



**DES. # 2100571**

## **LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is developing plans for the proposed bridge replacement project (DES. # 2100571) on State Road (SR) 43 over Richland Creek, approximately 6.72 miles north of SR 54 in Greene County.

The purpose of this project is to address the deteriorating condition of the structure and channel, improve the structural integrity of the crossing, and to provide a hydraulically adequate bridge structure with a condition rating of at least 7 (good) out of 9 (excellent) on SR 43.

The need for the project stems from the deteriorated condition of the existing bridge (Structure No. 043-28-05887 A; NBI No. 015910). According to the June 27, 2022 INDOT Bridge Inspection Report, the deck topside wearing surface is exhibiting intermittent minor to moderate width longitudinal cracks. Chaining in 2018 detected approximately five square feet of delamination. A few of the box beams are exhibiting short longitudinal cracks over the intermediate piers with some of the cracks showing rust staining with efflorescence and minor impending spall. An isolated large spall with exposed prestressing strands is present at the end of Beam 6 in Span B over Pier 3. The intermediate pier caps are exhibiting extensive concrete deterioration and widespread heavy corrosion is occurring on the steel encasement of piles due to a failed epoxy coating. These deficiencies are likely due to the ineffective topside joints that allow extensive leaking. In addition, the alignment curve radii of the roadway on either side of the bridge are very poor and do not meet current design standards.

The project proposes to replace the existing 104-foot long pre-stressed concrete adjacent box beam bridge (043-28-05887 A; NBI #015910) that carries SR 43 over Richland Creek. In addition, the existing alignment radii for the curves on both sides of the bridge will be improved from approximately 100 feet to 500 feet without superelevation. The proposed bridge will be a three-span (34.5-foot, 46-foot, 34.5-foot) reinforced concrete slab bridge with a clear roadway width of 30 feet and out to out width of 33 feet on a 25-degree skew. The total project length is 675 feet with 50 feet of incidental asphalt mill and overlay at each end. Three field entrances will be installed at the existing field entrance locations. The culvert (Str. No. 11) which provides drainage under the field entrance southwest of the bridge will be removed and replaced with an 18-inch culvert with end sections. The pipe (Str. No. 10) under SR 43 will be removed and not replaced. Ground surface disturbance and vegetation removal will be limited to the area needed to complete the work.

The proposed construction of this project will require 1.40 acres of new permanent right-of-way and 0.16 acre of temporary right-of-way. No relocations or displacements will occur as a result of the project.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan proposes a closure of SR 43 for 6 months. An official state route detour utilizing SR 48, I-69/SR 37, SR 45, SR 445, and SR 54 will be used during construction. Local roads may be used by local traffic. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is November 2025.

The project will result in a total of 113 linear feet of temporary stream impacts to Richland Creek, approximately 0.036 acre of impacts to wetlands, and approximately 0.41 acre of tree clearing. No permanent stream impacts to Richland Creek are anticipated.

The cost associated with this project is approximately \$3,199,000 which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, and construction with both federal and state funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE-2 are available for review at the following locations:

1. Eastern Branch Public Library – 11453 E. State Road 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424
2. INDOT District Office – 3650 South U.S. Highway 41, Vincennes, IN 47591 - 1-855-463-6848
3. INDOT Vincennes District website - <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-vincennes-district/vincennes-district-projects/>

**All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Peter Putzier at Lochmueller Group, Inc., 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, Indiana 47715 or at (812)-759-4113 or at [pputzier@lochgroup.com](mailto:pputzier@lochgroup.com) on or before Saturday, February 1, 2025.**

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 Lochmueller Group, Inc. for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Peter Putzier at [pputzier@lochgroup.com](mailto:pputzier@lochgroup.com) or (812)-759-4113. 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 Lochmueller Group, Inc. at [pputzier@lochgroup.com](mailto:pputzier@lochgroup.com) or (812)-759-4113.

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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.