

Legal Notice of Planned Improvement
Des. No.: 1901902

The City of Hammond and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is planning to proceed with a “road diet” project whereas the design consists of changing the current lane configuration from two lanes in each direction to one lane in each direction with a Two Way Left Turn Lane (TWLTL) between the travel lanes. The TWLTL will transition to left turn only lanes at the intersections with the remaining width being used for parking and bicycle lanes. The project is located along Kennedy Avenue beginning at the intersection of 164th Place and runs north to the exit ramp for US 20/Michigan Street. From 164th Place to 161st Street the existing pavement will be resurfaced with partial patching. The pavement will be reconstructed from 161st Street to the south end of the County Bridge over the railroad tracks and from the north end of the County Bridge over the railroad tracks to the north exit ramp for US 20/Michigan Street. Total project length is 4,968 feet or 0.94 mile, all in Hammond, Lake County Indiana.

The need for this project stems from the poor condition of the pavement along Kennedy Avenue, which is exhibiting large areas of cracking and the wearing surface is generally rough throughout the project limits. The poor condition of the pavement causes vehicles to slow down to avoid holes or bumps. In addition, there is a need to provide bicycle facilities to support future regional development plans in the area. Also, there are no clearly demarcated parking stalls for on street parking along this section of Kennedy Ave. The purpose of this project is to improve the overall pavement condition by extending its useable service life by approximately 15-20 years (15 years from 164th Place north to 161st Street and 20 years from 161st Street north to the end of the project). In addition, the purpose also seeks to provide clearly demarcated parking options along Kennedy Ave. and to promote connectivity by providing bicycle facilities for residents within the community.

All work for this project will be completed within the existing right-of-way of the roadway. This project will not involve the displacement of any businesses or residents. The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for this project will require short term lane restrictions and will follow all requirements per the *Indiana Design Manual Guidelines*. Access to all drives and businesses will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in the March of 2024.

The cost associated with this project is approximately \$4.1 million dollars which includes preliminary engineering, and construction with both federal and local funds anticipated to be used. The FHWA and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of the Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 1 environmental document. The project creates no major impacts to the environment. Preliminary design plans along with the CE document are available for review at the following location:

- INDOT, LaPorte District Website: Laporte.indot.in.gov
- Hammond Public Library: Located at 564 State Street, Hammond IN, 46320

All interested persons may request project information be mailed to them. All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Chuck Sims, First Group Engineering, Inc. 5925 Lakeside Blvd. Indianapolis, Indiana 46278, (317) 372-7308, csims@firstgroupengineering.com on or before August 25, 2022. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats, or persons with a disability for which the City of Hammond needs to provide accessibility to the documents, such as interpreters or readers, please contact Chuck Sims (contact information above). 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 should also contact Chuck Sims (contact information above).

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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.