



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Eric Holcomb, Governor
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Des. No. 1902855

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) with partial funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes a modernization and improvement project at Clear Creek Welcome Center, Mile Marker 2, between the Illinois/Indiana State Line and Terre Haute, in Vigo County.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the vehicle parking congestion at the I-70 Clear Creek Welcome Center, provide a sewage utility that does not require additional costs to maintain and operate, provide a larger building with more restrooms and interpretive exhibits, all which will support current and future capacity. Additionally, this project is a part of INDOT's comprehensive Rest Area and Truck Parking Plan, which provides guidelines for the future construction and maintenance of the agency's rest area portfolio. The primary need for the project is based on the lack of parking spaces. The secondary needs pertain to the wastewater treatment plants, building sizes, number of restrooms and lack of information. The on-site wastewater treatment plant and building is undersized and do not support the growth of visitors nor the future need. Currently, the on-site wastewater treatment plant is required to be maintained, which is not cost effective. There is a lack of regional information at the facility that would provide the traveling public the opportunity to learn from interpretive exhibits and design elements.

The preferred alternative is to demolish and replace the existing welcome center building, including architectural, structural, and mechanical services (such as new water and sewer line installations), and to reconfigure the parking lot to increase parking spaces, reconstruct the entrance and exit ramps, add landscaping elements, interpretive exhibits, and some utility work will also be required. The existing Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS), at mile marker 142.2 (Illinois), which provides drivers with information such as the number of available parking spots at rest areas in real time, is to remain with no changes. INDOT's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) is to verify that the new rest area ITS is connected to the sign, as required, at completion of the project. The project area encompasses 52.5 acres and includes the addition of a sewer line.

The new sewer line route begins at the north driveway of the Clear Creek Welcome Center, extending north along the transmission line corridor to the south side of West Old US 40, utilizing Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)/trenchless boring underground. The sewer line turns east following the south side of West Old US 40 to about 100 ft. west of Vigo County Bridge 252 (HB-2287), where the line diverts southeast about 225 ft. The line then turns northeast to parallel West Old US 40 for about 460 ft. when the line turns north for about 230 ft. to return to the south side of West Old US 40. The line continues to parallel West Old US 40 to where it terminates at South Thorpe Place. A tie-in line extends north at South Gorham Place extending the line to the 40 West Mobile Home Park on the north side of National Avenue, connecting to the existing lift station. Construction of the wastewater pipe will involve horizontal directional drilling along the project area and roads that make up the route.

Demolition of five buildings (Welcome Center Building and four outbuildings) will occur and removing the existing on-site waste treatment infrastructure to facilitate construction of the new proposed sanitary sewer route. All existing signs and light poles within the limits of the rest area will be removed. All existing pavement and sidewalks will be removed. Unless indicated on the plans to remain, all existing underground drainage pipes, water lines, sanitary sewers will be removed. When electric energy is needed for the new improvements, Duke Energy will install a new transformer on a pad constructed by the welcome center contractor and electric cables will be installed in a conduit constructed by the welcome center contractor.

The improvements at the Clear Creek Welcome Center includes construction of a new welcome center building, interpretive exhibits, trucker rest rooms, lift station, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks, curbs and ramps, cell tower, parking, fence, guardrail, landscaping, lighting, and storm drains.

The proposed lift station on the north side of the rest area will be approximately 11 feet (ft.) by 20 ft. and will include a 6 ft. diameter wet well and a sanitary manhole.

Approximately 10.46 acres of new permanent right-of-way will be required on the east side of the Welcome Center to expand the parking lot and 6 easements (0.56 acre permanent easements; 0.28 acre temporary easements) will be required for installation of the new sanitary sewer route.

Anticipated stream impacts below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Unnamed Tributary (UNT) 1 to Clear Creek include a total of 200 linear ft. (0.046 acres) of permanent impacts and no temporary impacts. Anticipated stream impacts below the OHWM of UNT 5 to Clear Creek include a total of 55 linear ft. (0.017 acres) of permanent impacts and no temporary impacts. No other impacts to streams are anticipated as a result of the project. No permanent or temporary impacts to wetlands are anticipated. An Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification Permit and a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) will be needed, due to the anticipated permanent impacts to UNT 1 to Clear Creek and UNT 5 to Clear Creek. No other permits will be required as a result of stream or wetland impacts from the project. Approximately 15.06 acre of terrestrial habitat disturbance is anticipated. A Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP) will be required, due to greater than one acre of land disturbance. This amount includes approximately 6.15 acres of tree removal due to construction of the Clear Creek Welcome Center and new sanitary sewer route. Mitigation will likely be required, due to the amount of terrestrial bat habitat impacts within 100-300 ft. of existing pavement.

Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2023 and will be completed by Fall 2024 or Spring of 2025. The maintenance of traffic (MOT) for the project will require a full closure of the existing Clear Creek Welcome Center ramps, utilizing unlighted advanced warning signage to warn motorists of the site closure and barricades to prevent access to the site by traveling motorists. Traffic on I-70 eastbound will be maintained for the duration of the project. MOT measures will be removed upon completion of the project. The preferred alternative will meet the purpose and need of the project by improving the existing rest area to meet current capacity demands and future needs.

The construction cost associated with this project is approximately \$33,277,500.00 with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. This project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 3 environmental document.

Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review at the following locations:

1. Vigo County Public Library, 1 Library Square, Terre Haute, IN 47807
2. West Terre Haute Public Library, 125 N. Church Street, West Terre Haute, IN 47885
3. Online at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-crawfordsville-district/clear-creek-welcome-center/>

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Lauren Wilburn, INDOT Facilities Management, 100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN, Room N758-FM, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or LWilburn@indot.in.gov on or before February 3, 2023. Copies of project information may be mailed upon request. Additionally, any questions about the project can be directed to David Hedlund, Project Manager, Janssen & Spaans Engineering, 9120 Harrison Park Court, Indianapolis, IN 46216 or dhedlund@jsengr.com.

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 Facilities Management Office for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Lauren Wilburn at 219-841-1245 or LWilburn@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 Facilities Management Office.

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 July 7, 2021.