



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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DES. # 1902826

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monroeville Road over Hoffman Drain Bridge Project, Allen County

The Allen County Highway Department will host a public hearing on February 8, 2024, in the Allen County Public Library-Monroeville Branch (115 Main Street, Monroeville, IN 46773). The hearing will begin at 5:45pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document, the 800.11(e) documentation for Section 106, and current preliminary design plans for the bridge project located on Monroeville Road over Hoffman Drain (Allen County Bridge 277) in Allen County, approximately 455 feet (0.09 mile) west of the junction with Fackler Road.

The need for the project is due to the deteriorated condition of the Allen County Bridge 277 (INDOT Structure No. 02-00277; National Bridge Inventory [NBI] No. 0200207), which received an overall Condition rating of 4 (poor) out of 9 (excellent). If deterioration of this structure is allowed to continue, it will eventually lead to failure and no longer perpetuate vehicular crossing on Monroeville Road over Hoffman Drain (the bridge currently has an estimated remaining life span of 10 years). The purpose of the project is to continue providing a structurally sufficient structure that perpetuates vehicular crossing on Monroeville Road over Hoffman Drain while achieving a superstructure and substructure condition rating of 7 (good) or greater out of 9.

The selected preferred alternative for this project involves the demolition and replacement of the existing bridge. The new bridge will meet all INDOT requirements for reconstruction regarding vertical and horizontal alignment, stopping sight distance, bridge width for two-lanes, and structural capacity. The new bridge will be approximately 40.67 feet in width (clear roadway width of 38.67 feet) and 71 feet in length. The anticipated superstructure type is spread concrete box beams, which will be placed to meet appropriate geometric and hydraulic requirements. The bridge would be lengthened, and the profile raised to accommodate the hydraulic needs of the site for a Q100 flow event. The Q100 flow event, also referred to as the 100-year flood event, is a flood event with a 1% probability of occurring in any given year.

Steel piles will be driven into the ground to support the end bents. Revetment riprap over geotextiles will be placed on the fill slopes at both pile end bents. A cofferdam and pump around will be utilized to dewater the channel bank to place the riprap toe and fill slopes at each end bent. Guardrail and guardrail end treatments will be constructed. Bridge railing will be placed along both edges of the deck and will connect to concrete bridge rail transitions, guardrail, and guardrail end treatments. A surface seal will be applied to the concrete bridge railing, the copings of the deck, and the underside to the face of the box beams.

The roadway profile within the construction limits will be raised to tie the existing roadway in with the new bridge. Both reinforced concrete bridge approaches (RCBAs) will be replaced. The roadway approaches will be widened to accommodate the new bridge. The roadway approaches will be graded to add fill for the wider roadway embankment. Full depth hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavement replacement and asphalt milling/resurfacing will occur throughout the project area, as needed.

The agricultural access drive located at the eastern project area terminus will be reconstructed, and the existing drainage pipe (Structure Number 10) carrying the drive will be replaced with a 1-foot-diameter by 25-foot-long corrugated metal pipe. The maximum depth of excavation for the project will be approximately 8 feet below ground surface.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves a closure for this section of Monroeville Road during construction of the Allen County Bridge 277. The detour route will utilize Houk Road, Flatrock Road, and Grotrian Road. MOT details will be presented during the public hearing. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders will be notified of closures prior to construction to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible. The project will require approximately 0.622 acres of permanent new right-of-way, in addition to 0.045 acres of temporary right-of-way needed during construction.

Allen County Bridge 277 (NBI Number 0200207) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criterion C because it possesses high artistic value as illustrated through the use of non-standard decorative railing combined with other aesthetic treatments to provide notable ornamentation. 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 the past six months and information about the bridge can be found on the following INDOT Historic Bridge Marketing website: <http://www.in.gov/indot/2532.htm>.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The proposed project does not involve any properties eligible for the National Register aside from the subject bridge. This project will result in “no historic properties affected” under Section 106. INDOT, on behalf of the FHWA will be issuing a “no historic properties affect” finding for the project. 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 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(4), the documentation of “no historic properties affected” specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e) is available for inspection electronically by accessing INDOT’s Section 106 document posting website IN SCOPE at <http://erms.indot.in.gov/Section106Documents>.

The FHWA and the INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a CE Level 4. At present, both Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project, with the total cost estimated at approximately \$1,931,270. No significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment were found during the creation of this document. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information are available to view prior at the following locations:

1. Allen County Public Library-Monroeville Branch, 115 Main Street, Monroeville, IN 46773
2. The Clark Dietz website: <https://www.clarkdietz.com/bridge-277-des-no-1902826/>

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed. Please contact Clark Dietz, ATTN: Kevin Loiselle, 8900 Keystone Crossing, Suite 475, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 317-808-3138, or kevin.loiselle@clarkdietz.com. Requests must be received prior to February 8, 2024.

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. The public hearing will be the last opportunity for a responsible party to step forward and provide the necessary sureties to obtain ownership of the bridge. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to: Clark Dietz, ATTN: Kevin Loiselle, 8900 Keystone Crossing, Suite 475, Indianapolis, IN 46240, or 317-808-3138, or

kevin.loiselle@clarkdietz.com. Allen County Highway Department respectfully requests comments be submitted by February 22, 2024.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. With advanced notice, Allen County Highway Department 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, the Allen County Highway Department will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with regards to participation and access to project or persons with limited English proficiency who require translation services should contact the Clark Dietz Project Manager, Kevin Loiselle, at 317-808-3138 or kevin.loiselle@clarkdietz.com. Please submit all requests for special accommodations by February 1, 2024.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions, please contact the Clark Dietz Project Manager, Kevin Loiselle, at 317-808-3138 or kevin.loiselle@clarkdietz.com to learn of any postponement of the public hearing. **If the public hearing is postponed due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled 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.