

Legal Notice of Planned Improvement

The City of East Chicago has developed preliminary plans for a proposed roadway reconstruction project located on Michigan Avenue (Ave.) and Dickey Road (Rd.) in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana (Designation Nos. 2101118 and 2300726). The project limits on Michigan Ave. extend from Sheridan Place (Pl.) to approximately 100 feet northeast of Block Ave. The project limits along Dickey Rd. extend from Michigan Ave. to Watling Street (St.).

Design and construction will occur in two phases. Phase 1 (Des. No. 2101118) will extend along Michigan Ave. from Broadway St. to 100 feet northeast of Block Ave. for a length of 0.65 mile and along Dickey Rd. from Michigan Ave. to Watling St. for a length of 0.06 mile. Phase 2 (Des. No. 2300726) will extend along Michigan Ave. from Sheridan Pl. to Broadway St. for a length of 0.24 mile. The proposed project will involve the following:

- Reconstruct the existing roadway pavement and curb and gutter of Michigan Ave. along the entire project area.
- Reconstruct the existing sidewalk along the east side of Michigan Ave. to provide a new 5- to 8-foot-wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk, except from Grand Blvd. to Guthrie St. where the existing sidewalk is in good condition.
- Replace the existing sidewalk along the west side of Michigan Ave. from Sheridan Pl. to Guthrie St. with a new 8- to 10-foot-wide paved asphalt multi-use path. The multi-use path will connect to an existing path/sidewalk along the north side of Guthrie St. The existing sidewalk along the west side of Michigan Ave. from Guthrie St. to Block Ave. will be replaced with a new 5- to 8-foot-wide sidewalk.
- Replace all existing curb ramps with ADA compliant curb ramps.
- Replace the existing sanitary sewer lines, water lines, valves, and meters throughout the project area.
- Reduce the travel lane configuration of Michigan Ave. from Sheridan Pl. to Dickey Rd. to include two 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction) with a 14-foot-wide center two-way left-turn lane (TWLTL).
- Reconfigure the cross-section of Michigan Ave. from Dickey Rd. to Guthrie St. to include three 11.5-foot-wide travel lanes (two eastbound and one westbound), a westbound 12 foot wide right-turn lane, and an 11-foot-wide center left-turn lane.
- Reconstruct the cross-section of Michigan Ave. from Guthrie St. to Block Ave. (end of the project) to include four 11.5-foot-wide travel lanes (two in each direction) and an 11-foot-wide center left-turn lane.
- Reconstruct the existing roadway pavement and curb and gutter of Dickey Rd. from Michigan Ave. to Watling St.
- Replace the existing sidewalk along both sides of Dickey Rd. with a new 5-foot-wide ADA compliant sidewalk from Michigan Ave. to Watling St.
- Reconstruct all drive entrances within the project area.
- Upgrade or replace existing traffic signals to include pedestrian signals and pushbutton assemblies.
- Replace all existing crosswalk pavement markings.
- Replace all existing street lighting with decorative street lighting.
- Provide storm water management, such as bioswales and infiltration trenches within grassy spaces along Michigan Ave. between East 136th St. and Carey St. and between East 138th St. and Parish Ave.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) will be completed in four phases. Phases 1-3 will include construction on Michigan Ave. from Dickey Rd. to Block Ave., and on Dickey Rd. to Watling St. A combination of single lane closures and lane shifts during construction will occur. During phases 1-3, one lane in each direction will be maintained at all times. Phase 4 of the MOT will include construction on Michigan Ave. from Sheridan Pl. to Dickey Rd. and will require the use of a local detour. However, exact detour routes have not been determined at this time. It is important to note that this proposed portion of roadway to be constructed under Phase 4 will be constructed one block at a time to limit impacts. Project



stakeholders, including local school corporations and emergency services, will be notified of potential closures and/or detours prior to any construction. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion Level 1 (CE-1) environmental document. Construction will occur within existing right-of-way; no permanent or temporary right-of-way will be required. There will be impacts to the East Chicago Department of Water Works water lines. The existing water lines will remain in service while the new water lines are installed; however, there will be temporary disruptions to service when switching over to the newly installed water lines. Tree clearing/trimming and utility relocations will also be needed. There will be no impacts to water resources, such as streams and wetlands, as a result of this project. There will be no relocations as a result of this project. The estimated cost of the proposed project is \$8,169,254 which consists of federal and local funds for construction.

The preliminary design plans and CE-1 document are available for review at the following locations:

- East Chicago Engineering Department, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, East Chicago, IN 46312.
- East Chicago Public Library, 2401 East Columbus Drive, East Chicago, IN 46312.

Additionally, project information is available on-line via the RQAW | DCCM public documents web page: <https://rqaw.com/public-documents/>.

This notice offers the public the opportunity to request a public hearing be held. All interested persons may request a public hearing and/or submit comments to the attention of either of the following contacts:

- Chuck Sims, First Group Engineering, Inc. Project Manager, 5925 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, Indiana 46278, 317-216-7705, ext. 209, or csims@firstgroupengineering.com
- Aaron Lawson, RQAW Environmental Project Manager, 8770 North Street, Suite 110, Fishers, IN 46038, 317-588-1763 or alawson@rqaw.com

All requests or comments must be submitted and/or postmarked by August 23, 2024. Project information, including the environmental document and design plans, may be mailed to interested persons upon request.

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 Chuck Sims, First Group Engineering Project Manager (contact information above) for the arrangement and coordination of services. Accommodations can be made for any interested persons with Limited English Proficiency. 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 Chuck Sims, First Group Engineering Project Manager (contact information above).

This notice is published in compliance with: (1) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 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.