

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

Walnut Street Phase 3, from Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Boulevard to US 41 in Evansville DES. # 1801726

The City of Evansville is developing plans for Phase 3 (Des 1801726) of the proposed road reconstruction project along Walnut Street from Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Boulevard to US 41 in Evansville, Vanderburgh County.

The purpose of this project is to provide access for bicycles and pedestrians to local attractions, businesses, churches, and residences between downtown Evansville at MLK Jr. Boulevard and US 41. The need for the project is due to the lack of sufficient bicycle and pedestrian routes along Walnut Street to potential destinations such as the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Central, Old National Events Plaza, and the CK Newsome Community Center between downtown Evansville at MLK Jr. Boulevard and US 41.

The project proposes to reconfigure the existing 4-lane road into a 2-lane road with a center two-way left turn lane, add an 8- to 10-foot wide multiuse trail on the north side of the road, and will replace the sidewalks on the south side. A buffer strip, minimum 5-foot width, is proposed between the curb and trail to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The project will add enhanced pavement markings from MLK Jr. Blvd to Heidelbach Avenue that will separate bicyclists from pedestrians. Enhanced markings are color markings that safely separate the pedestrian walking from the riding bicyclist by providing separate dedicated lanes. The enhanced markings are not sharrows that have bike lanes sharing the street beside vehicular traffic. All signals and signage will be upgraded and signalized intersections will get updated pedestrian push buttons. There will be storm sewer replacement throughout the project limits and water line replacement in various locations of the project. The project will also include the elimination of the existing combined sewer from the area near Heidelbach Avenue to Kentucky Avenue. As part of this separation of the storm and sanitary sewers, underground stormwater storage tanks will be required to capture and store stormwater, and slowly release that water into the sandy subgrade soils. Fifteen (15) trees, maples, Bradford Pears, and Locust ranging in size from 8-inch to 48-inch diameter at breast height (dbh), are anticipated to be removed as part of the project. The project will result in approximately 13.39 acres of land disturbance, including existing ROW, within the limits of the project.

The proposed construction of this project will require 0.642 acre of new permanent right-of-way and 0.582 acre of temporary right-of-way. No relocations or displacements will occur as a result of this project.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan proposes road closure with a 1.62 mile detour for all traffic other than local traffic. The detour, which adds approximately 0.36 mile, utilizes MLK Jr. Boulevard, Lincoln Avenue, and US 41. Construction will be restricted to one side at a time to allow pedestrian access at all times. Contractor must maintain access to all residential drives and commercial business drives at all times. The MOT will be implemented in stages. Stage I will construct Walnut Street (half at a time) from east of Kentucky Avenue to west of US 41. Stage II will construct Walnut Street (half at a time) from east of Evans Street to west of Kentucky Avenue. Stage III will construct Walnut Street (half at a time) from west of Governor Street to East of Evans Street. Stage IV will construct Walnut Street (half at a time) from east of MLK Jr. Boulevard to west of Governor Street. School corporations and emergency services, as well as Nazarene Baptist Church, Alexander A.M.E Church, Memorial Baptist Church, Central Library, and Charlier Hospice Center will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is late winter 2022/early spring 2023.

The cost associated with this project is approximately \$8,073,000 which includes right-of-way and construction with both federal and local funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE are available for review at the following locations:

1. Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Central: 200 S.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47713
2. City Engineering Department: 1 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Civic Center Complex, Room 321, Evansville, IN 47708
3. Lochmueller Group, Inc.: 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, IN 47715
4. Project Website: <https://www.evansvillegov.org/city/departments/division.php?structureid=300>

Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed. Additionally, hard copies of the CE-2 document 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.

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Daniel Townsend at Lochmueller Group, Inc., 6200 Vogel Road, Evansville, Indiana 47715, or dtownsend@lochgroup.com, or 812-759-4116 on or before Sunday, August 1, 2021.

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 Lochmueller Group, Inc. for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Daniel Townsend at dtownsend@lochgroup.com or 812-759-4116. 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 Daniel Townsend, Lochmueller Group, Inc. at dtownsend@lochgroup.com or 812-759-4116.

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 Public Involvement Policies and Procedures* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.