

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

Des. No. 2300019

Wolcott Rest Area Demolition Project

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) proposes demolishing the existing Wolcott Rest Areas, located on Interstate 65 (I-65) Northbound (NB) and Southbound (SB), approximately 1.2 mile west of the intersection of I-65 and US 231, in White County, Indiana. The construction is anticipated to be 100% state funded.

The Wolcott Rest Areas were built in 1975, and the rest area parking lots are undersized for current and predicted future capacity demands. The existing I-65 NB and I-65 SB parking lots accommodate 35 passenger vehicle parking spaces (of which 2 spaces are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant) and 13 truck parking spaces each, with an average 100-percent capacity during peak hours. No water or sanitary facilities are currently operational at the NB or SB rest area locations. The purpose of the project is to optimize Indiana's rest area network by avoiding continued spending on the outdated and unnecessary Wolcott Rest Area facilities, while addressing critical infrastructure and safety needs, as outlined in INDOT's revised *Rest Area and Truck Parking Plan*.

The proposed demolition of the I-65 NB and SB Wolcott Rest Area facilities will eliminate all parking areas available to the general public and commercial vehicles. Alternate travel break opportunities are available, including the newly reconstructed (2023) I-65 Kankakee Rest Area in Jasper County, located 36 miles north, and the I-65 Lebanon Rest Area in Boone County, located 47 miles south, meeting the FHWA and INDOT standards for spacing between facilities that offer travel break opportunities. Additionally, these facilities meet parking capacity guidelines, are currently ADA-compliant, and include water and sanitary services that adhere to current standards.

All five existing buildings and infrastructure at the two locations will be demolished. All existing signs and light poles/high masts within the limits of the rest areas will be removed. Existing fencing at the border of the project area will be removed and replaced with a 48-inch chain link fence. The existing water well at each site will be capped and abandoned in place. Existing on-site water and sanitary pipes will be removed, all cables will be abandoned in place, and existing gas lines will remain in place without any disturbance. Neither the northbound nor southbound rest areas will be reopened or reconstructed.

Construction is currently expected to take up to 11 months (February 2025 to December 2025). The Wolcott Rest Area was closed in November 2023 and will remain closed to motorists after demolition. Signage is posted on I-65 alerting motorists of the closure.

No new, additional, permanent or temporary right-of-way will be required for the project. Approximately 0.0126 acres of permanent wetland impacts will result from the project, requiring an IDEM Section 401 Individual Water Quality Certification / USACE Section 404 National Wetland Permit. Any required mitigation for the permanent wetland impacts will be determined during the permit process. The project cost is approximately \$615,000.00, with state funds anticipated to be used for construction. This project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 1 environmental document.

The preliminary design plans along with the Draft CE Level 1 will be available for review at the following locations:

1. Monticello-Union Township Public Library, located at 321 W Broadway Street, Monticello, IN 47960
2. Online at <https://on.in.gov/WolcottRestArea>
3. INDOT Crawfordsville District Office, located at 41 West 300 North, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Mr. Steve McAvoy, INDOT Statewide Facilities Director, 100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN, Room N758-FM, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or smcavoy@indot.in.gov on or before **January 30, 2025**. Additionally, any questions about the project can be directed to Imtiyaz Dalal, Project Manager, Janssen & Spaans Engineering, 9120 Harrison Park Court, Indianapolis, IN 46216 or idalal@jsengr.com. Copies of project information may be mailed upon request.

In accordance with the "Americans With Disabilities Act" if you have a disability and/or Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion for which INDOT needs to provide accommodations, please contact Mr. Steve McAvoy, INDOT Statewide Facilities Director, 100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN, Room N758-FM, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or via email at smcavoy@indot.in.gov for services such as interpreters, signers, readers, or large print material. 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 the INDOT Facilities Management Office. The location of the hearing is ADA accessible.

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 Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.