

## **NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT –**

### **Geist Greenway Project Hamilton County, Indiana Des. Nos. 1600881, 1700723, & 1901696**

**January 2022**

The City of Fishers and Hamilton County held a public hearing in November 2021 for a proposed multi-use trail project from 96<sup>th</sup> Street to Olio Road at 131<sup>st</sup> Street and the reconstruction of the Bell-Ford Bridge across Fall Creek in Fishers, Hamilton County. This public hearing was held as part of the environmental analysis phase as required per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public involvement is an important element of a comprehensive decision-making process.

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 96<sup>th</sup> Street and an existing trail at Olio Road and 131<sup>st</sup> 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 96<sup>th</sup> Street and an existing trail at Olio Road and 131<sup>st</sup> Street.

The preferred alternative will construct a 12- to 14-foot-wide paved pathway with 2-foot shoulders along Florida Road between 104<sup>th</sup> Street and Bowline Road/Lux Road (Phase 1B) and from 113<sup>th</sup> Street to roughly a midpoint at 126<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

Additional details regarding the Geist Greenway project are available via the City of Fishers webpage at <https://www.playfishers.com/299/Geist-Greenway>.

The purpose of this notice is to communicate the status of this project to community members. As part of INDOT's commitment to afford the community an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase and transition to the next phase of development.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the public hearing held at the Geist Elementary School; 14051 East 104th Street, Fishers, IN 46040 on November 16, 2021, **INDOT will advance this project to the next phase of development with construction anticipated to take place in 2022.** Environmental analysis documentation, including written responses to public comments submitted as part of the public involvement process, will remain available for public inspection at the following locations:

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

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

City of Fishers webpage at <https://www.playfishers.com/299/Geist-Greenway>

Should you have any questions regarding this notice please contact Samantha Beaupre, Environmental Specialist with Lochmueller Group, at (317) 334-6828 or [SBeaupre@lochgroup.com](mailto:SBeaupre@lochgroup.com).