

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Porter County Commissioners propose the replacement of Bridge No. 165 on CR 600 East over the Little Calumet River. The Porter County Commissioners are planning to undertake this bridge replacement funded, in part, by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The project proposes to replace the existing bridge on the existing horizontal and vertical alignments. The existing three-span steel beam bridge was built in 1940 and consists of a three-span (15-feet, 24-feet, 15-feet) steel beam structure with a concrete deck. The bridge is 56- feet in length with an out-to-out deck width of 21-feet, 4-inches, and a clear roadway width of 20-feet, 2-inches. There is unlimited vertical clearance over the deck. The structure contains two 10-foot travel lanes, one in each direction. The structure has deficient clear roadway width, and contains non standard bridge and approach railing, that creates a hazard to the traveling public. The deck is heavily worn, cracked and leaching. Heavy rust is present on the steel beams. The bridge is posted narrow and for a load limit of 11 tons.

The project proposes to replace the existing bridge with a new structure on the same alignment. The new structure would consist of a three-span (21 feet, 6 inches, 27 feet, 0 inches, 21 feet, 6 inches) continuous, reinforced concrete slab bridge. The bridge length would be 71 feet, 6 inches and the width of the bridge would be 28 feet, 6 inches with 28 feet of clear roadway width. A 55 m.p.h. design speed will be used for this project. The bridge will contain two 10 foot wide travel lanes, one in each direction with 4 foot shoulders. The proposed structure would have open pile bents which is similar to the existing structure, driven just outside the channel. The open pile bents consist of only the exposed piling driven adjacent to the creek, no concrete wall pier. The approach roadway would be reconstructed to provide two 10 foot wide travel lanes, one in each direction, with 3 foot usable shoulders, a minimum clear roadway width of 26 feet and a 55 mph design speed. The construction limits would extend approximately 230 feet from the north end of the bridge and 240 feet from the south end of the bridge. There will be approximately 100 feet of incidental construction on both approaches included in the roadway approach reconstruction. In addition, standard approach railing and guardrail installation at each corner of the bridge would be erected as part of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2013.

To complete the proposed project, approximately 0.61 acre of permanent right-of-way and 0.54 acre of temporary right-of-way would be required along the east side of CR 600 East to accommodate the new bridge and approach work. There is no permanent or temporary right-of-way required along the west side of the roadway. There is a National Park Service (NPS) property, Heron Rookery, located along the west side of CR 600 East, within the project limits. Permanent right-of-way acquisition from a NPS property is not allowed. The NPS will grant access to their property for construction through a Special Use Permit. CR 600 East will be closed during construction and an official detour will be established. No buildings will require relocation.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the views of the public were sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4). The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), issued a "No Historic Properties Affected" finding for this project on November 30, 2011.

This undertaking would have a temporary occupancy of the NPS Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Heron Rookery property. The temporary occupancy of the property will not result in an adverse effect on the activities, features and attributes that qualify it for protection under Section 4(f). There would be no adverse physical impacts or interference of activities associated with the park. On September 5, 2012 the NPS indicated that the replacement of Bridge No. 165

indicated that the replacement of Bridge No. 100 will not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes that qualify the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Heron Rookery property for protection under Section 4(f). As a result, a de minimis Section 4(f) finding is being pursued.

The Categorical Exclusion Level 4 environmental document was released for public involvement by INDOT on January 31, 2013. A copy of the environmental document and design plans are available for public inspection at the following locations:

Porter County Engineer's Office
1955 South State Road 2
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
Beam, Longest and Neff, L.L.C.
8126 Castleton Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

All interested persons may request a formal public hearing for the project. If a public hearing is determined to be in the best interest of the public, a legal notice would be advertised with the date, time and location for the public hearing. In addition, a copy of the legal notice would be mailed directly to all adjacent property owners. Otherwise, any comments or materials received for the record would be considered in the decision-making process.

All comments and requests should be submitted on or before February 19, 2013 (post-marked). Please address any comments to:

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