



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**Michael R. Pence, Governor**  
**Brandye L. Hendrickson,**  
**Commissioner**

### NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT FOR U.S. 6 NEW BRIDGE OVER NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD WITH ROAD REALIGNMENT IN BRIMFIELD, NOBLE COUNTY

JANUARY 2016

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) held a public hearing on Thursday, October 22, 2015 regarding a proposed new bridge construction project over Norfolk Southern Railroad with road realignment, in the Town of Brimfield, Noble County, as part of a public involvement process to solicit input and feedback from community stakeholders. INDOT appreciates the opportunity to engage stakeholders and appreciates all comments and input submitted during the public comment period.

The purpose of this notice is two-fold. Firstly, this is an opportunity for INDOT to communicate with project stakeholders in regards to the status of this project. Secondly, this is an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase of the project and transition to the next phases of project development including final design and real estate acquisition.

As presented during the public hearing, a new bridge is proposed for construction approximately 100 feet west of the existing bridge. This will require US 6 to be realigned to tie into the new bridge approach. Access to US 6 will be eliminated at CR 100 E on the southern end and Albion Street on the northern end of the project. Railroad Street and Albion Road will be terminated due to the design of the new bridge. MSE wall abutments shall be utilized to minimize the new structure length and construction depth. Existing drainage patterns shall be maintained, utilizing roadside and trackside ditches as the primary drainage means. As a result of the project, 6.3 acres of new permanent right-of-way is anticipated to be acquired, including two residential displacements. It is proposed the current bridge will remain open to traffic as long as possible while the new bridge and much of the embankments are constructed on US 6, after that however, short term closure can be expected while US 6 is aligned with the new bridge approaches. The official detour during the closure will utilize the state maintained routes of SR 9, SR 8 and SR 3.

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 project does not involve any properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) including the Bridge #006-57-02401A (NBI #1810). INDOT, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, has issued a "no historic properties affected" finding for the project.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all public comments and materials received as a result of the INDOT public hearing held at the Albion Municipal Building on 10/22/15. **INDOT will advance this project to the next phases of development (final design, real estate acquisition) and tentatively anticipates construction for this project to begin in 2017.** Environmental analysis documentation, including the resolution to public hearing comments, is available to view by visiting the INDOT Fort Wayne District web page at <http://www.in.gov/indot/2703.htm> and the Noble County Central Public Library, 813 East Main Street, Albion, Indiana 46701; Phone (260) 636-7197.

INDOT sincerely appreciates the community's participation and interest in this project and looks forward to continuing engagement as this project advances towards construction.

Rickie Clark, Indiana Department of Transportation, Office of Public Involvement /Communications Division

**Indiana Department of Transportation**

County Noble Route US 6 Des. No. 1296362

FHWA-Indiana Environmental Document  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM**  
 GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Road No./County:	US 6/ Noble
Designation Number:	1296362
Project Description/Termini:	Bridge replacement and roadway realignment over the Norfolk Southern Railroad in the town of Brimfield, 0.5 mi. east of the SR 9 (south junction) to 0.03 mi. east of Francis St.

After completing this form, I conclude that this project qualifies for the following type of Categorical Exclusion (FHWA must review/approve if Level 4 CE):

<b>X</b>	Categorical Exclusion, Level 2 – The proposed action meets the criteria for Categorical Exclusion Manual Level 2 - table 1, CE Level Thresholds. Required Signatories: BSM (Environmental Scoping Manager)
	Categorical Exclusion, Level 3 – The proposed action meets the criteria for Categorical Exclusion Manual Level 3 - table 1, CE Level Thresholds. Required Signatories: BSM, ES (Environmental Services Division)
	Categorical Exclusion, Level 4 – The proposed action meets the criteria for Categorical Exclusion Manual Level 4 - table 1, CE Level Thresholds. Required Signatories: BSM, ES, FHWA
	Environmental Assessment (EA) – EAs require a separate FONSI. Additional research and documentation is necessary to determine the effects on the environment. Required Signatories: ES, FHWA

Note: For documents prepared by or for Environmental Services Division, it is not necessary for the ESM of the district in which the project is located to release for public involvement or sign for approval.

Approval Jennifer Bonn 12/9/15  
 ESM Signature Date ES Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 FHWA Signature Date

**Release for Public Involvement**

QAB 9/25/15  
 ESM Initials Date ES Initials Date

RC Certification of Public Involvement Patricia Clark 11-10-15  
11-10-15 Office of Public Involvement Date

Note: Do not approve until after Section 106 public involvement and all other environmental requirements have been satisfied.

INDOT ES/District Env. Reviewer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Organization of CE/EA Preparer: Jennifer R. Napier/INDOT - Fort Wayne District

This is page 1 of 19 Project name: US 6 Bridge Replacement and Road Realignment Date: September 25, 2015

**Indiana Department of Transportation**

County Noble

Route US 6

Des. No. 1296362

**Part I - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Every Federal action requires some level of public involvement, providing for early and continuous opportunities throughout the project development process. **The level of public involvement should be commensurate with the proposed action.**

Does the project have a historic bridge processed under the Historic Bridges PA*?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If No, then: Opportunity for a Public Hearing Required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*\*A public hearing is required for all historic bridges processed under the Historic Bridges Programmatic Agreement between INDOT, FHWA, SHPO, and the ACHP.*

*Discuss what public involvement activities (legal notices, letters to affected property owners and residents (i.e. notice of entry), meetings, special purpose meetings, newspaper articles, etc.) have occurred for this project.*

Remarks:

Property owners adjacent to the proposed project were notified on February 12, 2015 via U.S. mail with letter of survey/investigation notices prior to any land surveying and field activities. A list of property owners and addresses along with an example Notice of Survey/Investigation Letter can be found in Appendix G 1 - 6.

To meet the public involvement requirements of Section 106, FHWA's finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" along with the a public hearing notice were advertised in The News Sun on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The text of the public notice and the affidavit of publication appear in Appendix G 18 - 22. No comments were received from the public regarding the Section 106 effect finding by the published deadline.

A public hearing was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, at 6:00 pm at the Albion Municipal Building, 211 East Park Drive, Albion, Indiana 46701. The complete public hearing documentation is located in Appendix G 7 - 55. Six individuals spoke during the verbal comment period of the hearing and two written comments were received. Comments were general in nature and none were received stating opposition to the project. Responses to the comments were prepared and sent out by the project designer. The responses can be found in Appendix G 54 - 55.

**Public Controversy on Environmental Grounds**

Will the project involve substantial controversy concerning community and/or natural resource impacts?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Remarks:

This project has received no public controversy regarding the local community or natural resources. If future controversy occurs, it will be added to this section.

**Part II - General Project Identification, Description, and Design Information**

This is page 2 of 18 Project name: US 6 Bridge Replacement and Road Realignment Date: December 1, 2015

Verbal Comment 1, Terry Edsall

Response: In the event that the intersection of CR 150 E and the Norfolk Southern Railroad is blocked by a stopped train, the maximum amount of additional travel time for emergency services to reach the area would be approximately 8 minutes, if those services were to come from the east. If these services were to come from the west, the maximum amount of additional travel time would be 3 minutes. During construction, all emergency personnel including fire, ambulatory and police will be notified in advance of the closure of US 6 to allow these service to determine alternate routes. The additional travel times discussed above were calculated using an assumed travel speed of 40 mph and traveling unhindered the longest distance to reach those effected. These travel times could increase based upon the conditions of the area during the traffic stoppage event.

Verbal Comment 2, Jack Garrett

Response: The pedestrian traffic at the site is limited and is not expected to increase; however, the proposed bridge will carry 8'-4" wide shoulders across the bridge. These shoulders will provide sufficient room for pedestrian traffic to cross the bridge.

Verbal Comment 3, Unknown Speaker

Response: The proposed US 6 roadway shoulders are 8 feet wide with 4 feet paved; however, the shoulders carried across the bridge will be 8'-4". The proposed bridge clear roadway will be 7'-8" wider than the existing bridge and will be sufficient for modern vehicles to cross the bridge safely.

Verbal Comment 4, Unknown Speaker

Response: The proposed bridge clear roadway will be 7'-8" wider than the existing bridge. The proposed 40'-8" clear roadway width will be sufficient for modern vehicles. The vehicles carrying the windmills are considered wide load and require special attention by the trucking company when determining their delivery route. The additional clear roadway width being proposed will improve upon the instances when the wide load vehicles uses US 6.

Verbal Comment 5, Zachary Smith

Response 1: It is estimated that the closure time for the tie in of the proposed US 6 into the existing US 6 alignment and the installation of the cross culvert at the west end of the project will be approximately 3 to 5 months. This will be estimated more accurately as the project progresses.

Response 2: All emergency personnel including fire, ambulatory and police will be notified in advance of the closure of US 6 for the phase discussed in the response to above to allow them to determine alternate routes. Coordination with the Norfolk Southern Railroad is ongoing regarding the project.

Response 3: The intersection of CR 100 East will be terminated during the phase of construction that US 6 is closed to allow the new alignment and old alignment of US 6 to be tied together.

Response 4: Coordination with the Norfolk Southern Railroad regarding their needs and future plans is ongoing. INDOT has received a request from the railroad that two additional lines be considered in the design of the proposed project.

Verbal Comment 6, Unknown Speaker,

Response: Thank you for your feedback.

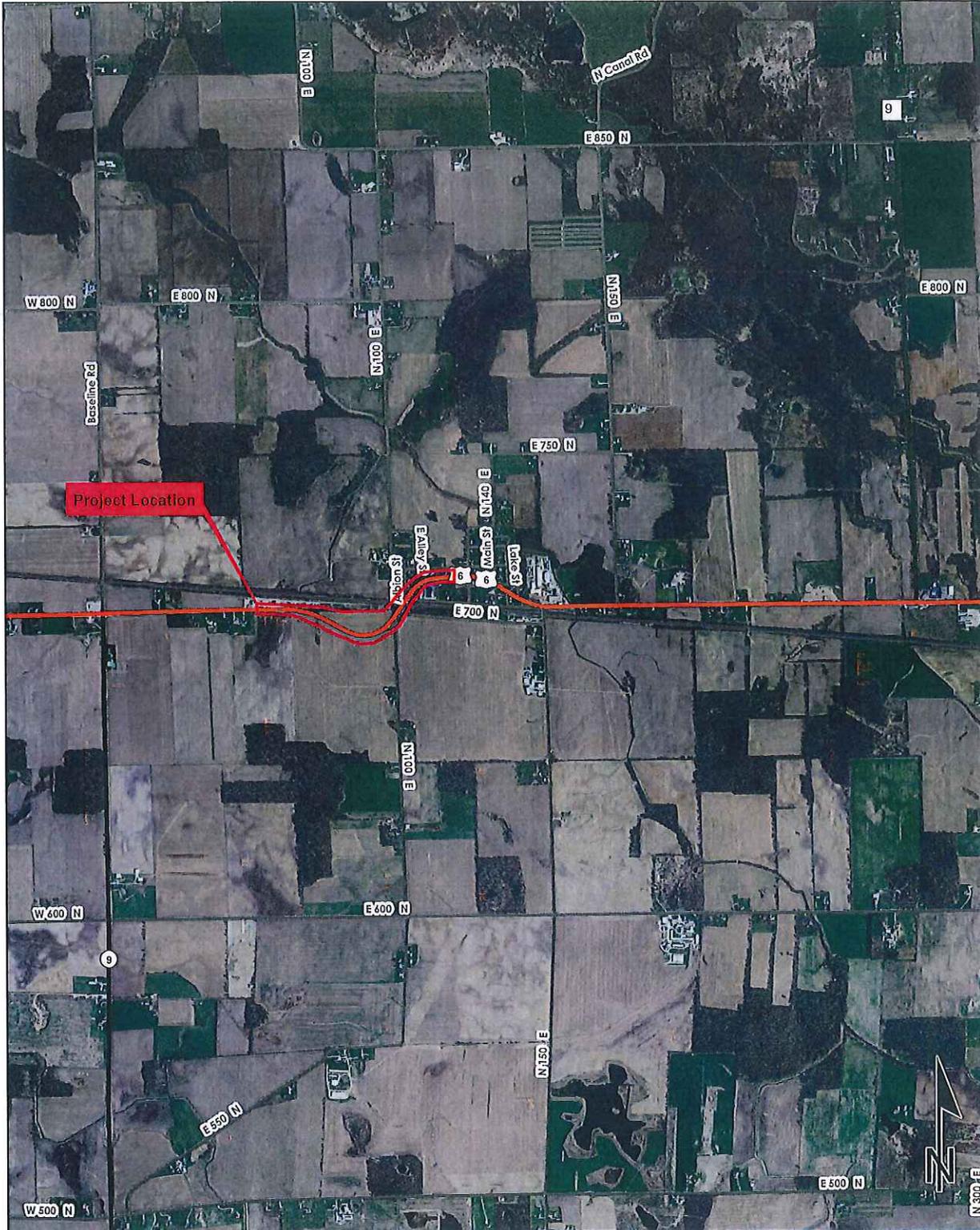
Written Comment 1, Paul Hosted

Response: We recognize the impact of the project on your property and farming operations. The Right-of-Way acquisition process has not yet begun for this project. When this process begins, you will be contacted by INDOT Real Estate personnel to discuss the impacts to your property and your rights and privileges entitled to you in detail. We encourage you to discuss your concerns regarding the impacts to your property and farming operations with these individuals when contacted.

Written Comment 2, Randy Sexton

Response: INDOT has added your contact information to the list of interested parties for the project.

Aerial Location Map  
 Des. No. 1296362 - US 6 Bridge Replacement and  
 Realignment over the Norfolk Southern Railroad and Railroad St.  
 0.5 mi. East of SR 9  
 Noble County, Indiana



Sources:  
 Non Orthophotography Data - Obtained from the State of Indiana Geographical Information Office Library  
 Orthophotography - Obtained from Indiana Map Framework Data ([www.indianamap.org](http://www.indianamap.org))  
 Map Projection: UTM Zone 16 N Map Datum: NAD83

This map is intended to serve as an aid in graphic representation only. This information is not warranted for accuracy or other purposes.



**Legend**

**State Routes**

**Highways**

-  Interstates
-  State Routes
-  US Routes
-  Local Road