

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

DES. # 1802920

Town of Lowell (Town) is developing plans for proposed trail and accessibility improvements to construct a multi-use trail between Liberty Park and Freedom Park in Lowell, Cedar Creek Township, Lake County.

The purpose of the project is to provide a direct, non-motorized link for pedestrians and bicycles between Liberty Park and Freedom Park. The need for the project is due to the lack of a direct, non-motorized, vehicle separated connection between Freedom Park and Liberty Park. Freedom Park is in the northwest corner of Lowell's town limits and Liberty Park is located downtown. Freedom Park has little connectivity except by vehicle.

The project proposes to construct an Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-compliant, multi-use trail connecting Liberty Park to Freedom Park in the Town of Lowell. This trail will be comprised of both off-road and on-road segments. Where feasible, existing dedicated rights-of-way, as well as open spaces will be utilized. Trail surfaces will vary based on location. Through subdivisions, the trail will be concrete to match existing sidewalks and, in some areas, will replace the existing sidewalk, in off-road areas, the trail will be asphalt. The entire trail will be 10-ft to 12-ft wide with 2-ft shoulders. Two boardwalk sections will be constructed to minimize impacts to a large wetland in the center of the project. One section of boardwalk will be 100-ft long and the other section will be 450-ft long. The topography in the project area requires retaining walls in one location to limit the construction footprint to avoid impacts to environmental resources. The approximate length of the proposed project will be 1.2 miles.

The proposed construction of this project will require 1.00 acre of new permanent right-of-way (ROW) and 0.5 acre of temporary right-of-way. The new permanent ROW is located within the southern section of the trail that travels through the undeveloped portion of the project. This land includes forested areas and wetland. The project also requires the acquisition of approximately 0.5 acres of temporary ROW within Timber Springs Subdivision for the purposes of grading and driveway replacement. This temporary ROW consists of residential lawn and driveways. There are no relocations or displacements proposed for this project.

The maintenance of traffic plan proposed the closure of the sidewalks along the southside of Timber Lake Drive and on the east side of Redbud Lane to convert them to the multi-use trail. The project will also require the closure of the existing sidewalk in the southeast corner of the intersection of West Main Street and North Liberty Street. The Town will utilize signage to direct pedestrians to the opposite side of the roadway. Work within roadways is not anticipated and disruption of traffic is not anticipated. The sidewalk closures will pose a temporary inconvenience to traveling pedestrians; however, no significant delays are anticipated, and all inconveniences and delays will cease upon project completion. The proposed start of construction is January 2024, ending in July 2024.

The cost associated with this project is approximately \$1,872,975 which includes preliminary engineering, right-of-way, construction with both federal and Town of Lowell (Town) funds anticipated to be used. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has 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 online at: <https://www.lowell.net/> Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed, please contact Ben Harvey, benjamin.harvey@stantec.com, 317.388.1982.

**All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or express their concerns by submitting comments to the attention of Ben Harvey, Stantec, 3901 Industrial Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46254, 317.388.1982, Benjamin.harvey@stantec.com on or before March 22, 2023.**

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 the INDOT LaPorte District Office of Public Involvement for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Ben Harvey, benjamin.harvey@stantec.com, 317.388.1982. 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 the INDOT LaPorte District Office of Public Involvement.

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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.