



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
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DES# 1902709

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED DE MINIMIS SECTION 4(F) USE DETERMINATION
Pedestrian Bridge at the intersection of US 41 and Washington Avenue

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will hold an in-person public hearing on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at Benjamin Bosse High School, 1300 Washington Avenue, Evansville IN 47714. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. (CDT) to allow participants time to view project displays and speak with project representatives before the formal presentation begins at 6 p.m. (CDT). To accommodate those unable to attend in person, the public hearing presentation and comment session will also be broadcast live on the INDOT Southwest Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/INDOTVincennesDistrict/>.

This public hearing will include appropriate COVID-19 safety measures. Masks and sanitation stations will be made available for attendees.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the environmental document and preliminary design plans for the pedestrian crossing at US 41 and Washington Avenue. The project intends to improve safety for pedestrians attempting to cross US 41.

The project is located on US 41 at the intersection of Washington Avenue in Knight Township, Vanderburgh County, within the INDOT Vincennes District. The Hi-Rail Pedestrian Trail runs along the west side of US 41 within the project limits and connects to the sidewalks on the north and south sides of Washington Avenue. Benjamin Bosse High School is located in the northeast corner of this intersection. A grade-separated crossing is warranted at this location based on safety concerns for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The project requires the reacquisition of 0.129 acre of permanent right-of-way and 0.098 acre of temporary right-of-way.

Traffic on US 41 is anticipated to be maintained in both directions during construction except for a single temporary closure of US 41 to erect the new prefabricated bridge. The majority of construction is anticipated to occur outside of the travel lanes. Washington Avenue will remain open during construction. A detour for pedestrian traffic on the Hi-Rail trail through the bridge construction area will utilize E Blackford Avenue, S Kerth Avenue, and Washington Avenue. Pedestrians will be detoured around the Washington Avenue curb ramp construction in phase 2

via Washington Avenue, S Kerth Avenue, and Jefferson Avenue. The closures/lane restrictions will pose a temporary inconvenience to traveling motorists (including school buses and emergency services); however, no significant delays are anticipated. All disruptions and delays will cease upon project completion.

Local, state, and federal funds are available for project construction. A Categorical Exclusion Level 4 document will be prepared to fully evaluate project impacts.

Project materials including the DRAFT Categorical Exclusion Level 4 document are available to view online at <https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-vincennes-district/us-41-pedestrian-crossing-in-evansville/>. The DRAFT Categorical Exclusion Level 4 is available for viewing in person at both the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Central (200 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Evansville, IN 47713) and the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library East (840 E. Chandler Ave., Evansville, IN 47713), or upon request.

As part of the environmental evaluation of the community and natural resource impacts of the proposed project, any potential public recreation areas must be identified and evaluated for protection under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, 49 USC 303(c). As a publicly-owned and/or managed trail that is open to the public, the Hi-Rail Trail, located on the west side of US 41 extending from Riverside Drive to Walnut Street, is considered to be a Section 4(f) resource. This trail is a multi-use asphalt path with occasional park benches and amenities. Due to the construction of this project, 0.086 acre of temporary right-of-way from the Hi-Rail Trail and 0.118 acre of permanent right-of-way from the trail itself will be necessary. Permanent and temporary right-of-way is required for the relocation of 200 linear feet of the trail around the pedestrian bridge and ramp. The Hi-Rail Trail will be straightened and relocated to be adjacent to the existing right-of-way fence north of Washington Avenue. The Hi-Rail Trail will pass under the new pedestrian bridge between the right-of-way fence and the ramp to the pedestrian bridge. The pedestrian ramp connection to the trail will be at the south end of the ramp. The trail crossing at Washington Avenue will be straightened and upgraded on both sides of Washington Avenue to comply with current American with Disability Act (ADA) design standards. In addition, the trail will be temporarily closed during construction. The temporary closure will not be required for the duration of the project construction. These impacts will result in a Section 4(f) use of the trail.

The purpose of the public notice for the Section 4(f) *de minimis* use determination is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Section 4(f) use of the Hi-Rail Trail and to provide comments to the project team and the official with jurisdiction regarding the Section 4(f) use determination.

The project is anticipated to be a *de minimis* impact on the trail. A *de minimis* impact is one that, after taking into account any measure to minimize harm (such as avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures), will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes qualifying a park, recreation area, or refuge for protection under Section 4(f). A *de minimis* impact determination requires public involvement and concurrence from the official

with jurisdiction. The official with jurisdiction for the trail is the City of Evansville. The City of Evansville Parks Department have expressed no concerns with the trail relocation.

Information on this proposed action and its impacts, avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures at the Hi-Rail Trail is available in the Categorical Exclusion Level 4 document. INDOT respectfully requests that comments on the Section 4(f) *de minimis* use determination be submitted by Monday, July 18, 2022. Comments will become part of the official record and will be considered when making future project-related decisions.

Project information can be mailed to interested persons by contacting Christine Meador at cmeador@HNTB.com or 317-917-5338. Written requests can also be mailed to her attention c/o HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Public statements will be recorded as part of this public hearing on both the Section 4(f) *de minimis* use determination and the Categorical Exclusion Level 4. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing, and all written comments submitted before, during, and for approximately two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered, and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation.

Comments written on the Facebook livestream video or other social channels will not be entered into public record and will not be considered.

Written comments should be sent to Christine Meador at cmeador@HNTB.com or mailed to Christine Meador, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 OR to the INDOT Project Manager, Troy Arnold at tarnold1@indot.in.gov or mailed to Troy Arnold, INDOT Vincennes District, 3650 S US Highway 41, Vincennes, IN 47591. INDOT respectfully requests that comments on both the Section 4(f) *de minimis* use determination and the Categorical Exclusion Level 4 be submitted by **Monday, July 18, 2022**.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups who require project information in alternative languages or formats should contact Christine Meador at 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or by calling 317-917-5338.

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 Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2012.

DES# 2000186
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
Intersection Improvement at US 41 at Washington Avenue

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will hold a public open house in conjunction with the public hearing for the US 41 and Washington Avenue Pedestrian Bridge on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at Benjamin Bosse High School, 1300 Washington Avenue, Evansville IN 47714. Doors will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (CDT) to allow participants time to view project displays and speak with project representatives. No formal presentation on the intersection improvement will be given.

Local, state, and federal funds are available for project construction. A Categorical Exclusion document will be prepared to fully evaluate the project impacts.

Project materials, including display boards and other information provided at this open house, will be available to view on the INDOT Vincennes District website after the open house or upon request. Persons with limited internet access can request that project information be mailed to them. For more information, contact Christine Meador at HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204; or at cmeador@HNTB.com or 317-636-4682.

The purpose of the public open house is to introduce the public to the preliminary project design for the intersection improvement at the intersection of US 41 and Washington Avenue and to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment.

The need for the project is based on the existing crash rates and safety concerns at this intersection. Between 2016 and 2018, there were 15 Fatal and/or Incapacitating Crashes, 15 Non-Incapacitating and Possibly Injury Crashes and 85 Property Damage Only Crashes; which make this intersection a "high crash" location. The purpose of this project is to improve the safety and mobility of the intersection.

The project is located on US 41 at the intersection of Washington Avenue in Knight Township, Vanderburgh County, within the INDOT Vincennes District. The High-Rail Pedestrian Trail runs along the west side of US 41 within the project limits and connects to the sidewalks on the north and south sides of Washington Avenue. Benjamin Bosse High School is located in the northeast corner of this intersection. Currently, the intersection of US 41 and Washington Avenue consists of two northbound and two southbound lanes on US 41 with a left-turn lane for each direction separated by a grassy median. Washington Avenue consists of one westbound and one eastbound lane with a right turn lane and a left-turn lane in each direction.

A Boulevard Left intersection will be constructed at the intersection of US 41 and Washington Avenue. The Boulevard Left intersection relocates left turns from all legs of the main intersection to signalized median U-turns located approximately 800 feet north and south of Washington Avenue. This intersection type retains east-west connectivity on Washington Avenue. The Boulevard Left intersection has fewer signal phases than other types of intersection

improvements and provides better mobility to eastbound-westbound traffic on Washington Avenue, which is a minor arterial. The project will also include directional signage, maintenance of drainage within the project extents, replacement of traffic signals at the main intersection, and the installation of new traffic signals at the median U-turn locations. There is no permanent or temporary right-of-way acquisition anticipated for this project.

Traffic on US 41 is anticipated to be maintained in both directions during construction. To allow movements to remain open during construction, any median crossing work will be constructed before the intersection is closed. US 41 will be reduced to one lane in each direction during construction. Pedestrian maintenance of traffic will be required. The intersection improvement will be constructed in conjunction with the US 41 pedestrian bridge to minimize construction impacts on the public.

Public statements will not be recorded as part of this public open house. Written comments submitted before, during, and for approximately two (2) weeks following the open house, will be evaluated, considered, and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments should be sent to Christine Meador at cmeador@HNTB.com or mailed to Christine Meador, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 OR to the INDOT Project Manager, Troy Arnold at tarnold1@indot.in.gov or mailed to Troy Arnold, INDOT Vincennes District, 3650 S US Highway 41, Vincennes, IN 47591. INDOT respectfully requests that comments be submitted by **Monday, July 18, 2022**.

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act”, if you have a disability or need assistance with accessibility such as document viewing, interpreters, or readers, please contact Christine Meador, HNTB, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or cmeador@HNTB.com or 317-636-4682 regarding accommodations.