



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room 758
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

July 30, 2021

Rama Sobhani
Superintendent
Knox County Parks and Recreation
3500 N Lower Fork Know Road
Vincennes, IN 47591

Re: Emison Mill Park – Section 4(f) *De Minimis* and Temporary Occupancy
Des. No. 2000761
SR 550 over Maria Creek
Knox County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Sobhani:

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intend to proceed with a bridge rehabilitation project involving the SR 550 bridge over Maria Creek in Knox County, Indiana. The project will have both federal and state funding. This project is located on SR 550, approximately 1.08 miles east of US 41, in a rural portion of Knox County, Indiana. More specifically, the project is located in Don 202 in Washington and Busseron Townships.

As part of the environmental evaluation of the community and natural resource impacts of the proposed project, any potential 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). Section 4(f) protects publicly-owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public and private historic sites against direct or constructive use impacts from transportation projects. Section 4(f) requires coordination with an official with jurisdiction over these historic and recreational resources regarding applicability of Section 4(f) and the impacts of the project on Section 4(f) resources. In the case of recreational properties, the officials with jurisdiction are the officials of the agency or agencies that own or administer the property in question and who are empowered to represent the agency on matters related to the property. Emison Mill Park is within your agency's jurisdiction and is located within or adjacent to the SR 550 Maria Creek Project area. See Attachment A.

This section of SR 550 is a two-lane Rural Major Collector. The existing bridge is a three span, steel beam bridge that was built in 1937. A rehabilitation project completed in 1982 consisted of a bridge deck replacement and bridge widening. The structure is approximately 145 feet long with a clear roadway width of 34 feet. The wearing surface has intermittent hairline, longitudinal and transverse cracks and approximately 5 square feet of delamination near the east end centerline. The bridge deck underside surfaces exhibited fine transverse cracking

with light efflorescence. The superstructure has areas of light to severe corrosion at beam ends over both abutments, along with similar corrosion on the pedestal bearings. The superstructure exhibits cracking and spalling on piers and abutment caps.

The need for this project is due to the deteriorated condition of the bridge, as documented in the INDOT Bridge Inspection Report dated September 12, 2019. The purpose of this project is to maintain a safe vehicular crossing of SR 550 over Maria Creek, while maintaining adequate hydraulic function at this location.

Project activities are expected to include placement of a rigid overlay, deck patching, removing and replacing approximately 3 feet of coping, constructing semi-integral end bents, restoration of riding surface and integrity, guardrail and bridge railing replacement, approach slab replacement, placing riprap for scour and erosion protection and full painting of the structure. The project will require approximately 0.22 acre of permanent right-of-way acquisition and 0.47 acre of re-acquired permanent right-of-way. The acquisition of right-of-way is necessary for construction access to complete the proposed activities described above.

SR 550 will be closed for the bridge rehabilitation; however, the roadway will be signed and barricaded just after the park entrance so access to the park will be maintained during construction. Construction staging will likely occur in the closed roadway adjacent to the park. Both the construction detour and staging will be temporary. As access will be maintained to the Emison Mill Park, the roadway closure and detour will not be an effect on the park.

Emison Mill Park *De Minimis* Section 4(f)

As a publicly-owned park, Emison Mill Park is open to the public and is considered to be a Section 4(f) resource. Emison Mill Park is located between the towns of Emison and Bruceville in Knox County. This park has a small picnic area, playground, ball diamond, parking lot, and has fishing access to Maria Creek. As the design for the SR 500 rehabilitation have progressed, INDOT has determined there will be property acquisition from the park. This consists of re-acquisition of apparent existing right-of-way and new right-of-way. Apparent existing right-of-way is land which appears to be right-of-way but INDOT cannot confirm ownership. In this case, this would consist of the shoulder, guardrail and roadway side slope and ditch. There is approximately 0.11 acre of apparent existing right-of-way that will be re-acquired from the park. Additionally, 0.03 acre of new ROW will be acquired from the Park property between the existing parking lot and the roadway. Mapping and plans of these areas are attached for your review. The area to be re-acquired or acquired is not in a recreational use, rather it is the grassed area and ditch between the parking lot and the roadway.

The acquisition of property from the park is anticipated to be a *de minimis* impact. A *de minimis* impact is one that, after taking into account any measure to minimize harm (such as avoidance, minimization, mitigation or enhancement measures), the project 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.


As the official with jurisdiction over the Emison Mill Park, your documented agreement this project will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes qualifying the trail for protection under Section 4(f) is required in order for the right-of-way acquisition to be considered a *de minimis* impact under Section 4(f).

Conclusion

The SR 550 over Maria Creek rehabilitation Project will require acquisition 0.11 acre of apparent existing right-of-way and 0.03 acre of new right-of-way between the existing parking lot and the roadway that will permanently incorporated into the transportation project.

A response from you is requested within 30 days to determine the following:

As the Official with Jurisdiction over the Emison Mill Park, I agree that the proposed project will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes qualifying the trail for protection under Section 4(f).

SIGNATURE:  DATE: 7/30/21

Printed Name and Title: Superintendent

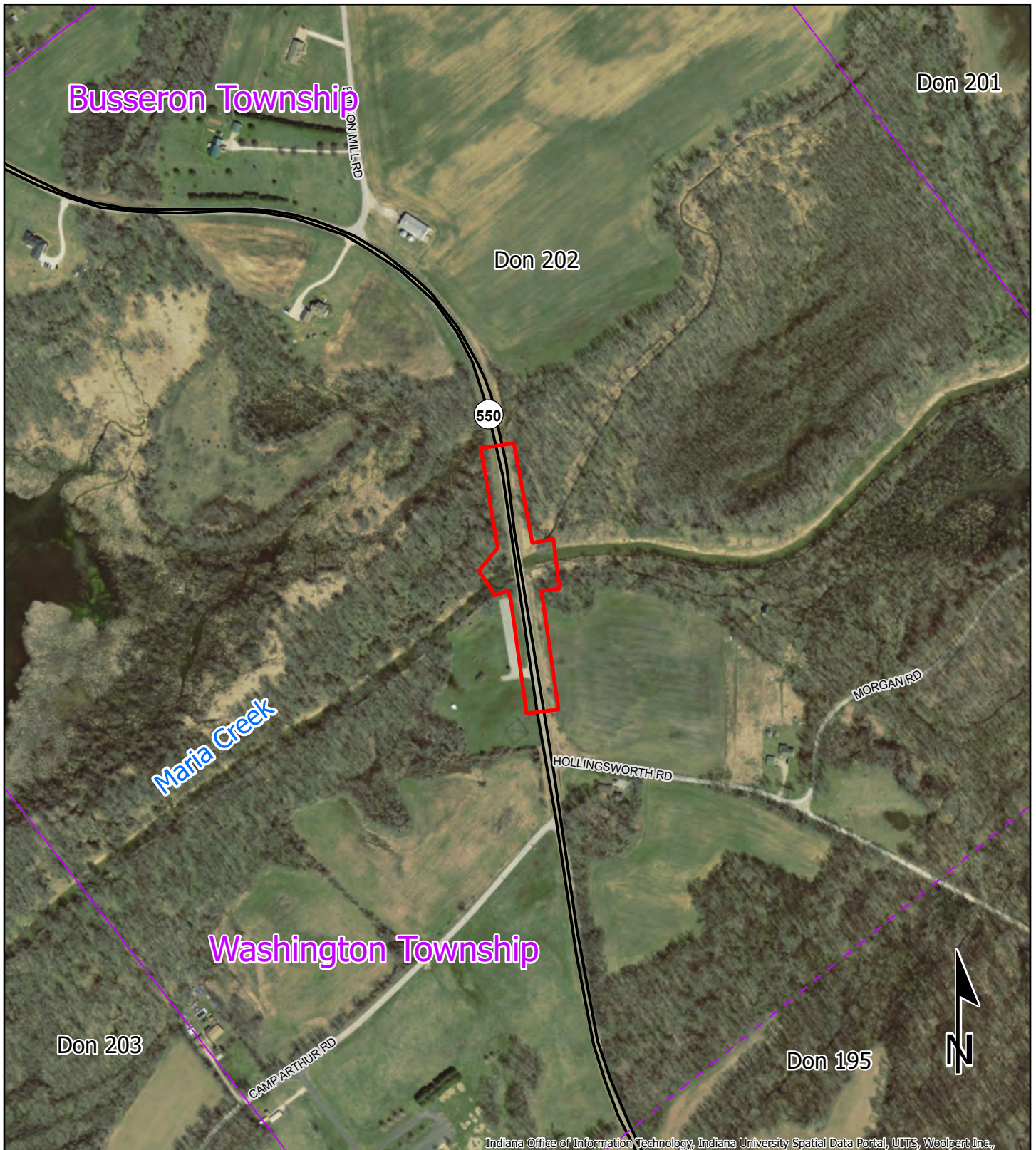
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Chris Meador, of HNTB Corporation, at cmeador@hntb.com or 317-917-5338. Thank you for your assistance in the development of this project.

Sincerely,
HNTB CORPORATION

Chris Meador
Environmental Project Manager

Attachments: Attachment A: Project Location Map with Recreational Resources

- Cc: Ron Bales, INDOT Environmental Services Division
- Brandon Miller, INDOT Environmental Services Division
- Michelle Allen, FHWA
- Troy Arnold, INDOT Project Manager
- Erica Haas, HNTB Corporation
- Ryan Falls, Indiana Department of Transportation Vincennes District



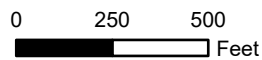
- Project Area
- PLSS Sections

Project Aerial Map

SR 550 over Maria Creek
 Bridge Rehabilitation
 Knox County, Indiana

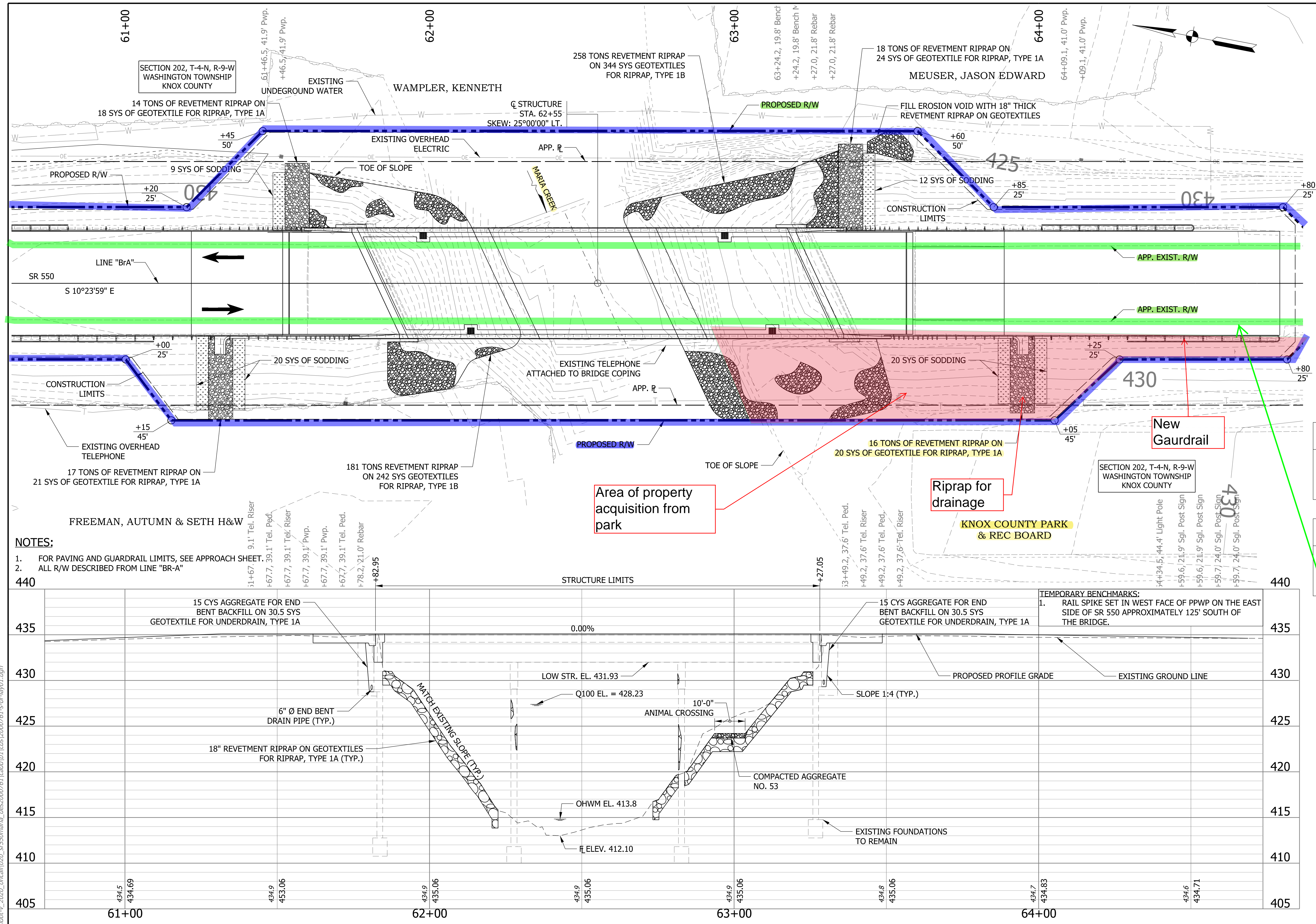
Des. No. 2000761

1 inch = 500 ft



HNTB

Graphics created by HNTB Corporation (2020)



EXISTING STRUCTURE
 THE ORIGINAL EXISTING STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN 1937. IN 1982 THE BRIDGE DECK WAS REPLACED AND WIDENED FROM 27'-4" TO 36'-6". EXISTING PLANS ARE ON FILE WITH THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS FILE NO. 550-42-01973 B.

HYDRAULIC DATA

DRAINAGE AREA	85.3 SQ MI
DESIGN DISCHARGE, Q100	5960 CFS
VELOCITY	7.59 FT/S
Q100 ELEV.	428.23 FT
ESTIMATED SCOUR ELEV.	401.17 FT
EXISTING LOW STRUCTURE ELEV.	431.93 FT

NOTE TO REVIEWER
 HYDRAULIC SCOUR DATA WILL BE PROVIDED IN FUTURE SUBMITTALS

NOTE TO REVIEWER
 EARTHWORK TABULATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN FUTURE SUBMITTALS

Within the project area INDOT does not have properly recorded right-of-way and therefore the apparent existing right-of-way is the edge of pavement

STEEL GIRDER BRIDGE
 3 SPANS: 44'-0", 55'-0", 44'-0"
 SKEW: 25°00'00" LT.
 33'-6" CLEAR ROADWAY
 SR 550 OVER MARIA CREEK
 KNOX COUNTY

- NOTES:**
- FOR PAVING AND GUARDRAIL LIMITS, SEE APPROACH SHEET.
 - ALL R/W DESCRIBED FROM LINE "BR-A"

rjacobson
 7/15/2021 4:41:34 pm
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DRAFT
 NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	DESIGN ENGINEER	DATE
DESIGNED: RRJ	DRAWN: RRJ	
CHECKED: JMR	CHECKED: JMR	

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 LAYOUT LINE "Br-A"

HORIZONTAL SCALE	BRIDGE FILE
1/8" = 1'-0"	550-42-01973 B
VERTICAL SCALE	DESIGNATION
3/8" = 1'-0"	2000761
SURVEY BOOK	SHEETS
ELECTRONIC	5 of 9
CONTRACT	PROJECT
R-42767	2000761