



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT – State Road 75 over Wildcat Creek Bridge Improvement, Cutler, Carroll County, Indiana, DES # 1601029

NOVEMBER 2021

The Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) LaPorte District held a public hearing in July 2021 for a proposed improvement project located at SR 75 over Wildcat Creek in Carroll County. This public hearing was held as part of the environmental analysis phase as required per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public involvement is an important element of a comprehensive decision-making process. The purpose of the project is to improve the legal load rating of the bridge to 36 tons or more so that restrictions are not required according to FHWA Load Rating policy, to improve the superstructure rating from a 5 to a 7 (good), and to improve the wearing surface rating from 5 to an 8 (very good) or 9 (new).

The INDOT Preferred Alternative involves rehabilitation of the existing structure for continued vehicular use by increasing the structural capacity to at or above the required load rating. Under this alternative, the existing bridge deck will be removed from both spans and a new concrete deck will be constructed. The existing approach slabs will be removed and replaced. Additional rehabilitation of the deck will include installing a new expansion joint at pier 2, creating a new drainage system for the structure and replacing pavement markings in-kind matching previous roadway striping. Shear studs will be installed on top of beams to increase load carrying capacity. Damaged or deteriorated stringers or other structural steel components will be cleaned and patched or replaced "in-kind." Existing railing will be replaced along with railing transitions at all four ends. The original railing (constructed in 1947) will stay in place. Approximately 88 rivets that have been determined inadequate will be replaced with high strength bolts to increase the load carrying capacity. To meet minimum useable shoulder width requirements, the lane width will be reduced from 11.75-feet to 11-feet to increase the shoulder width to 3-feet. The structure length will be increased by 0.89 feet from 240 feet to approximately 240.89 feet.

Additional details regarding the SR 75 over Wildcat Bridge Improvement project (DES # 1601029) are available in-person at the Flora Public Library (109 N. Center Street, Flora, IN 46929) and online via the INDOT LaPorte District webpage at <https://www.in.gov/indot/2705.htm> and the project webpage at www.structurepointpublic.com/sr75wildcat.

The purpose of this notice is to communicate the status of this project to community members. As part of INDOT's commitment to public involvement, it is important to keep the community informed of project developments. This is also an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase and transition to the next phase of development.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the public hearing held at the Cutler General Store/Cutler Merchant Building on July 1, 2021, **INDOT will advance this project to the next phase of development with construction anticipated to take place in 2023.** Environmental analysis documentation, including written responses to public comments submitted as part of the public involvement process, will remain available for public inspection on-line via the webpages noted above. Should you have questions regarding this notice please contact the INDOT Customer Service Center at 1-855-463-6848 or indot@indot.in.gov.