



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Mike Braun, Governor
Kent Abernathy, Commissioner

DES. # 2100968 & 2100969 LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED BRIDGE REMOVAL PROJECT IN VERMILLION COUNTY

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing for the Bridge Removal project on State Road (SR) 63 over Former Railroad 0.24 mile south of SR 234 in Cayuga on February 26, 2025, at the North Vermillion High School (5555 N. Falcon Drive, Cayuga, IN 47928) beginning at 6:00 pm. The doors will be open at 5:30 pm in order to view displays and talk to the representatives prior to the start of the hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the draft environmental document and preliminary design plans for the proposed bridge project involving the northbound bridge, Bridge No. 063-83-2002 ANBL, National Bridge Inventory (NBI) # 022727, and the southbound bridge, Bridge No. 063-83-2002 ASBL, NBI # 022729 on SR 63 over a former railroad (Des No. 2100968 & 2100969), approximately 0.24 mile south of SR 234 near Cayuga, Eugene Township, Vermillion County, Indiana.

The project involves the removal the twin bridges and reconstruction of SR 63 over a fill section. The project will remove the superstructure on the existing bridges entirely, and the end bents will be taken out to a depth of at least 2 feet below the proposed pavement subgrade. The bent caps will be removed from the interior bents. Existing concrete slope walls will be left in place and buried. Roadway embankment material will backfill the existing SR 63 crossing. SR 63 will be reconstructed with the same horizontal and vertical alignments, featuring two 12 foot lanes, a 4-foot median, and 10-foot outside paved shoulders in each direction. The posted speed limit will be 55 miles per hour.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will require a phased approach with traffic being maintained throughout construction. The proposed start of construction is the Spring of 2026.

The project is approximately 0.19 mile in length along SR 63. Land use surrounding the project area is forested and agricultural fields. Construction of the project will require approximately 1.2 acres of permanent right-of-way (ROW) and no temporary ROW. All the ROW, which will be acquired from the former railroad corridor, is located within the existing INDOT ROW corridor of SR 63.

The environmental document for this project was released for public involvement on January 9, 2025. The public hearing serves as the opportunity for the public to comment on the Level 3 Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document. All comments collected before, during, and after the hearing through March 13, 2025, will be taken into consideration.

The agenda will afford the opportunity for the public to make formal statements to be recorded as part of the official hearing transcript. Tentative timetables for construction will be discussed during the formal presentation. Representatives from INDOT and Egis will be available to address specific questions during the initial session, and after the formal hearing process. Please be aware general conversations are not considered part of the official record. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments collected before, during, and for a period of two (2) weeks after the hearing date, will be evaluated and addressed in the final environmental document.

Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for the construction of this project. INDOT and the FHWA have agreed that this project poses minimal impact on the natural environment. A Level 3 CE environmental document has been prepared for the project. All interested parties are hereby notified of the availability of the environmental document and preliminary design plans for review at the following locations:

1. INDOT Crawfordsville District Office, 41 W 300 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
2. Egis, 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
3. Vermillion County Public Library, 385 E Market St, Newport, IN 47966
4. Website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-crawfordsville-district/>

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed to them. Please contact Katie Finney, Egis, by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46250, by email at Katie.Finney@egis-group.com, or by phone at 317-806-4340 for information.

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during, and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered, and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to Katie Finney, Egis, 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250 or Katie.Finney@egis-group.com or 317-806-4340. Egis respectfully requests comments be submitted by March 13, 2025.

In accordance with the "Americans with Disabilities Act," with advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodation for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process, including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight-impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids, including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required, please contact Kaitlyn Taylor at 765-376-4754 or KatTaylor@indot.in.gov or Katie Finney at 317-806-4340 or Katie.Finney@egis-group.com for information.

Weather Notice: If the public hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, February 27, 2025, and the public comment period will be extended to March 14, 2025. Please contact Kaitlyn Taylor at 765-376-4754 or KatTaylor@indot.in.gov or Katie Finney at 317-806-4340 or Katie.Finney@egis-group.com in the event of inclement weather.

This notice is published in compliance with 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."; 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) stating, "Public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process, as necessary."; approved by the Federal Highway Administration U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.