

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Improvement to Franklin Street Bridge in Vanderburgh County DES. # 1802048

The Vanderburgh County Commissioners will host a public hearing on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at the office of Lochmueller Group located at 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715; the hearing will begin at 6:00 PM. Project team members will be available beginning at 6:00 PM, prior to the start of the formal hearing presentation, to answer questions. The presentation will begin at 6:30 PM with formal comments to follow. A virtual option for the presentation and formal comments will be available through Microsoft Teams (see website listed below to register for the Teams Meeting). The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the environmental document, Section 106 document, and preliminary design plans for the proposed bridge project.

Attendees at the in-person hearing are advised that face coverings and adherence to CDC guidelines for social distancing will be enforced.

The need for the project is evidenced by the deteriorated condition of the superstructure. The purpose of the project is to improve the condition of the superstructure to a “satisfactory” condition and to extend the service life of the bridge by 20-25 years.

The project is located at the Franklin Street Bridge over Pigeon Creek (Vanderburgh County Bridge No. 620 (82-00620); NBI No. 820007) in the City of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. The project will extend approximately 350 feet (0.07 mile) along Franklin Street, from approximately 0.16 mile east of Ninth Avenue to approximately 0.10 mile west of N Seventh Avenue. The preferred alternative includes rehabilitating the structure for continued vehicular use for four (two in each direction) lanes across the bridge. The rehabilitation will include replacement of the existing bridge bearing assemblies, replacement of various deteriorated gusset plates throughout, cleaning and painting various steel components on the bridge, replacement of the expansion joints, and repair of the piers’ limestone block grout lines. Cracks in the reinforced concrete bridge approaches will be repaired, and the bridge deck, sidewalks, and railing will be surface sealed. In addition, riprap and articulated concrete mat will be provided around the piers and on the west spill slope.

The proposed Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan includes phased construction to maintain one lane of traffic in each direction on the bridge. Short term closures of approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour are anticipated during the bridge truss jacking and supporting operations. Pedestrian traffic will be maintained on one sidewalk at all times except during jacking operations.

The Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage will be closed beneath the bridge beginning a minimum of one day after the start of construction and reopened a minimum of one day prior to the completion of construction. Closure warning signs will be provided for the trail at the nearest trail parking areas on each side of the closure.

Pigeon Creek will be closed to watercraft with the use of signage and buoys.

Minimal delays will occur during construction but will cease with project completion. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2022 with an anticipated duration of ten months. The bridge will be open without restriction to vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the week of the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival (October 2 through 9, 2022), however the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage and Pigeon Creek will remain closed to pedestrian and watercraft passage, respectively, during that time.

The project requires approximately 0.29 acre of temporary ROW near the southwestern side of the bridge. The current use is commercial and forest. The project will not require any permanent ROW. Pigeon Creek,

below its ordinary high water mark, will have 0.12 acre of permanent impact and 0.17 acre of temporary impact. No wetlands will be impacted.

The Franklin Street Bridge over Pigeon Creek (Bridge No. 620 (82-00620); NBI No. 820007) is eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C for its engineering significance. As part of the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory project, the bridge was determined to be Select. Due to the involvement with a historic bridge, the project is being processed as a Categorical Exclusion, Level 4 (CE-4).

Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. This project will result in a "No Historic Properties Affected" under Section 106. INDOT, acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), issued a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" for the project on July 15, 2020. In accordance with the NHPA, the views of the public are being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4).

Federal and local (County) funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(4), the documentation of "No Historic Properties Affected" specified in 36 CFR 800.11(d) is available for inspection, along with the preliminary design plans and CE-4 at the following online and in-person locations.

1. Project website: <http://franklinstreetbridgeproject.com>
2. Vanderburgh County Engineering Department: 201 NW Fourth St., Old Courthouse Suite 306, Evansville, IN 47708
3. EVPL West Library: 2000 W. Franklin St., Evansville, Indiana 47712
4. Lochmueller Group, Inc.: 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed. Additionally, hard copies of the CE-4 and the 800.11(d) documentation for Section 106 are able to be provided upon request. Please contact Daniel Townsend of Lochmueller Group, Inc., 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, Indiana 47715, at dtownsend@lochgroup.com, or 812-759-4116.

The public hearing serves as the final opportunity for the public to comment on both the CE-4 environmental document and the 800.11(d) documentation for Section 106. Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during, and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to: Daniel Townsend of Lochmueller Group, Inc. at 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, Indiana 47715, or dtownsend@lochgroup.com. **Comments are respectfully requested to be submitted by June 4, 2021.**

With advance notice, Vanderburgh County will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, Vanderburgh County will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required, please contact Daniel Townsend as noted previously.

This notice is published in compliance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1)) states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program." 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7) states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary." approved by the FHWA, U.S. Department of Transportation on August 16, 2012.