



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N642
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (317) 234-5168

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

April 16, 2020

This letter was sent to the listed parties.

RE: Dual Review Project: I-65/I-70 North Split Interchange Reconstruction Project
(Designation (Des.) Numbers (Nos.) 1592385 & 1600808)
IDNR DHPA No. 21534
Section 106 Update Memo #11 and Phase Ia Archaeology Report Addendum #2

Dear Consulting Party,

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes to proceed with the I-65/I-70 North Split Interchange Reconstruction Project (North Split Project) in the City of Indianapolis, Marion County (Des. Nos. 1592385 & 1600808). HNTB Corporation is under contract with INDOT to advance the environmental documentation for the referenced project.

Project Location

The proposed undertaking includes the I-65/I-70 North Split interchange; south along I-65/I-70 to the Washington Street interchange; the portion of I-65 west of the North Split interchange to approximately Alabama Street (to Illinois Street along 11th and 12th Streets); and, the portion of I-70 east of the North Split interchange to approximately the bridge over Valley Avenue (west of the Keystone Avenue/Rural Street interchange) in downtown Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. It is within Center Township, Beech Grove United States Geological Survey (USGS) Topographic Quadrangle, in Section 36, Township 16N, Range 3E; Sections 1 and 12, Township 15N, Range 3E; and Section 31, Township 16N, Range 4E.

Archaeological Resources

In their response letter to Section 106 Update Memo #9, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), asked “In regard to archaeological resources within the additional portions of the proposed project area, as described in the present submission, please provide clarification about whether or not additional archaeological investigations will be conducted in these areas of “existing right-of-way.”” All project modifications described in Section 106 Update Memo #9 will take place in existing right-of-way, previously disturbed by transportation infrastructure construction.

Noise Barrier 3W (NB3W) is proposed along the north side of westbound I-70, from Commerce Avenue to Lewis Street. NB3W is anticipated to be constructed on the existing road slope. However, to provide the design-build team flexibility, additional archaeological investigations were recently completed at the toe of road slope where previously undisturbed soils may be present within the existing right-of-way.

Noise Barrier 3E (NB3E) is proposed along the north side of westbound I-70, from Valley Avenue to Commerce Avenue. NB3E is anticipated to be constructed on the existing road slope. Archaeology survey of the area at the toe of road slope near NB3E occurred previously and is described in the Phase Ia Archaeology Report (June 13, 2019).

Additional archaeology investigation also occurred in the location of a possible Monon Greenway detour/permanent trail southwest of the North Split interchange.

With regards to archaeological resources, an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards identified no sites within the additional survey areas. As a result of these efforts, no sites were recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP and no further work is recommended.

The Phase Ia archaeology report (Tribes only) is available for review in IN SCOPE at <http://erms.indot.in.gov/Section106Documents/> (the Des. No. is the most efficient search term, once in IN SCOPE). You are invited to review these documents and respond with comments on any historic resource impacts incurred as a result of this project so that an environmental report can be completed. We also welcome your related opinions and other input to be considered in the preparation of the environmental document. If you prefer a hard copy of this material, please respond to this email with your request within seven (7) days.

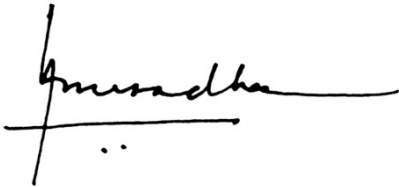
Please review the information and comment within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt.

For questions concerning specific project details, you may contact Kia Gillette of HNTB Corporation at 317-636-4682 or kgillette@hntb.com. All future responses regarding the proposed project should be forwarded to HNTB Corporation at the following address:

Kia Gillette
Environmental Project Manager
HNTB Corporation
111 Monument Circle
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
kgillette@hntb.com

Tribal contacts may contact Shaun Miller at smiller@indot.in.gov or 317-233-6795 or Michelle Allen at FHWA at michelle.allen@dot.gov or 317-226-7344.

Sincerely,



Anuradha V. Kumar, Manager
Cultural Resources Office, Environmental Services

Distribution List:

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