

Public Notice

The Porter County Commissioners propose to replace County 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.

Porter County Bridge No. 165 was listed as a non-historic bridge and classified as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Indiana Statewide Bridge Survey. The bridge was not considered as an important example of bridge design, engineering, or construction. It does not possess a significant association with important historical events or trends.

This project proposes to replace the structurally deficient bridge with a new concrete structure. The approach roadway will consist of two 10-foot travel lanes, one in each direction, with 3-foot usable shoulders and a minimum clear roadway width of 26 feet. A 40 m.p.h. design speed will be used for this project. To include the roadway approach reconstruction, the construction limits will extend approximately 400 feet north and south of the bridge structure for a total project length of 800 feet (not including the bridge work). In addition, standard approach railing and guardrail installation at each corner of the bridge will be erected as part of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2013.

To complete the proposed project, less than 1.0 acre of permanent right-of-way would be required along the east side of the roadway 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. A limited quantity of temporary right-of-way will be required for grading and drive construction. It is anticipated that CR 600 East will be closed during construction and an official detour will be established. No buildings will require relocation.

The INDOT acting on behalf of the FHWA has found no properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) that are listed on or eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Additionally, as a result of the archaeological investigations, no sites that could qualify for inclusion on the NRHP were located. The INDOT acting on behalf of the FHWA issued a "No Historic Properties Affected" finding for this project on November 30, 2011.

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, 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). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(4), the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(d) which serves as the basis for the "No Historic Properties Affected" finding is available for public inspection at the Porter County Highway Department located at 1955 South State Road 2, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46385 and at the office of Beam, Longest and Neff; 8126 Castleton Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250. Please reply no later than January 6, 2012 (postmarked) and address any comments to:

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