



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DES. NO. 1700076 LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is planning to proceed with the replacement of Bridge No. 014-56-03655, which carries State Road (SR) 14 over Gaff Ditch in Newton County, Indiana.

The purpose of this project is to provide an improved crossing at this location where the superstructure, substructure, and channel have condition ratings of at least an 8, which is considered to be in “very good” condition. The need for the project stems from the deteriorated condition of the existing bridge (Bridge No. 014-56-03655 (National Bridge Inventory No. 3580)).

The project will replace the existing bridge that carries SR 14 over Gaff Ditch. The preferred alternative for the new structure is an earth-filled, precast, reinforced concrete three-sided structure with wing walls at both the upstream and downstream ends. The new structure will be 78 feet long and will have a 24-foot wide clear span with a 13-foot, 6-inch rise. On the structure, the typical cross-section of SR 14 will consist of two, 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction) with 7-foot paved shoulders on each side. The clear roadway width will be 38 feet. Additionally, new compacted aggregate field entrance drives will be constructed in all four quadrants of the project. The roadway over the new structure will be replaced to full depth and the approach roadway will be milled to a depth of 1.5 inches and a hot mix asphalt overlay will be applied. The typical cross-section of the approaches will consist of two, 12-foot wide travel lanes (one in each direction) with paved shoulders varying in width from 2 to 7-feet wide in addition to 3.5-foot aggregate shoulders. The total length of the project along SR 14 is 375 feet.

A total of 1.11 acres of new permanent right-of-way and the reacquisition of 0.26 acre of right-of-way will be required for the completion of this project. No temporary right-of-way will be required. No relocations will occur as a result of the project.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) requires the closure of SR 14 to thru traffic. A detour that utilizes US 41, SR 114, and SR 55 will be established. The detour will be approximately 19.6 miles long and would involve 25.6 miles in added travel distance. The detour is expected to last approximately 4 months. All access to driveways in the closure area will be maintained.

This project will impact a total of 217 linear feet (0.1 acre) of Gaff Ditch. There are no impacts to wetlands. The cost associated with this project is approximately \$1,775,646 which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. This project is being processed as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 document due to the amount of right-of-way required and stream impacts.

The preliminary design plans and the CE-2 are available for review at the following location:

INDOT, LaPorte District website - <https://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm>

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 Office of Public Involvement for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Rickie Clark at (317) 232-6601 or at rclark@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 the INDOT Office of Public Involvement.

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Chris Kunkel at 317-334-6818 or at ckunkel@lochgroup.com on or before June 19, 2020. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed by contacting Chris Kunkel.

This notice is published in compliance with Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.11(h) entitled "Early Coordination, Public Involvement and Project Development" and the *INDOT Public Involvement Policies and Procedures Manual*, approved by the Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation, on August 16, 2012.