



**Meeting:** Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee Meeting

**Time and Date:** August 22, 2023, 12:30PM – 2:00PM

**Location:** Southeast Community Services

**Attendees:**

Name	Organization & Role	Name	Organization & Role
Bruce Colville	Rethink Coalition	Drew Passmore	INDOT – Environmental Planner
Blake Kelley		Laura Hilden	INDOT – Environmental Director
Halli Robbins	Concord Neighborhood Center	Terri Fair	INDOT
Jordyn Ryan	Rethink Coalition	Kari Carmany-George	FHWA
Mark Russel	Indianapolis Urban League	Anna Wainscott	Parsons – Public Involvement Specialist
Paula Brooks	Hoosier Environmental Council	Berry Craig	Parsons – Public Involvement Specialist
Andy Dietrick	INDOT Major Projects Division	John LaBlonde	Parsons – Deputy Project Manager
Brian Shattuck	INDOT	Mindy Peterson	Parsons – Public Involvement Director
Cindy Mauro	INDOT – Environmental Planner		

**Meeting Purpose:** The meeting provided an update of the I-65 Safety and Efficiency project, summarized the role of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee and allowed for discussion of more detailed improvements and other project items.

1. Welcome and introductions
  - a. Mindy Peterson (MP), Parsons public involvement director, welcomed the group.
  - b. Self-introductions were made.
2. Project Presentation
  - a. The project presentation was led by John LaBlonde (JL), Parsons project manager and MP. It was interactive with discussion throughout the presentation.
  - b. Topics included the role of the EJ committee, project overview, anticipated improvements to bridges and sidewalks, an overview of noise analysis underway, next steps and project contact channels.
3. Role of EJ/Meeting Preferences
  - a. EJ members focus on issues with the potential to impact low-income or minority populations. Members serve as liaisons between their organization and the





Project Team. They share their views and identify items for discussion with the Project Team.

- b. The earlier EJ meeting time led to a stronger turnout.
  - c. The group prefers a hybrid meeting option.
  - d. Meeting minutes and materials will be shared with all invitees.
4. Project Overview
- a. I-65 Safety and Efficiency includes added capacity mainly using the existing inside shoulder, bridge widening/replacement, pavement work and drainage improvements.
  - b. The 5-mile corridor stretches from the I-465 interchange to Fletcher Avenue in downtown Indianapolis.
  - c. Most of the work is happening within existing right of way (ROW), and no changes are expected for vehicular access to on and off ramps.
  - d. Environmental analysis and preliminary design work are underway with construction expected to begin in 2025 and last up to two years. I-65 will remain open during construction.
5. Anticipated Improvements
- a. The project is expected to result in four travel lanes in each direction from I-465 to I-70 with the majority of project limits using existing pavement/inside shoulder for added capacity.
  - b. The Hanna Avenue bridge will be replaced.
  - c. The northbound bridge over Morris/Prospect Street is expected to be rehabilitated and widened.
  - d. The northbound bridges over Naomi Street and E. Pleasant Run (North and South) parkways are expected to be widened.
  - e. An auxiliary lane will connect Raymond to Washington Street at Morris/Prospect.
6. Hanna Avenue Bridge Replacement
- a. There will be six-foot sidewalks added on the north side of the new bridge.
  - b. A 10-foot shared-use path is being added to the south side of the bridge.
  - c. The shared-use path accommodates a future pedestrian pathway, in coordination with DPW plans.
7. Sidewalk and Other Improvements
- a. Pavement patching and resurfacing will be completed along the corridor.
  - b. Work will improve pavement and bridge conditions while minimizing the need for future repairs.
  - c. Drainage improvements will be made.
  - d. Sidewalk improvements have been added to the project throughout the corridor:
    - i. New lighting throughout the area
    - ii. New sidewalks in select areas
    - iii. Broken sidewalks replaced
    - iv. Sidewalks leveled throughout the area
    - v. ADA ramps evaluated and improved
  - e. See attached presentation for details of sidewalk improvements at specific areas.





8. Noise Study
  - a. Noise analysis will be completed soon. The analysis compares current and expected traffic volumes and noise levels.
  - b. The need for noise abatement measures is based on a high increase of noise levels. INDOT's noise policy follows FHWA policy. The full noise policy is available on INDOT and project websites.
  - c. Abatement measures must be reasonable and feasible. Barriers must achieve a 5 dB(A) reduction in noise for the majority of impacted receptors.
  - d. Measures are based on engineering standards and cost effectiveness is based on costs divided by number of benefited receptors. It must meet cost-benefit analysis and desired by the majority of receptors.
  - e. Outreach to benefited receptors is expected to begin this fall. A response rate of more than 50%+ is required and a second survey will be sent, if needed.
9. Next Steps
  - a. A public hearing is expected in spring 2024. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2025.
  - b. Two public meetings will be held next week. The in-person meeting is August 29 at SENSE Charter School, 5:30 to 7pm with a 6pm presentation.
  - c. The virtual meeting will be held August 30th at 6pm. Meeting fliers have been posted in several locations. The fliers include directions for Spanish speakers. Halli Robbins (HR), attendee emphasized the need for Spanish/Burmese speakers to have extra accommodations for outreach.
10. Contact Channels
  - a. The project website, I65SafetyandEfficiency.com has project information, FAQs, maps and more. CAC and public meeting materials will be posted there. Sign up for project updates via email (on the project website or text (text "INDOT I65SandE" to 468311).
  - b. INDOT4U contact channels are used with all feedback shared with the Project Team. Mention I-65 Safety and Efficiency.
11. Closing Remarks
  - a. Closing Remarks from MP and JL.
12. Group Discussion/Questions and Answers (Received throughout the meeting)

Comment: MP, Parsons, asked if the information provided about Morris/Prospect widening and auxiliary lane helped clarify plans.

Q: BC, Rethink, asked why an auxiliary lane was needed from Raymond to Washington. There is a lot of traffic from northbound Raymond that must merge onto I-65.

A: JL, Parsons, noted increased traffic and a need for additional space to safely merge and accelerate. The project team has performed traffic analysis, and the results show the





auxiliary lane is needed for this section of interstate to meet an acceptable level of service.

Q: Mark Russell (MR), guest, asked why is the northbound shoulder two feet wider than the southbound shoulder?

A: JL, Parsons responded, and the typical section is to show a general proposed section. The northbound and southbound shoulders will generally be the same. The additional 2' is required if there is some kind of positive protection barrier, such as guardrail.

Comment: Paula Brooks (PB), Hoosier Environmental Council, wanted to make sure the project is accounting for the deaf/blind community.

A: JL, Parsons, noted that INDOT follows all ADA requirements for accessibility. New buttons have voice automation when the button is pushed. They also must be within a certain distance from ADA ramps.

Comment: BC, Rethink, added a concern with Pleasant Run and accessing both sides. JL, Parsons, noted the Project Team will look into it.

Comment: Jordyn Ryan (JR), Rethink, asked if slides from the presentation would be shared after. MP, Parsons, said that all slides and meeting materials will be shared with the group and minutes will be available online.

Q: JR, Rethink, asked how INDOT/Project Team combats fatigue from handling so many projects.

A: Andy Dietrick (AD), INDOT, responded the best way to handle it is to be as available as possible and provide as much information as possible.

*The above-summary and attached PowerPoint Slides represent our recollection of the pertinent discussion points, decisions, and action items from the meeting. Please contact the preparer, Berry Craig, at [Berry.Craig@Parsons.com](mailto:Berry.Craig@Parsons.com), within thirty (30) days from your receipt of this document if you wish to make any additions or corrections. If revisions are made, the updated summary will be re-sent to all the attendants. Otherwise, this summary shall stand as the official record of the meeting.*





# Environmental Justice (EJ) Meeting

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August 22, 2023



# PRESENTERS



**John LaBlonde**

Project Manager, Parsons



**Mindy Peterson**

Public Involvement Director, Parsons



- 1. Role of EJ Committee**
- 2. Project Overview**
- 3. Anticipated Improvements**
- 4. Noise Study**
- 5. Community Outreach**
- 6. Next Steps**



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE







- **Discuss** issues with the potential to impact low-income or minority populations
- **Serve** as liaison between community or organization and Project Team
- **Share** views and identify local concerns in two-way communications with Project Team
- **Serve** in an advisory role and share project information with others

- Consistent communication
- Better understanding of project issues
- Detailed discussion of key issues
- Opportunity to hear differing views
- Opportunity for collaborative problem solving



- Kick-off meeting held in October
- Introduced I-65 Safety and Efficiency 
- Discussed role of the EJ Committee 
- Discussed corridor needs
- Discussed additional outreach/potential members
- Meeting minutes shared with group

- **Meeting format preference?**  
Virtual? In-person?
- **Meeting time preference?**  
Morning? Midday? Evening?
- **Contact preference?**  
Email? Phone?



# PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS



- Meetings are Aug. 29 and Aug. 30
- Learn more about improvements.
- Review maps, boards and information.
- Ask questions and share feedback.
- Complete a comment form.
- Help us spread the word.





# PROJECT OVERVIEW



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- I-65 Safety and Efficiency in **southeast Indianapolis** will **reduce congestion** and **improve safety**.
- The nearly 5-mile project corridor stretches from north of the **I-465 interchange** to just north of **Fletcher Ave.** in downtown Indianapolis.
- The project includes **added capacity, bridge improvements** and **pavement patching and resurfacing**.



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



- Project Team **identifying needs** and **developing solutions**
- **Public feedback** considered throughout the project
- Project Team **evaluated sidewalks** throughout the corridor
- **Ongoing coordination** with various groups and agencies





# EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS



- Added capacity
- Bridge improvements
- Pavement resurfacing
- Drainage improvements
- Sidewalk improvements



# ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS



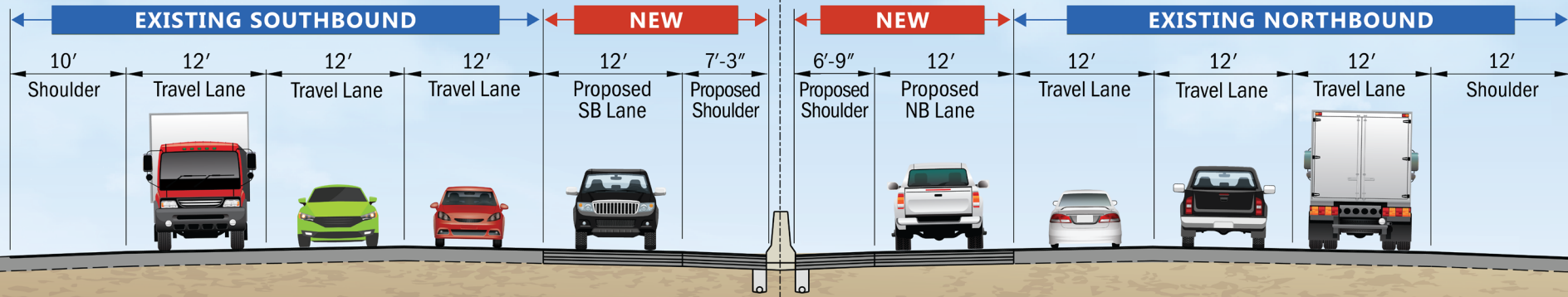
- Added lane between I-465 and I-70
- When complete, four lanes in each direction
- Most widening uses existing inside shoulder
- Widening to the outside for southern 1/3 of project



# ANTICIPATED IMPROVEMENTS



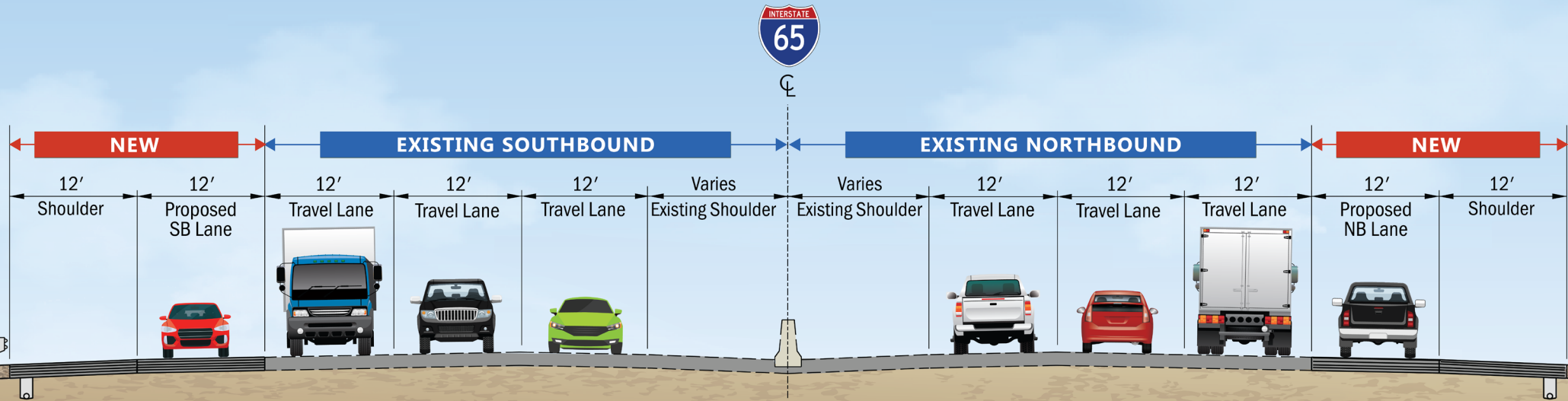
# ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS



I-65 FROM KEYSTONE AVENUE TO RAYMOND STREET



# ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS



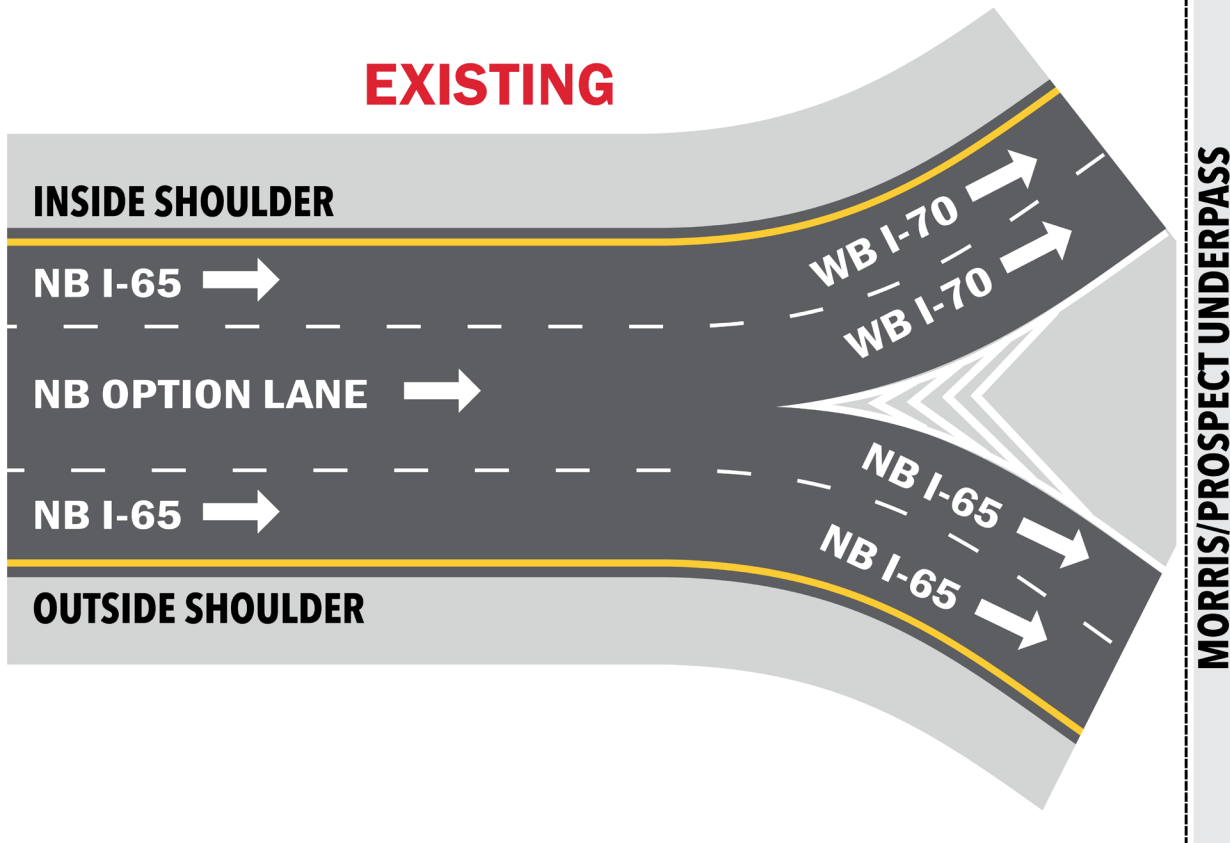
I-65 FROM I-465 TO KEYSTONE AVENUE



# ADDED CAPACITY: MORRIS/PROSPECT



## EXISTING

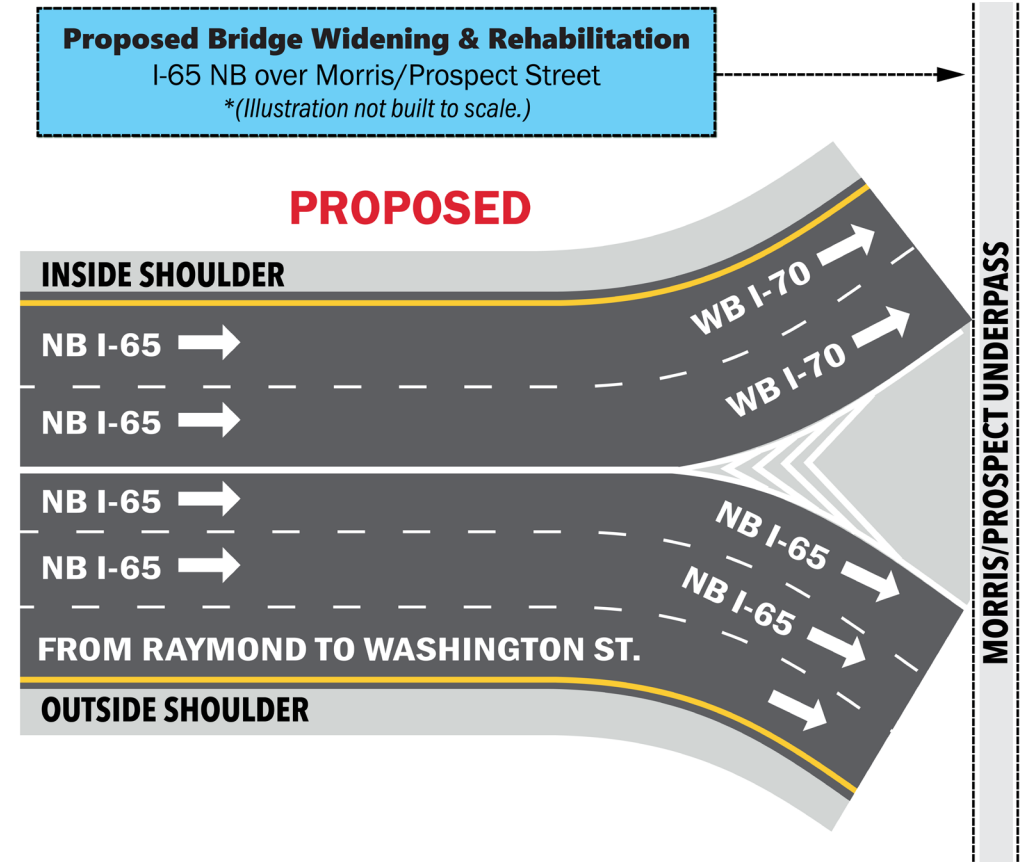


## Proposed Bridge Widening & Rehabilitation

I-65 NB over Morris/Prospect Street

*\*(Illustration not built to scale.)*

## PROPOSED



# BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS



# NEW BRIDGE AT HANNA AVENUE

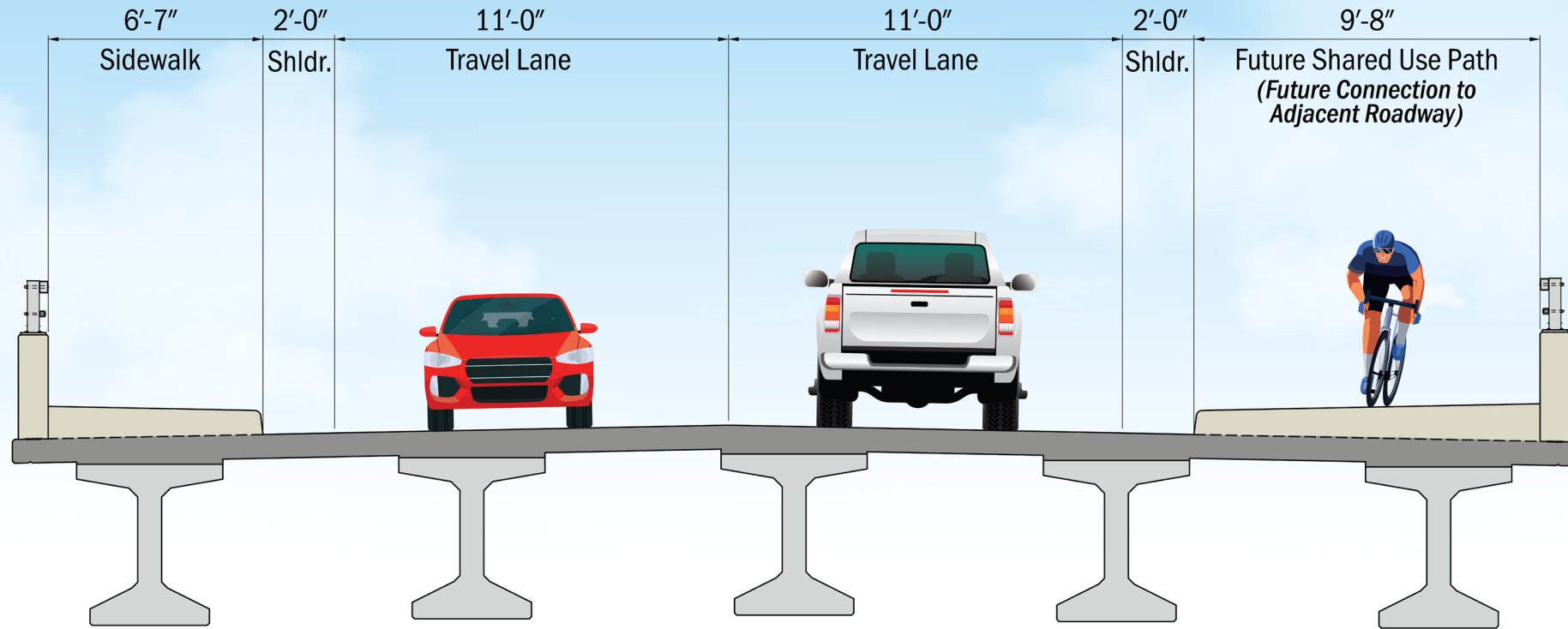


- New, replacement bridge at Hanna Avenue
- Six-foot sidewalk being added on north side of bridge
- A 10-foot shared-use path added on south side of bridge
- Shared-use path accommodates future pedestrian pathway





# NEW BRIDGE AT HANNA AVENUE



# BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS



- Northbound bridges at three locations are being widened.
- They are Naomi Street, E. Pleasant Run and Morris/Prospect.
- The wider bridges will accommodate a fourth travel lane.
- Improvements will extend the life of all of the bridges.



# BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS



- The Morris/Prospect bridge is also being rehabilitated.
  - This includes replacing the bridge superstructure.
  - It includes the deck and beams for the bridge.
- In addition, overlay work will extend the life of 19 other bridges along the corridor.

# OTHER IMPROVEMENTS



# PAVEMENT & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



- Pavement patching and resurfacing along corridor
- Work will improve pavement and bridge conditions; minimize the need for future repairs
- Improvements to multiple drainage structures



# SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



- New lighting throughout the area
- New sidewalks in select areas
- Broken sidewalks replaced
- Sidewalks leveled throughout area
- ADA ramps evaluated and improved



# SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



## Throughout the Corridor

All underpass lighting will be updated.



## Hanna Avenue

New replacement bridge will have a shared-use path on the south side of the bridge to accommodate a future pedestrian pathway. New, 6-foot sidewalk on the north side of the bridge.



## Keystone Avenue

All ADA curb ramps are being updated and pedestrian push buttons will be added.



# SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



## Troy, Nelson, Southern & Bradbury Avenues

Broken sidewalk panels will be replaced.



## Raymond Street

All sidewalks within INDOT right-of-way are being replaced. ADA ramps are being evaluated.



## Naomi Street

Sidewalk and curb are being replaced under the Naomi Street overpass. Improvements include leveling inconsistent slopes in the sidewalk.





# SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS



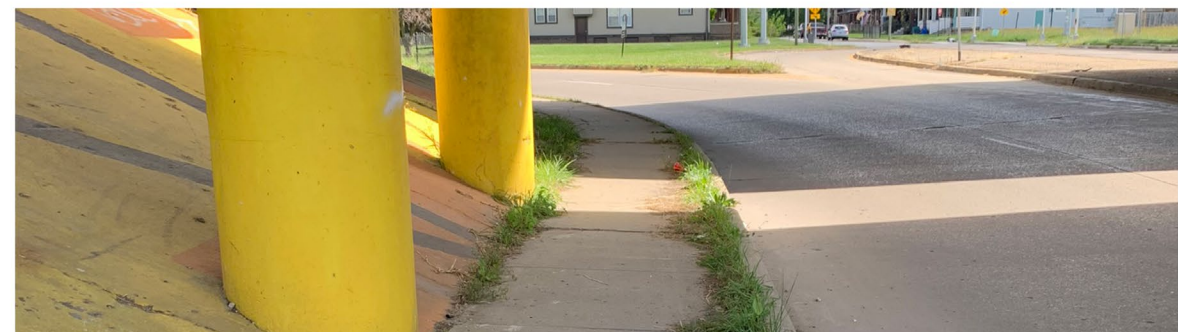
## Pleasant Run

A portion of Pleasant Run Trail will be replaced when the Pleasant Run overpass is widened.



## Shelby Street

Underpass lighting will be updated; sidewalks were recently updated.



## Morris/ Prospect

All sidewalks will be replaced, and ADA ramps will be updated and/or evaluated.



# NOISE STUDY



# NOISE STUDY: HAPPENING NOW



- **Noise analysis** will be completed soon.
- Analysis compares **current** and **expected traffic** volumes and noise levels.
- **Need** for noise abatement measures is based on a high increase of noise levels.
- INDOT's noise policy follows **FHWA policy**.
- Full noise policy posted on **INDOT** and **project** websites.



- **Measures must be reasonable and feasible.**
- Barriers must achieve a 5 dB(A) reduction in noise for majority of impacted receptors
- Abatement measures based on engineering standards.
- Cost effectiveness based on costs divided by number of benefited receptors/must meet cost-benefit analysis.
- Must be wanted by majority of the benefited receptors.

# THE OUTREACH PROCESS

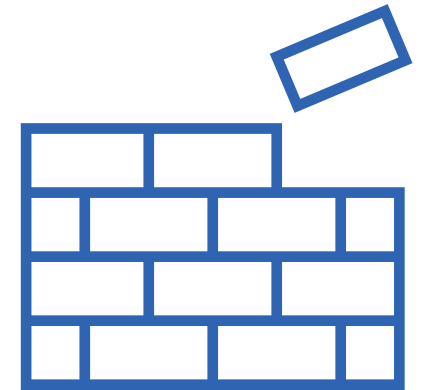


- Outreach to benefited receptors can include mailings, meetings and direct outreach.
- Survey (postcard) will determine desire for noise barrier.
- Both the resident and property owner are surveyed (if they are different).
- Response rate must total more than 50% of benefited receptors and affected property owners.
- Second survey will be sent, if needed.

# THE OUTREACH PROCESS



- Significant impacts are expected along the corridor.
- Outreach to residents and property owners:
  - Community events
  - Community locations
  - Meetings for impacted receptors





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



- Public meeting fliers shared with CAC and EJ members.
- Public meeting fliers placed at 2 dozen community locations.
- Locations include schools, churches, community center and public places.
- **Additional locations to consider?**





- Meeting handouts and comment forms will be placed at area locations (*Tentative List*):
  - Fletcher Place Community Center
  - Garfield Park Conservatory
  - Indianapolis Public Library – Garfield Park Branch
  - Salvation Army (Fountain Square)
  - SENSE Charter School
  - Southeast Community Services
- **Additional locations to consider?**





# NEXT STEPS



# WHAT TO EXPECT



2022-2024: Environmental and final design work

2022

2023

2024

2025



Summer 2023  
Public meeting



Spring 2024  
Public hearing



Spring 2025 Construction  
expected to begin

Early 2025  
Project letting



# WHAT TO EXPECT



- **Environmental analysis** and **design work** are underway.
- Noise analysis is continuing. Outreach to impacted receptors expected **this fall**.
- Draft environmental document expected **spring 2024**.
- **Public hearing** and **formal comment period** will follow.
- Construction is expected to **begin in spring 2025** and **last up to two years**.

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



## Share Your Feedback

- **Complete** form at meeting
- **Upload** scanned copy to [I65SafetyandEfficiency.com](http://I65SafetyandEfficiency.com)
- **Share** feedback on our website

**65 SAFETY & EFFICIENCY** | **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS**  
AUGUST 29 & 30  
Comments associated with these meetings accepted through September 29.

**We want your feedback!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive updates from the Project Team? Circle one.  
Yes | Email Updates    Yes | Text Updates    Yes | Both    No | Neither

What is your interest in the project? Circle all that apply.  
Live in the area    Work in the area    Drive through the area    General interest in the project

How often do you drive this portion of I-65? Circle one.  
Daily    2-3 times/week    Weekly    A few times/month    Rarely

Please share your thoughts regarding the project, planned improvements and corridor needs.

**65 SAFETY & EFFICIENCY PROJECT CORRIDOR MAP**

## Contact Us



[www.INDOT4U.com](http://www.INDOT4U.com)



855-INDOT4U (468-6848)



# FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



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Text **"INDOT I65SandE"** to 468311



Sign up for **email updates** on **website**



**I-65 Safety and Efficiency**



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**SAFETY &  
EFFICIENCY**

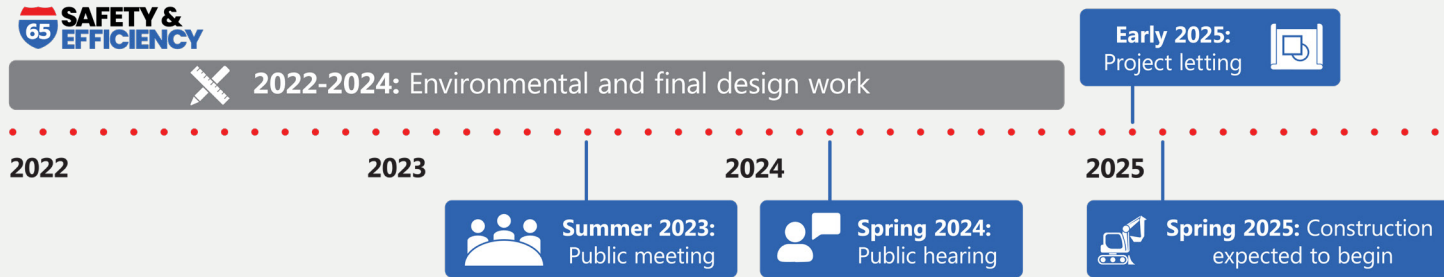
[www.I65SafetyandEfficiency.com](http://www.I65SafetyandEfficiency.com)

# THANK YOU

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## PROJECT TIMELINE



# 65 SAFETY & EFFICIENCY

## Improving I-65 in Southeast Indy Project Update | Summer 2023

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

- I-65 Safety and Efficiency will reduce congestion and improve safety in southeast Indianapolis.
- The nearly 5-mile corridor stretches from north of the I-465 interchange to just north of Fletcher Avenue.
- Construction is expected to begin in spring 2025 and last up to two years.

### ANTICIPATED IMPROVEMENTS

- Added capacity
- Bridge improvements
- Pavement resurfacing
- Drainage improvements
- Sidewalk improvements

### BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

- New, replacement bridge at Hanna Avenue
- Naomi Street, E. Pleasant Run and Morris/Prospect bridges widened
- Wider bridges will accommodate a fourth travel lane
- Morris/Prospect bridge being rehabilitated
  - New deck and beams for the bridge
- Overlay work for 19 bridges in the project area
- Improvements will extend the life of all bridges

### 65 SAFETY & EFFICIENCY PROJECT CORRIDOR MAP



SIDEWALK LOCATION	SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT
	Throughout the Corridor All underpass lighting will be updated.
	Hanna Avenue New replacement bridge will have a shared-use path on the south side of the bridge to accommodate a future pedestrian pathway. New, 6-foot sidewalk on the north side of the bridge.
	Keystone Avenue All ADA curb ramps are being updated and pedestrian push buttons will be added.
	Troy, Nelson, Southern & Bradbury Avenues Broken sidewalk panels will be replaced.
	Raymond Street All sidewalks within INDOT right-of-way are being replaced. ADA ramps are being evaluated.
	Naomi Street Sidewalk and curb are being replaced under the Naomi Street overpass. Improvements include leveling inconsistent slopes in the sidewalk.
	Pleasant Run A portion of Pleasant Run Trail will be replaced when the Pleasant Run overpass is widened.
	Shelby Street Underpass lighting will be updated; sidewalks were recently updated.
	Morris/Prospect All sidewalks will be replaced, and ADA ramps will be updated and/or evaluated.

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

- Project Team identifying needs and developing solutions
- Public feedback considered throughout the project
- Project Team evaluated sidewalks throughout the corridor
- Ongoing coordination with various groups and agencies

### CONTACT US

1-855-INDOT4U (463-6848)

INDOT4U.com

### FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS

I65SafetyandEfficiency.com

Sign up for email updates on our website.

Text "INDOT I65SandE" to 468311 for mobile updates

#### Para Preguntas En Español

Si usted tiene preguntas o comentarios o le gustaria más información sobre este proyecto en Español, contacta al señor Robert Walker, al teléfono 801-553-3347 o correo electrónico robert.walker@parsons.com.

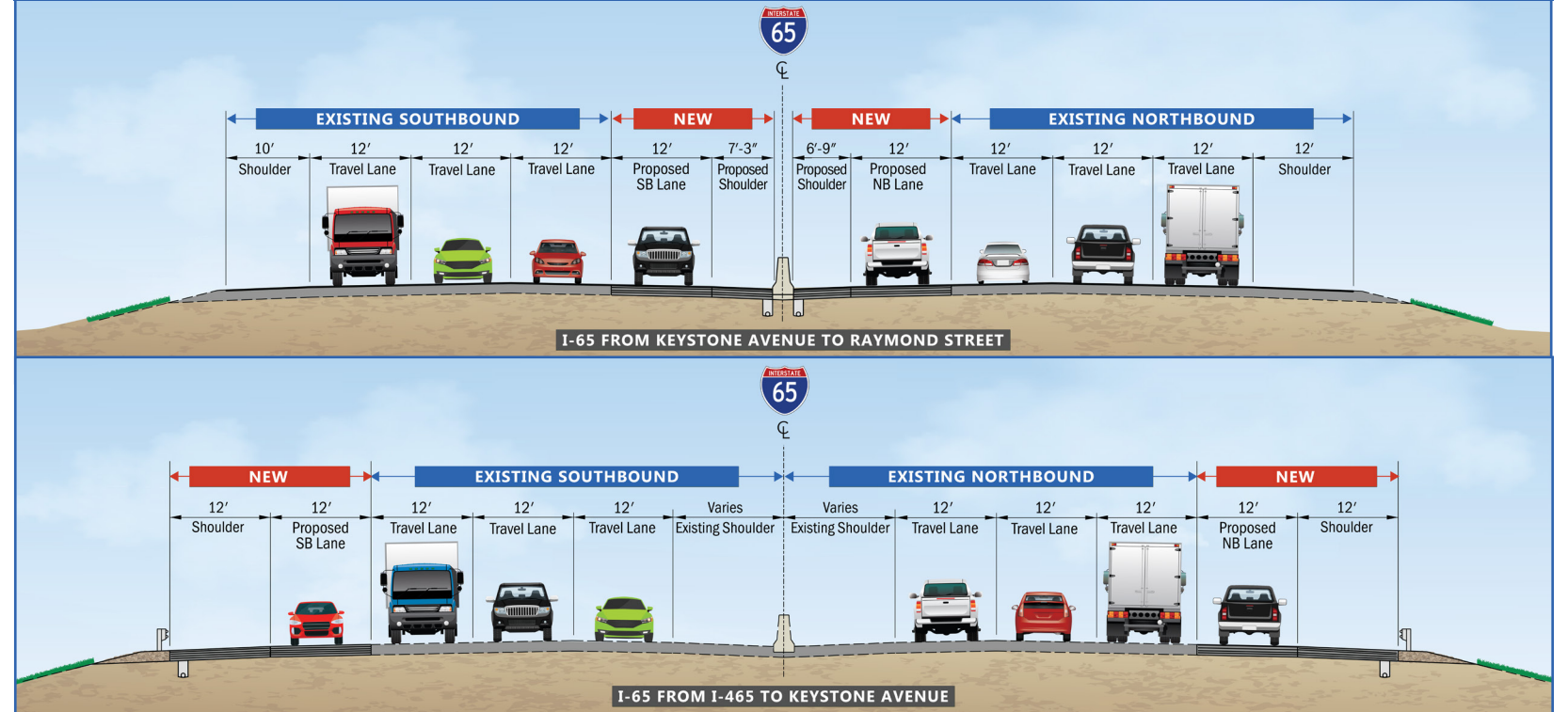


Scan with your phone camera to visit our website.



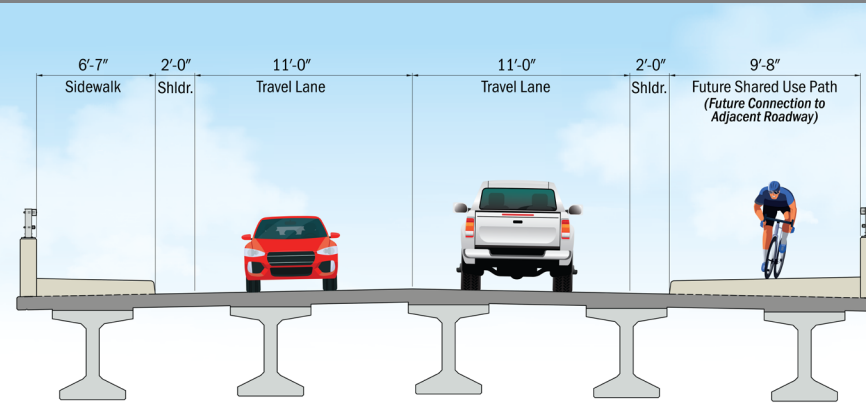


## ADDED CAPACITY



- Added lane in each direction between I-465 and I-70
- When construction is complete, 4 lanes in each direction
- Majority of widening utilizing existing inside shoulder
- Widening to the outside of existing lanes for southern 1/3 of project

## NEW BRIDGE AT HANNA AVENUE



- New, replacement bridge at Hanna Avenue
- Six-foot sidewalk being added on north side of bridge
- A 10-foot shared-use path added on south side of bridge
- Shared-use path to accommodate future pedestrian pathway

## MORRIS/PROSPECT

