

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Proposed Improvement: Replacement of Bridge No. 154 in Jackson County  
DES. # 1703020**

**The Jackson County Highway Department will host a public hearing on December 9, 2021, at the Jackson County Courthouse Annex, Meeting Room A (220 E. Walnut St., Brownstown, IN 47220), the hearing will begin at 5:30 pm with the doors opening at 5 pm (back entrance).** The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the environmental document, Section 106 document, and preliminary design plans for the replacement of 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 by replacing the bridge which is currently closed.

Bridge No. 154 is located on E CR 300S, 0.82 miles E of CR 840 E in Section 28 and 33, Township 5 North, Range 6 East, in 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>.

This public hearing is the last opportunity for a responsible party to come forward to take ownership and responsibility for this bridge. All comments collected before, during, and after the hearing through December 23, 2021 will be taken into consideration. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires 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(e) 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 new bridge will provide a roadway width of 24 ft to accommodate two lanes which is 8.3 ft wider than the existing one lane bridge. The total project length is 401 ft.

The bridge has been closed to traffic since March 19, 2019. The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will be to continue the closure through construction with the expected official detour to include CR 825 East and SR 250. This detour will result in three miles of additional travel. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Jackson County 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 is expected to require approximately 0.47 acre of permanent new right-of-way and 0.12 acre of temporary right-of-way. There is an impact of 0.01 acre to the wetland located at the southeast corner of the bridge.

Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$1,025,000. 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 to the hearing at the following locations:

1. Jackson County Highway Department (360 S. County Rd. 25 E., Brownstown, IN 47220, 812-358-2226)
2. Janssen and Spaans Engineering, Inc. (9120 Harrison Park Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46216, 317-254-9686)
3. Jackson County Public Library (303 W 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Seymour, IN 47274, 812-522-3412)

A project webpage will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available on-line via the INDOT Seymour District page <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-seymour-district/e-cr-300-s-bridge-over-rider-ditch-in-jackson-county/>

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](mailto:jmatern@jsengr.com). **Jackson County respectfully requests comments be submitted (postmarked) by December 23, 2021.**

With advance notice, Jackson County 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, Jackson County 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 Jerry Ault, Jackson County at 812-358-2226. Email: [jault@jacksoncounty.in.gov](mailto:jault@jacksoncounty.in.gov)

**In the event of inclement weather resulting in hazardous driving conditions, please call Jeff Matern at Janssen and Spaans Engineering (317-254-9686) 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 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm, at the Jackson County Courthouse Annex, Meeting Room A, 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.