



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

DES# 1702941

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has developed preliminary plans for the proposed US 27 Bridge over Norfolk Southern Railroad (NSRR) and Five Local Streets Project in the City of Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana. The proposed undertaking is on US 27 (locally known as North 9th Street/Chester Boulevard), from North D Street to 100 feet north of North G Street.

The needs for this project stem from the deteriorated and substandard condition of the current structure, and pedestrian facilities that do not meet current standards. The preferred alternative will remove the existing US 27 bridge and replace it with a new bridge matching the existing in width and height. The new bridge will be a steel plate girder bridge with a reinforced concrete deck, on a zero to nine degree skew. The bridge will have seven spans, ranging in length from 65.8 feet to 193.5 feet. The structure will provide two 12-foot wide travel lanes in each direction. The typical section will differ from the existing by including a 6.5-foot wide sidewalk along the western side, and no sidewalk along the eastern side.

The southern bridge abutment will be reused. The northern bridge abutment will be relocated approximately 50 feet south to the current location of North F Street, which will be closed permanently to vehicular traffic from North 9th Street to Fort Wayne Avenue.

The eastern sidewalk will be removed up to the irregular intersection of North H Street, US 27, and Chester Boulevard. The northeastern staircase will be removed, and sidewalk will be reconstructed to tie into the existing northwestern staircase. A new sidewalk will be constructed south of the new bridge abutment to continue to allow pedestrians east-west access from Fort Wayne Avenue to North F Street/North 9th Street.

Construction of this project will require approximately 0.094 acre of permanent right-of-way, and approximately 0.015 acre of temporary right-of-way. During construction, the bridge will be closed and an official detour using I-70 and US 40 will be provided. Construction is scheduled to begin spring of 2023 and is expected to last two years. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. Project stakeholders including the local school corporation and emergency services will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction that will block or limit access.

This project will permanently alter local traffic patterns by closing a portion of North F Street to vehicular traffic. This will reduce the existing section of North F Street from two blocks long (from North 8th Street to Fort Wayne Avenue) to one block long (from North 8th Street to North 9th Street). The project will not impact natural resources except for less than 0.10 acre of terrestrial habitat (maintained roadside), and it will have "No Adverse Effect" to cultural resources including Historic Districts. Due to the need for temporary right-of-way for aerial space above a contributing building, temporary occupancy impacts are proposed for the Richmond Railway Station Historic District. There will be no impacts to the abutting North 10th Street Park, except for minor access changes, and impacts to the Loop Project have been minimized.

The cost associated with this project is approximately \$12,800,000. Federal and state funds are to be utilized for the construction project.

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 locations:

1. Morris-Reeves Library, 80 N 6th Street Richmond, IN 47374
2. INDOT Greenfield District Office, 32 S Broadway, Greenfield, IN 46140
3. Online at the INDOT Greenfield District webpage: <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/>
4. INDOT will mail project documents upon request. Call Dan Miller at (317) 616-4663 or call INDOT Toll Free at 855-INDOT4U (463-6848).

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Dan Miller, Parsons, (317) 616-4663, Daniel.J.Miller@parsons.com on or before November 5th, 2021.

In accordance with the ADA, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT Greenfield District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Alex Lee, Parsons, (317) 616-1011, Alexander.Lee@parsons.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 the INDOT Greenfield District.

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 2021 INDOT *Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual* approved by the Federal Highway Administration.