

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Des. Nos. 1600881, 1700723, & 1901696

Geist Greenway Project from 96th Street to Olio Road at 131st Street and the Reconstruction of the Bell-Ford Bridge across Fall Creek in Fishers, Hamilton County

The City of Fishers and Hamilton County Commissioners will host a public hearing on November 16, 2021 at Geist Elementary School; 14051 East 104th Street, Fishers, IN 46040. The hearing will take place in the cafeteria. The public hearing will occur from 6:45 PM until 8:30 PM. The formal presentation will begin at 7:15 PM, with an informal open house occurring from 6:45 PM to 7:15 PM. Following the formal presentation, a second informal open house will occur and end promptly at 8:30 PM.

The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for the programmed phases of the project. During this time, members of the public will be afforded the opportunity for their comments to be heard in a formal setting, recorded, and incorporated into the project record. Currently, only Phase 1A (113th Street to 126th Street), Phase 1B (104th Street to Bowline Road/Lux Road), and the reconstruction of the Bell-Ford Bridge within Phase 1B are funded. Once funding is secured for the unprogrammed phases (96th Street to 104th Street and 126th Street to Olio Road at 131st Street) a re-evaluation of the socio-economic and natural impacts may need to occur.

The public hearing will follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance health and safety protocols. Face coverings are recommended, but not required. Hand sanitizing stations will be provided, social distancing will be encouraged, and the number of attendees participating will be monitored to comply with local ordinances.

For those unable to attend the in-person public hearing, a copy of the presentation as well as meeting handouts, displays, and comment forms will be available on the City of Fishers website (<https://www.playfishers.com/299/Geist-Greenway>) the day after the hearing.

The project will construct a 12- to 14-foot-wide paved pathway with 2-foot shoulders along Florida Road between 104th Street and Bowline Road/Lux Road (Phase 1B) and from 113th Street to roughly a midpoint at 126th Street between Olio Road and Southeastern Parkway (Phase 1A). Within Phase 1A, a pre-engineered steel truss bridge will be placed across Thorpe Creek. Within Phase 1B is the Hamilton County-sponsored reconstruction of the Bell-Ford Covered Bridge that will cross Fall Creek west of Florida Road and south of Geist Park. Cumulatively, Phase 1A and Phase 1B will result in 553 linear feet of stream impacts and 0.31 acre of impacts to wetlands. The combined length of Phase 1A and Phase 1B is approximately 2.66 miles. The future phases of the greenway are anticipated to add 2.1 miles to the overall length.

The project will require 4.77 acres of permanent trail easement, the acquisition of 2.8 acres of new permanent right-of-way (ROW), and 0.25 acre of temporary ROW. Conceptual ROW for the future phases is estimated at 5.1 acres but will require re-evaluation once programmed. No relocation of businesses or residences is anticipated.

The maintenance of traffic will require the use of flaggers and signs where the trail route crosses existing roadway facilities. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. Pedestrian access to sidewalks will be maintained on at least one side of affected roadways throughout construction.

Temporary closures, not lasting more than 30-60 days, may be in place for crossed trails and pathways.

The need for the project arises from the general lack of north-south connectivity for non-motorized transportation facilities (pedestrian and bicycle) between an existing trail on 96th Street and an existing trail at Olio Road and 131st Street in the eastern portion of the City of Fishers. The purpose of the project is to improve north-south connectivity of non-motorized transportation facilities, connectivity to neighborhoods, and active transportation in this area of Fishers between the existing trail on 96th Street and an existing trail at Olio Road and 131st Street.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2022. The cost of the project, including engineering, ROW, and construction, is estimated at \$7,424,600. Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT has agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural and human environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view at the following location:

City of Fishers Department of Engineering: 1 Municipal Dr, Fishers, IN 46038

Hamilton East Public Library- Fishers: 5 Municipal Dr, Fishers, IN 46038

Community members may wish to visit the project webpage <https://www.playfishers.com/299/Geist-Greenway> to view project information, including the public hearing presentation and submit comments to the project team via mail or email. Persons with limited internet access may contact the project team to request project information be mailed to them. Please contact Lochmueller Group, Attn: Samantha Beaupre, 3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN 46268, (317) 334-6828 or SBeaupre@lochgroup.com.

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 Lochmueller Group, Attn: Samantha Beaupre, 3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 150, Indianapolis, IN 46268, (317) 334-6828 or SBeaupre@lochgroup.com. We respectfully request all comments be submitted by 5:00 PM ET, Tuesday November 30, 2021.

With advance notice, the City of Fishers 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, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids, including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should an accommodation be required, please contact Samantha Beaupre with Lochmueller Group using the contact information above.

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 Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on July 7, 2021.