- Website: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>

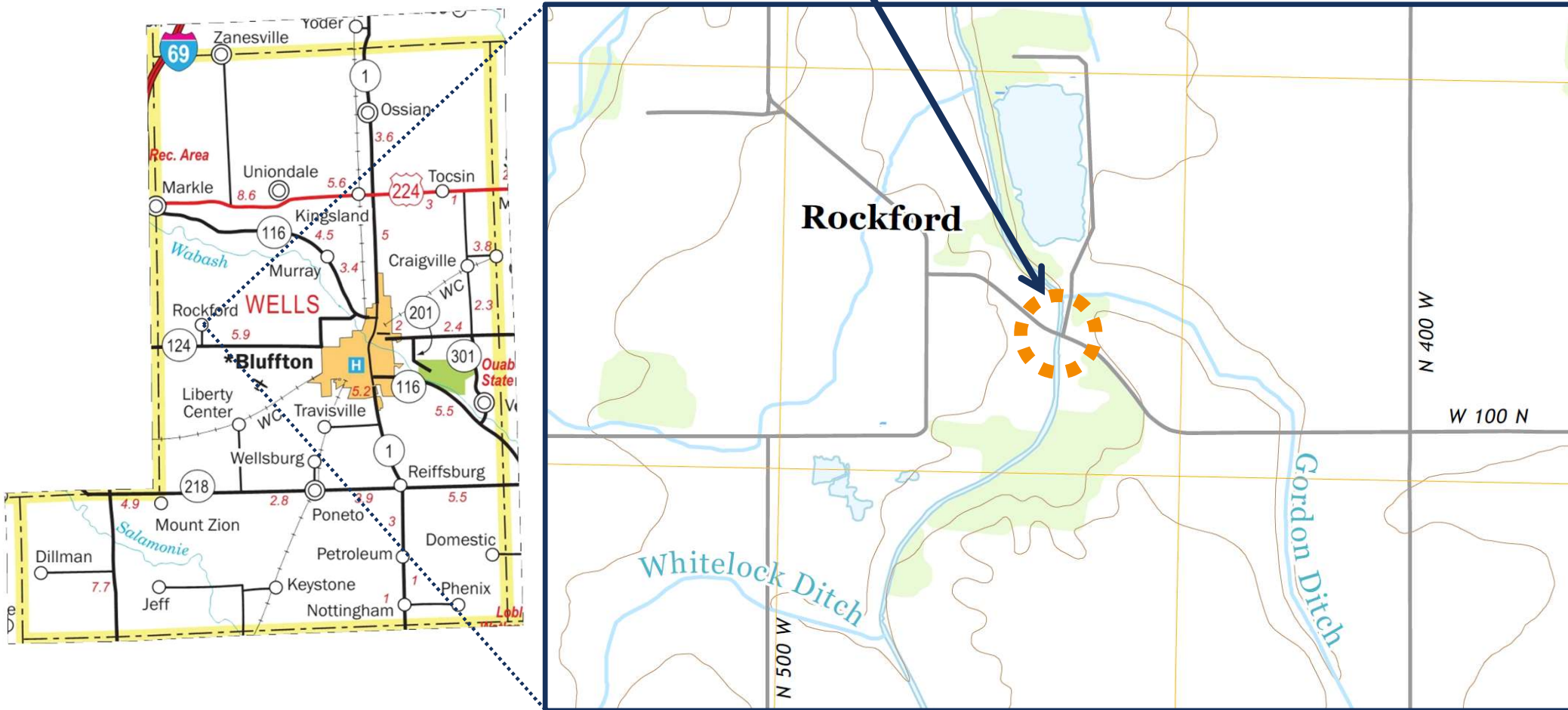
Wells County Public Library

- Address: 200 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN 46714
- Phone: (260) 824-1612

On the INDOT website:

<https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/rehabilitation-of-wells-county-bridge-no.-106/>

Project Location



CR 100 N over Rock Creek

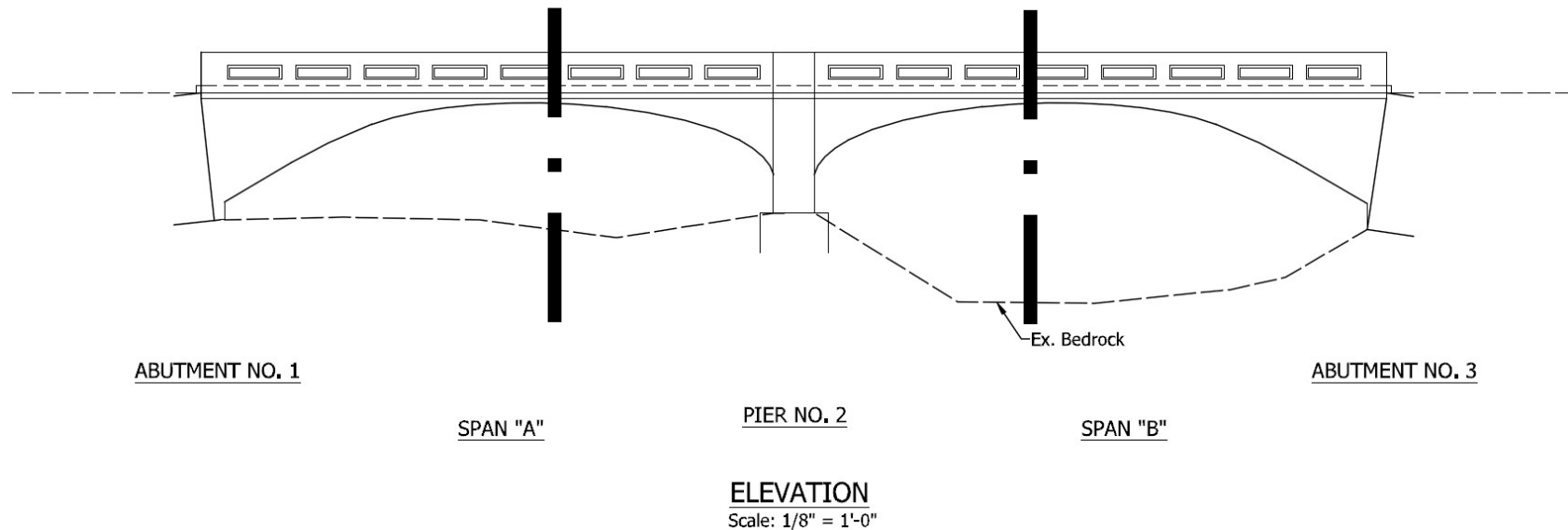
Approx. 0.5 mi West of CR 400 W

Historic Bridge Inventory

- Existing bridge (90-00106) is an 87.5 ft. two-span reinforced concrete arch under fill
- Bridge identified as historic Select on Historic Bridge Inventory
 - Constructed in 1920, reconstructed in 1983
 - Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Unsymmetric arches, pier pilasters, and the scored bridge railing are the historic character defining feature.
- Project development process for any work must follow Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement
 - Select status indicates the bridge is most suitable for preservation and considered an excellent example of a given type
 - Any rehabilitation to comply with Secretary of Interior Standards

Bridge 106 Historic Features

- Unsymmetrical concrete arches



Bridge 106 Historic Features

- Pier pilasters
- Scored concrete railing



Historic Bridge Alternative Analysis

- Project development process for historic bridges must follow guidelines of historic bridge alternatives analysis
- Hierarchical evaluation process for do-nothing, rehabilitation, bypass, and replacement options
- Must chose the first alternative that meets purpose and need of the project
- Bridges on the historic Select list must be preserved when using FHWA funds. Demolition and replacement is not an allowable alternative.

Project Need

Deterioration of Concrete Arch: Poor (4)

East Face
Pier 2



Project Need

Deterioration of Concrete Arch: Poor (4)

South Face
Pier 2



Project Need

Deterioration of Concrete Arch: Poor (4)

East Face
Abutment
(Span 2)



Project Need

Deterioration of Bridge Rail

North Face
Bridge Rail



Project Purpose

- Improve the condition of the historic arch bridge
- Raise the condition rating of the bridge (and all individual components) to “good” (7)
- Provide an upgraded bridge rail
- Extend the life of the bridge by at least 25 years

Alternative A: Do Nothing

- No funds would be expended; no work done
- No environmental impacts
- Without rehabilitation, the bridge may last for 5-10 years before its condition requires posting for weight restrictions and extensive repairs. **Does not meet purpose and need.**
- Possible future negative impacts to local traffic patterns make this alternative ***not prudent***

Alternative B: Rehabilitation

- Existing bridge surface, spandrel walls, arch barrels, bridge rails, and foundations will be repaired as necessary
- Meets Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation
- Structure will continue to function as one-lane bridge serving two-way traffic as it is today
 - 1- 12'-0" wide travel lane
 - 2- 2'-10.5" shoulders
 - 17'-9" clear roadway width
 - Maintains existing load carrying capacity
- Cost estimate - \$1,566,000

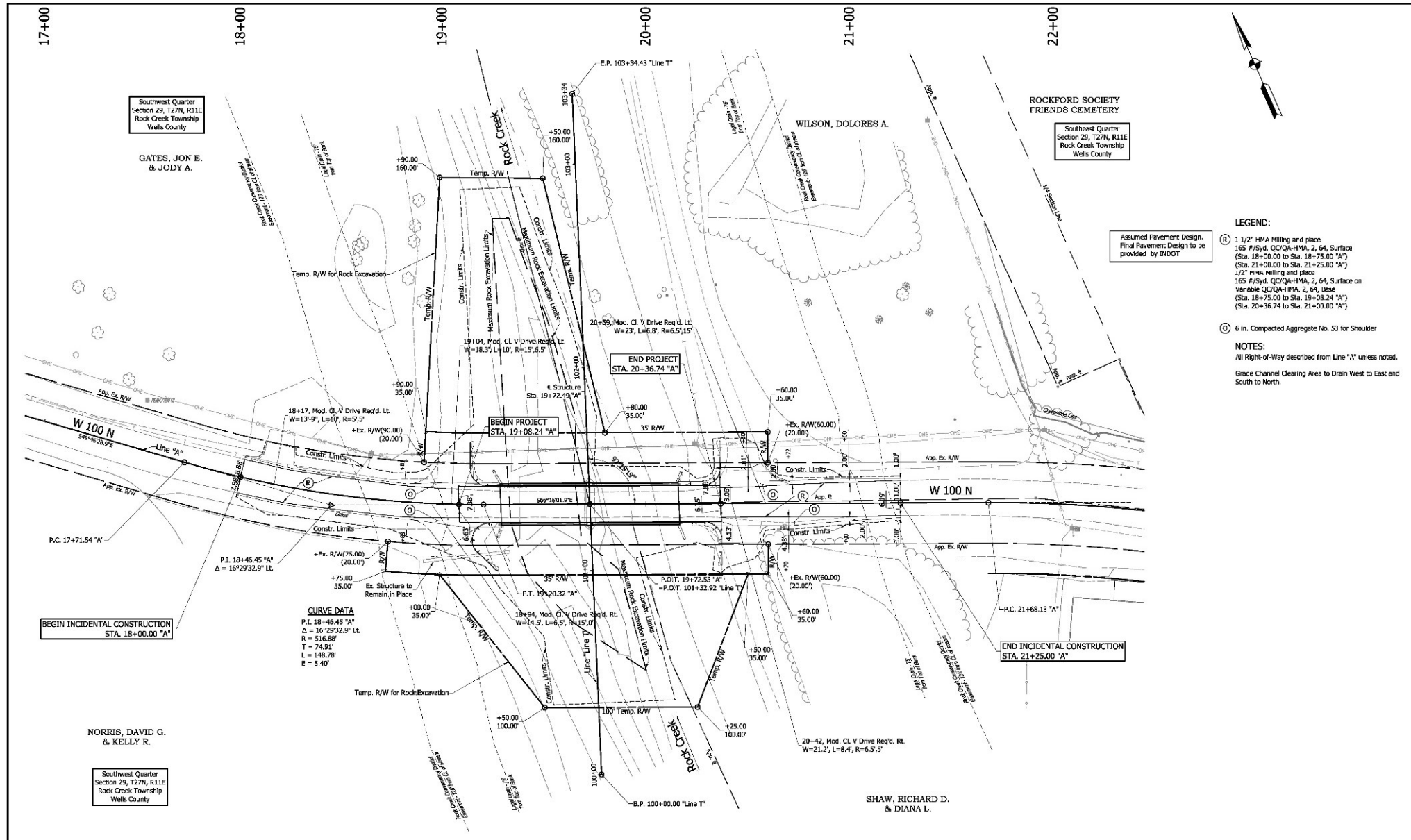
Alternative B: Rehabilitation

- ✓ Purpose and need are met
- ✓ Feasible:
 - An alternative is possible to engineer, design and build
- ✓ Prudent:
 - An alternative's social, economic and environmental impacts and/or community disruptions resulting from alternatives do not reach extraordinary magnitudes
- Therefore, **no other alternatives can be considered** per the Historic Bridge Programmatic Agreement

Proposed Improvements

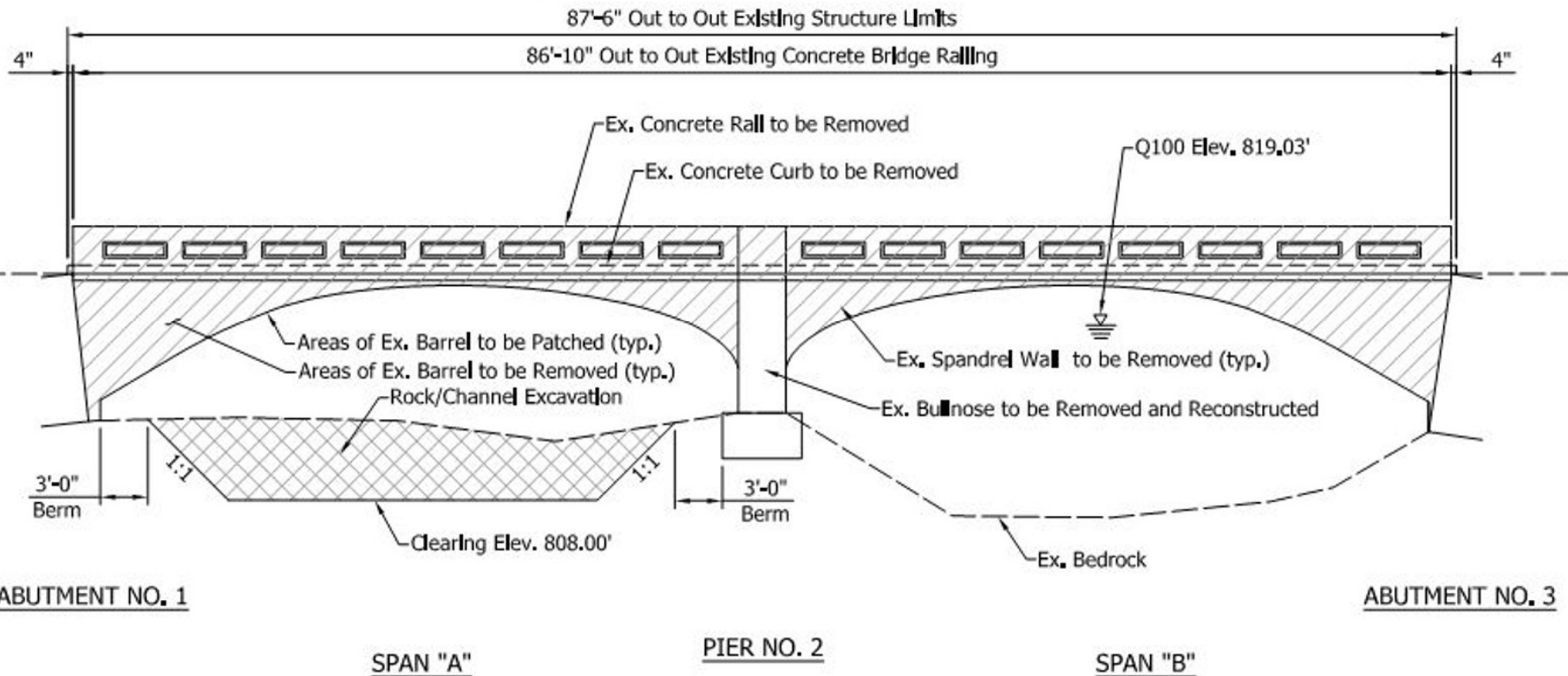
- Replacement of current wearing surface and fill with reinforced concrete deck and clean fill
- Installation of waterproofing membrane on concrete arch ring
- Development of new drainage system
- Installation of galvanic anodes to mitigate corrosion
- Replacement of bridge rail, curb, spandrel walls, and outside portion of arch barrel
- Cleaning and patching concrete as needed
- Minor approach paving and installation of guardrail
- Channel clearing for improved hydraulics

Proposed Improvements

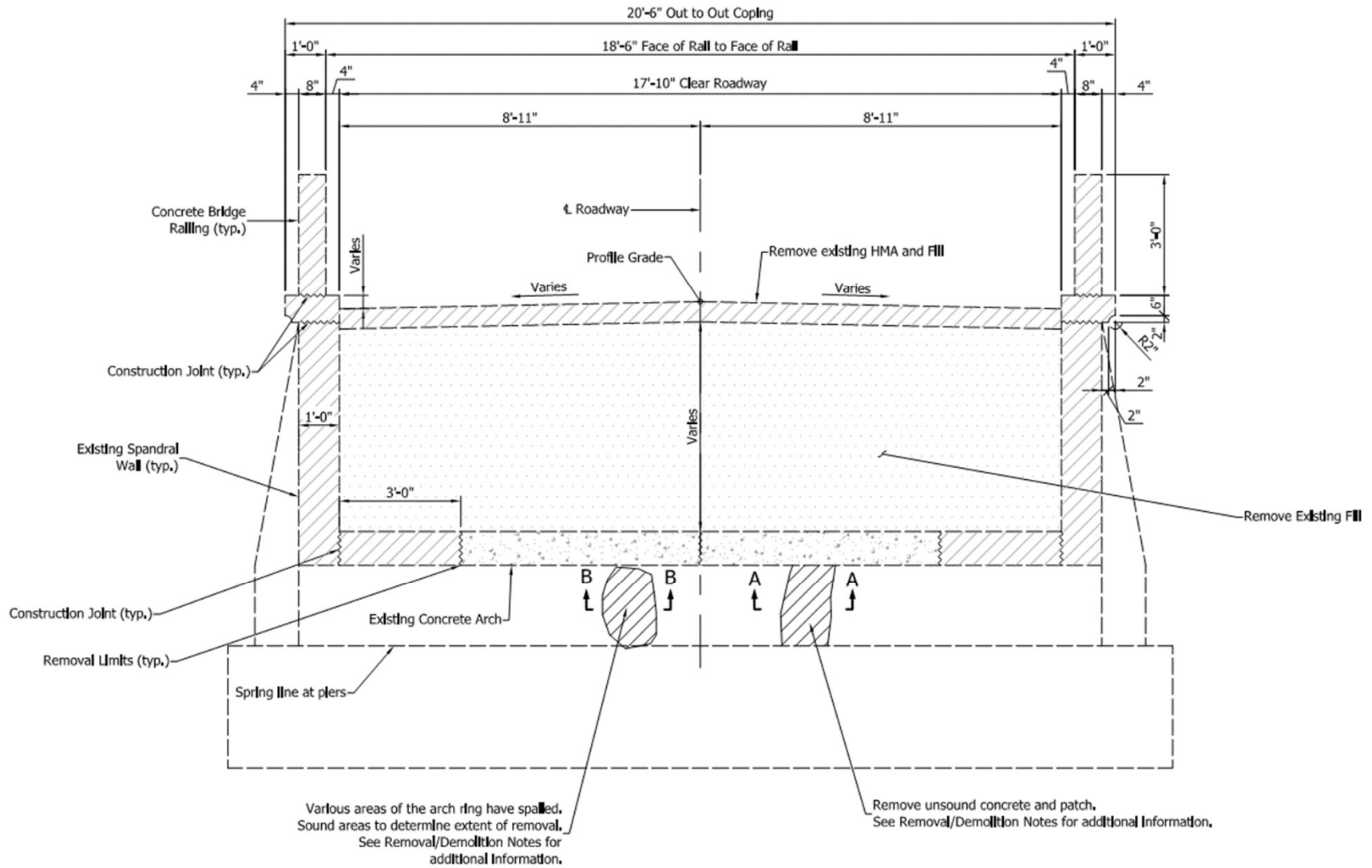


Proposed Improvements

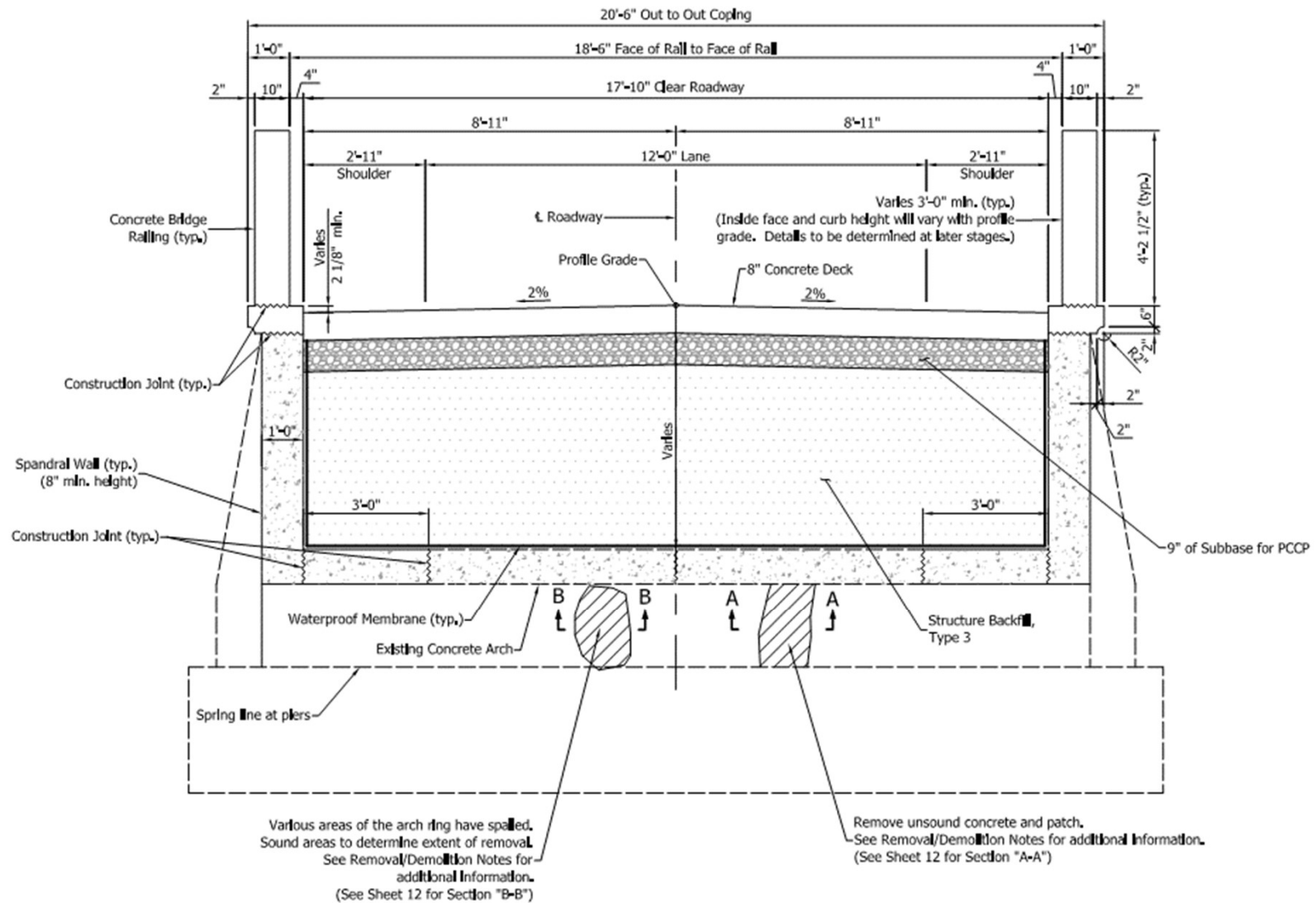
Existing Structure Built to a 50' Vertical Curve



Proposed Improvements

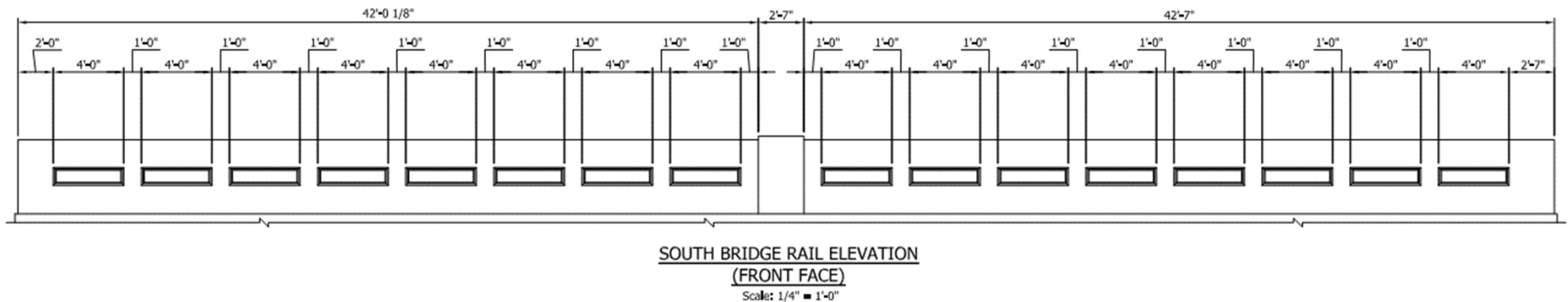


Proposed Improvements



Proposed Improvements

- Railing detail to aesthetically match existing
- Railing height will increase to more closely match INDOT standards



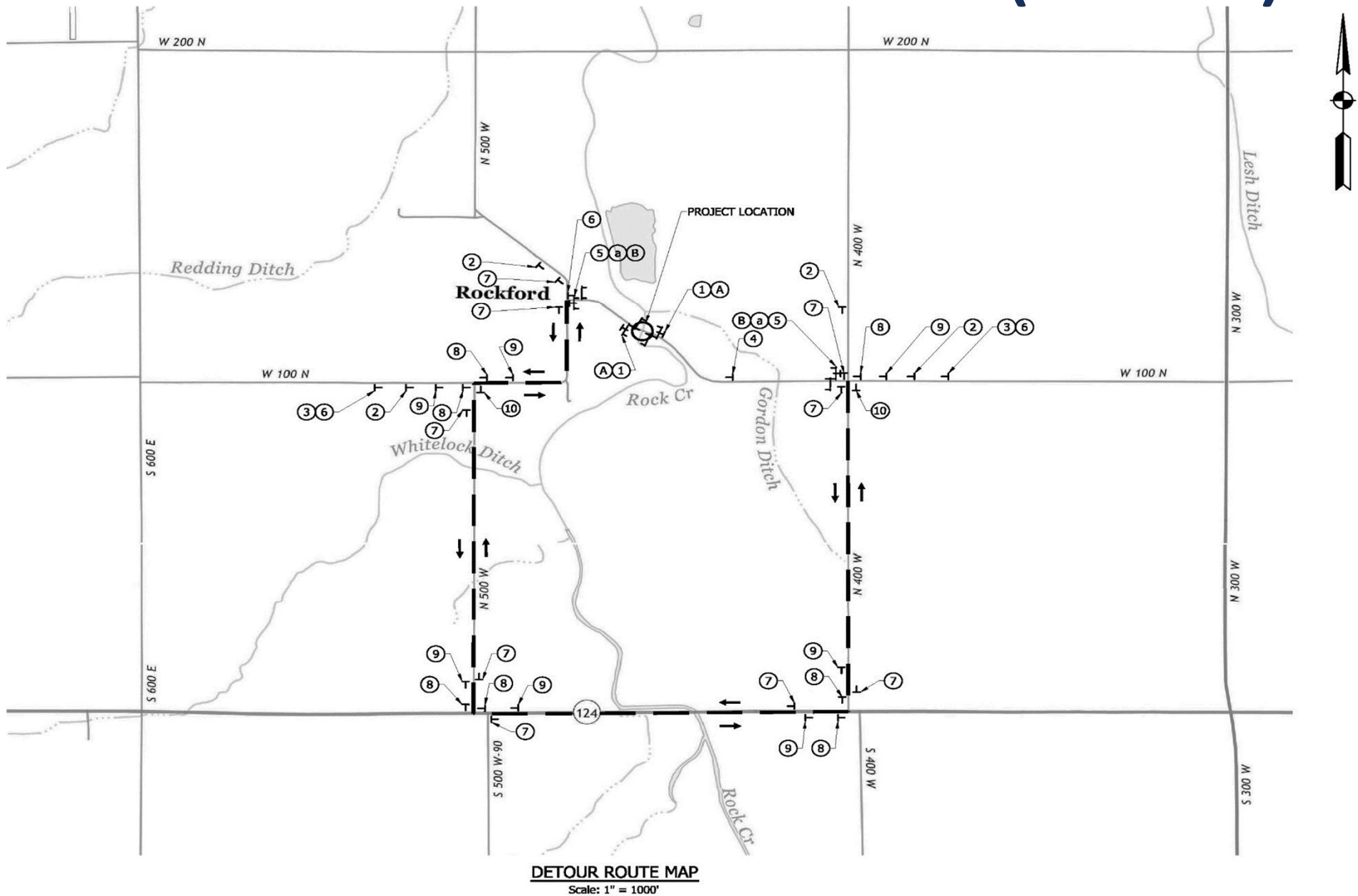
Environmental Impacts

- Repairs and preserves existing historic Select bridge
- No other historic properties in the area
- No wetland impacts
- No tree removal
- Approx. 295 linear feet of stream impacts (above ordinary highwater mark)
- No known impacts to bats, birds, or endangered species
- 0.13 acres of permanent ROW acquisition

Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)

- Full road closure with traffic detour
 - CR N 500 W – SR 124 –CR N 400 W
 - 5.2 mile detour – Adds 4.4 miles (8 minutes)
 - Local access available for properties and driveways up to project area
- Road closure for approx. 6 months
- Construction anticipated in summer 2023
- Wells County to notify emergency services and school corporation officials prior to start of construction

Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)



Historic Bridge Project Development Process

- ✓ *Seek Consulting Party comment*
 - ✓ *Environmental early coordination letters sent to consulting parties*
 - ✓ *No comments have been received from consulting parties objecting to proposed alternative*
 - ✓ *State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the preferred alternative and requested photo documentation of the bridge before construction*
- ✓ *Identify Preferred Alternative – Rehabilitation*
- ✓ *Environmental document released for public involvement – 11/8/21*
- ✓ *Hold Public Hearing – 12/20/21*
 - ✓ *Hearing is the last opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed project work*
- Finalize environmental document – Feb. 2022
 - Following the public hearing comment period, Section 106 process will conclude and Environmental Document will be finalized
- Finalize design – 12/5/22
- Project letting – 3/15/23
- Project construction – Summer/Fall 2023

Public Comment Opportunity

- All statements made at this time will be recorded for inclusion in the Environmental Document
- Please come to the podium so we can accurately record your statements
- Speakers, please fill out sign-in sheet

Submit Public Comments

- **Submit public comments using the options described in first page of information packet:**
 - Public Comment Form: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>
 - Via e-mail (jhandke@usiconsultants.com)
- **INDOT requests written comments be submitted by (1/4/22) to:**

John Handke
USI Consultants, Inc.
8615 E 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46216
- All comments submitted are included in the public hearings transcript and made part of the public record
- Comments are reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during decision-making process

Next Steps

- **Public and project stakeholder input**
 - Submit comments via options described on page 1 of information packet
- **INDOT review of public comments**
 - All comments are given full consideration during decision-making process
 - Finalize/approve environmental document, complete project design
- **Communicate a decision**
 - INDOT will notify project stakeholders of decision
 - Work through local media, social media outlets, paid legal notice
 - Make project documents accessible via repositories
- **Questions? Contact Public Involvement Team**

Project Viewing Locations

USI Consultants, Inc. Office

- Address: 8415 E 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46216
- Phone: (317)-544-4996
- Website: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>

Wells County Public Library

- Address: 200 W Washington St., Bluffton, IN 46714
- Phone: (260) 824-1612

On the INDOT website:

<https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-fort-wayne-district/rehabilitation-of-wells-county-bridge-no.-106/>

Thank You

- Please visit with the design team and project officials following the presentation and comment session
- Add you contact info to the sign-in sheet to be added to the mailing list
- Those unable to attend in-person are encouraged to reach out to the following individuals for questions:
 - Wells County: Nate Rumschlag, (260) 824-6430, chengineer@wellscounty.org
 - USI Consultants, Inc: John Handke (317) 649-2267, jhandke@usiconsultants.com
- **Project Open House**
 - Project maps, displays, INDOT project team and informal Q & A
 - USI Consultants, Inc. webpage: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-41155/>