



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N642
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (317) 234-0796
FAX: (317) 233-4929

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

DES. # 1801389

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for a proposed project to develop the Indian Creek Landlocked Mitigation Site (DES# 1801389) located along approximately 1.26 miles of Burton Lane, less than one mile south of Martinsville in Morgan County.

The purpose of this project is to mitigate for a portion of the unavoidable impacts to streams, wetlands, floodways, and forests caused by I-69 Section 6.

Within the 130.3-acre project area, existing conditions include 58.4 acres of forest, approximately 53.6 acres of fields in agricultural row crop production, 2.0 acres of existing wetlands, 8.0 acres of existing lake, 0.9 acre of former commercial building and parking lot area, 4.2 acres of former mulch processing facility, and 3.2 acres of utility easement. Invasive species of concern known to be present on the site include Japanese hops, multiple species of honeysuckle, reed canary grass, multiflora rose, winter creeper, and cattail. Multiple locations along Indian Creek are severely eroded and scoured. The Indian Creek Landlocked Mitigation Site is within the southern part of the Upper White River watershed. Adjacent land use consists of transportation, agricultural, and residential areas.

This mitigation site will serve to replace unavoidable impacts to streams, wetlands, floodways, and forests through the development or restoration of approximately 50.5 acres of non-wetland forest (including 22.3 acres of riparian habitat and 28.2 acres of bottomland forest) and 1.7 acres of emergent wetland within the existing agricultural fields. The remaining 78.2 acres of existing forests, lake (to be used as open water wetland preservation credits), sensitive areas, bank stabilization, berm, and former mulch processing area, are proposed to be treated for invasive species and preserved. A total of 9,750 linear feet of stream stabilization and/or enhancement will occur. Enhancements to the existing streams will include planting of native seed mixtures, trees, and shrubs to develop or expand upon the existing forested riparian corridors. Invasive species will be treated throughout the riparian corridors. Bank stabilization in the form of stone toe protection, bank grading, seeding, erosion control blanket installation, and live staking will occur within the eroded areas of Indian Creek. Permits will not be required for reforestation activities, but will be required for the bank stabilization measures.

The project will require approximately 130.3 acres of permanent right-of-way with no temporary right-of-way anticipated.

The project will not require a maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan as construction access will be from multiple entrances directly off of SR 37/I-69 to the north and Burton Lane to the south of the property. Multiple construction entrances will be installed to prevent equipment from tracking soil material onto the roadways. The project will not require any lane closures or restrictions, no public roads are located within the project area and none are anticipated to be impacted by the mitigation site.

The estimated cost associated with construction of the mitigation site is \$2.7 million with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 4 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review at the following online location:

- I-69 Section 6 website: <https://www.in.gov/indot/projects/i69/2515.htm>

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed, please contact Holly Hume, 812.479.6200 or hhume@lochgroup.com.

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Holly Hume, Lochmueller Group, Inc., 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715 or hhume@lochgroup.com on or before Monday, May 4, 2020.

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 Lochmueller Group, Inc. for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Holly Hume at 812.479.6200 or hhume@lochgroup.com. 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 Lochmueller Group, Inc.

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 August 16, 2012.