



DES. # 1703020

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Improvement: Bridge Replacement in Jackson County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on December 9, 2021, at the Jackson County Courthouse (109 S. Sugar St., Brownstown, IN 47220), the hearing will begin at 5:30 pm with the doors opening at 5 pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans to Jackson County Bridge 154 (NBI 3600099) in Crothersville, Jackson County, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to restore service to E CR 300S over Rider Ditch.

Structure 154 is located 0.8 miles E of CR 840 E in Section 28, R-6-E, T-5-N, Washington Township. As part of the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory project, the bridge was determined to be Non-Select. The bridge has been marketed for re-use for over six months. Info of the bridge can be found on the following INDOT Historic Bridge Marketing website, <https://secure.iot.in.gov/indot/2532.htm>.

Additionally, an advertisement was placed in the Seymour Tribune newspaper on November 15, 2019 and signs advertising the bridge for reuse were placed at the project site on November 19, 2019. To date, no parties have stepped forward to take the ownership in its current location nor requested specific elements. This public hearing is the last opportunity for a responsible party to come forward to take ownership and responsibility for this bridge at its current location. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) required Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The proposed project does not involve any other historic property aside from the bridge. INDOT, acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), issued "no historic properties affected" finding under Section 106 on May 27, 2020. In accordance with the NHPA, the views of the public are being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 26 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3€ and 800.6(a)(4), the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(d) is available at the locations listed below.

As proposed, the project involves the construction of a new three span concrete slab bridge with approach roadway improvement. The total project length is 401 ft. The project limits on the north side of project is 35 ft from center of existing roadway and the limits on the south side is 20 ft.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves the closure of E CR 300 S and motorists finding their own detour route. There is no need for an assigned detour due to the low daily traffic of E CR 300 S and the roadway already being closed. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible. The project will require approximately 0.14 acre of permanent new right-of-way. No temporary right-of-way will be needed. Majority of work will be performed within the 125 ft drainage easement. There is an impact of 0.008 acre to the wetland located on the Southeast side of the project.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$1,075,000. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Jackson County Highway Department (360 S. County Rd. 25 E., Brownstown, IN 47220, 812-358-2226, 7 am – 3:30 pm)
2. Jackson County Courthouse (109 S. Sugar St., Brownstown, IN 47220)
3. Jackson County Public Library (303 W 2nd St, Seymour, IN 47274, 812-522-3412, 10 am – 5 pm)
4. INDOT Seymour District Office (185 Agrico Ln., Seymour, IN 47274)

Emergency Situation Guidance: During emergency situations, public viewing locations may be limited or prohibited as part of the Notice of Planned Improvement. Project documents may only be available on-line during emergency situations. The notice must offer the public the opportunity to request project documents be mailed. INDOT and/or the project sponsor will mail project documents upon request.

A project webpage will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available on-line via the INDOT **XXXXXX** District page (insert webpage address).

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: Jeff Matern, Janssen and Spaans Engineering, Inc., 9120 Harrison Park Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46216. E-mail: jmatern@jsengr.com. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by December 23, 2021.**

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations 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 of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact **XXXXXX**, INDOT (or project sponsor's contact office) (phone number and email address).

In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions, please call the Indiana Department of Transportation's Brad Williamson at 812-524-3971 to learn of any postponement of the public hearing. If the public hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled for December 15, 2021 at 5:30 pm, at the Jackson County Courthouse, and the public comment period would be extended.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the 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.