



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue  
Room N758  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Eric Holcomb, Governor**  
**Joe McGuinness, Commissioner**

## Legal Notice of Planned Improvement - DES. #: 1900009

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) LaPorte District, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intends to proceed with a bridge project along US 20 in Lake County (Des. No. 1900009). The project involves Bridge No. 020-45-02484 C (National Bridge Inventory (NBI) No. 005200), which carries US 20 over Kennedy Ave. and the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad. The project is located along US 20 approximately 0.76 to 1.18 miles east of SR 152.

The preferred alternative involves the replacement of Bridge No. 020-45-02484 C. The replacement bridge will be a two-span continuous composite welded steel plate girder bridge with mechanically stabilized earth wall abutments and a reinforced concrete pier. The bridge will feature a length of 222.0 feet, a clear roadway width of 53.5 feet, and an out-to-out width of 70.3 feet. The bridge cross section will include two 12.0-foot-wide travel lanes, one in each direction, separated by a 4.0-foot-wide raised center median. The bridge will have 12.75-foot-wide paved outside shoulders and 2-foot-wide paved inside curb offsets. In addition, an 8- to 10-foot-wide multi-use trail will be added to the north side of the subject bridge, the north side of US 20, and along the north access road. This trail will tie into other planned segments of the Marquette Greenway Trail which will be constructed under separate construction projects (Des. Nos. 1601146 & 1901900). A raise in the bridge profile grade of approximately 41.8 inches will occur to provide adequate vertical clearance over the railroad and Kennedy Ave. The US 20 intersection with the Kennedy Ave. access roads will be configured for right-in/right-out only movements with a raised center median along US 20. Additionally, the intersection will be shifted to the east to accommodate the increased bridge profile grade, and the US 20 roadway grade east of the bridge will be raised to achieve proper stopping sight distance at the intersection. The access roads will each feature one 12.0-foot lane in each direction, which will widen at the curves and at the intersections with Kennedy Ave. and US 20. The access roads will feature 2.0-foot paved shoulders at the outside of each lane. Riprap drainage turnouts will be added to the northwest bridge approach, in the northwest and southwest quadrants of the bridge, and to the northeast bridge approach south of the north access road. Approximately 1,705 linear feet of open drainage ditches will be added or modified. Street lighting located along the north and south access ramps will be replaced in-kind and/or relocated due to the work on the ramp. No additional lighting will be added. No work will occur to the sidewalk along Kennedy Ave. Existing guardrail totaling 1,896 feet will be removed, and 1,338.75 feet of new or replaced guardrail will be installed.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan, which is still being finalized, will involve a closure and detour for US 20, lane closures for Kennedy Ave., and potential intermittent closures of Kennedy Ave. The detour route for US 20 will utilize US 20/Indianapolis Blvd., Columbus Dr./US 12, and US 12. The detour route is expected to result in 5.4 additional travel miles and 14 additional minutes of travel time. Lane closures on Kennedy Ave. will take place in two phases. Phase I will involve the closure of the southbound lanes and shift southbound traffic to the left (west) northbound lane. Phase II will involve closure of the northbound lanes and shift northbound traffic to the right (east) southbound lane. One lane of traffic in both directions will be maintained. If required, the detour route for intermittent closure of Kennedy Ave. will utilize E 165th St., US 20/ Indianapolis Blvd., and W Chicago Ave./SR 312. The detour route is expected to result in 1.7 additional travel miles and 5 additional minutes of travel time. The sidewalk located along the east side of Kennedy Ave. will be closed for the duration of the MOT. A pedestrian MOT for the sidewalk closure east of Kennedy Ave. has not been developed at this time, however the need for a pedestrian MOT is still currently being investigated. Should one be required, a pedestrian detour would be in place for the duration of the MOT. The MOT is expected to begin in April of 2026 and be in place for 18 months.

The project will require approximately 1.13 acres of new permanent right-of-way (ROW) and 0.06 acres of temporary ROW. The project is anticipated to permanently impact approximately 0.4124 acre of wetlands. Mitigation for wetland impacts will likely be required. The project is anticipated to impact approximately 3.92 acres of terrestrial habitat, including 1.30 acres of tree clearing.



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The cost associated with the project is approximately \$19,041,000 which includes engineering, construction, and ROW costs. The FHWA and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level-3 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the draft CE-3 document are available for review at the following locations:

1. East Chicago Public Library (1008 W Chicago Ave, East Chicago, IN 46312)
2. (INDOT LaPorte District Office (315 Boyd Blvd, La Porte, IN 46350)
3. INDOT LaPorte District Website (<https://www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-laporte-district/>)

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Carson Hoogewerf, Environmental Specialist, Lochmueller Group, 112 West Jefferson Blvd., Suite 500, South Bend, Indiana, 46601, at 574-334-5491 or via email at [CHoogewerf@lochgroup.com](mailto:CHoogewerf@lochgroup.com) on or before Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact the INDOT for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Andrew Borden at 219-851-4481 or [ABorden1@indot.in.gov](mailto:ABorden1@indot.in.gov). In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact Andrew Borden at 219-851-4481 or [ABorden1@indot.in.gov](mailto:ABorden1@indot.in.gov).

In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. 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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.