

Minor Projects PA Project Assessment Form

Date: 2/10/16

Project Designation Number: 9786020

Route Number: Wheeling Avenue

Project Description: Added Travel Lanes from Centennial Avenue to McGalliard Road in Muncie

The existing three-lane roadway between Centennial Avenue and West Haines Avenue consists of one 12-foot wide travel lane in each direction separated by a 14-foot wide two way left turn lane (TWL TL). This section of Wheeling Avenue currently has no roadside curbs or sidewalks.

The existing five -lane roadway between West Haines Avenue and McGalliard Road consists of two 10-foot wide through lanes in each direction separated by a 10-foot wide TWL TL. This section of Wheeling Avenue has concrete curbs on both sides of the roadway, which directly abuts 5-foot concrete sidewalks.

The proposed project would consist of full-depth pavement reconstruction, added bike lanes on both sides of the roadway, the addition (or reconstruction) of concrete curbs and gutters on both sides of the roadway, and the addition (or reconstruction) of concrete sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The proposed typical cross section would be one 11-foot wide travel lane in each direction, separated by a 14-foot wide 1WL TL. The vehicular lanes would be bordered on the outside by 5-foot wide paved bike lanes and 5-foot wide concrete sidewalks. The section of Wheeling Avenue north of West Haines Avenue would accommodate a designated bike lane inside the curb and designated sidewalk beyond the curb in each direction. The section south of West Haines Avenue would utilize a shared path for both cyclists and pedestrians. A grass buffer strip, up to 5 feet in width, may be used to separate the roadway from the shared path.

A corridor of approximately 80 feet of city-owned right-of-way (ROW) is present along Wheeling Avenue, distributed evenly on both sides of the roadway centerline (40 feet on either side). No new strip ROW acquisition would be anticipated; however, some permanent ROW acquisition would be necessary for corner cuts at the intersections as well as turn lane improvements around the Centennial Avenue intersection. A total of approximately 0.5 acre of new permanent ROW may be required. Approximately 1.5 acre of temporary ROW is anticipated for private drive reconstruction.

Feature crossed (if applicable): N/A

Township: Center

City/County: Muncie/Delaware County

Information reviewed (please check all that apply):

General project location map USGS map Aerial photograph

Written description of project area General project area photos

Previously completed archaeology reports Interim Report

Previously completed historic property reports

Soil survey data

Bridge inspection information

Other (please specify): SHAARD GIS, Streetview Imagery; Section 106 documentation for Des. No. 9522040; Project Information Letter from Butler, Fairman & Seufert, dated February 2, 2016

Does the project appear to fall under the Minor Projects PA? yes no

If yes, please specify category and number:

B-1: Roadway surface replacement, rehabilitation, resurfacing, or reconstruction, overlays, shoulder treatments, pavement repair, seal coating, pavement grinding, and pavement marking within areas previously disturbed by construction where replacement, repair, or installation of curbs or sidewalks will be required when such activities do not take place adjacent to or within a National Register listed or eligible bridge, property or historic district.

B-3: Construction of turning and auxiliary lanes (e.g., truck climbing, acceleration and deceleration lanes) and shoulder widening in areas previously disturbed by vertical and horizontal construction activities except when adjacent to or within a National Register listed or eligible bridge, property or historic district.

If no, please explain:

Additional comments:

With regard to above-ground resources, an INDOT Cultural Resources architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards as per 36 CFR Part 61 checked the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures (State Register) and National Register of Historic Places (National Register) lists for Delaware County. No listed properties are located near the project area. The nearest listed resource is the Minnetrista Boulevard Historic District, which is located over 0.25 mile south of the southern project terminus.

The "Delaware County Interim Report" (1985; City of Muncie Scattered Sites) of the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (IHSSI) was checked. The National Register & IHSSI information is available in the Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD) and SHAARD GIS and the SHAARD information was checked against the Interim Report hard copy maps. Several IHSSI properties are recorded along the project route in the probable area of potential effects (APE):

035-442-45005, Bungalow, 3017 N. Wheeling Ave., "contributing"
035-442-45008, Mission Style House, 2501 N. Wheeling Ave., "notable"
035-442-45009, English Cottage, 2301 N. Wheeling Ave., "contributing"
035-442-45010, French Cottage, 2304 N. Wheeling Ave., "notable"
035-442-45011, Dutch Colonia Revival House, 1634 N. Wheeling Ave., "contributing"
035-442-45012, Dutch Colonia Revival House, 1630 N. Wheeling Ave., "contributing"
035-442-45013, English Cottage, 1626 N. Wheeling Ave., "contributing"

Generally, properties rated "contributing" do not possess the level of historical or architectural significance necessary to be considered National Register eligible. If they retain material integrity, properties rated "notable" might possess the necessary level of significance after further research.

It should be noted that Section 106 consultation occurred in 2007 for a proposed overlay and widening project on Wheeling Ave. from Riverside Ave. to McGalliard Rd. under Des. No. 9522040. Des. No.

9522040 has been eliminated and was never constructed. All of the above-mentioned IHSSI properties were within the APE for that project, which was a longer project than the currently proposed project. The only property determined to be eligible for the National Register during the consultation for Des. No. 9522040 was the Minnetrista Boulevard Historic District, which was subsequently listed in 2012. As mentioned above, the Minnetrista Boulevard Historic District is not located within the APE for the current project. During the fieldwork for Des. No. 9522040, it was noted that IHSSI Site Nos. 035-442-45011 and 035-442-45012 had been demolished since publication of the Interim Report.

For the current project, a qualified professional historian from Butler, Fairman & Seufert (BFS) visited the project area on January 28, 2016. It was determined that two additional IHSSI properties have been demolished: Site Nos. 035-442-45005 and 035-442-45013. It is the opinion of the BFS historian that none of the remaining IHSSI sites or other properties within the APE are eligible for National Register listing. INDOT-CRO agrees with this assessment based on the information provided, which shows that much of the southernmost and northernmost ends of the corridor are composed of modern commercial development and that the properties at/over 50 years of age have experienced material alterations and/or lack significance.

Based on the available information, as summarized above, no above-ground concerns exist.

With regard to archaeological resources, the proposed project will occur in soils previously disturbed by vertical and horizontal impacts. Soils in the project area are described as Urban land and have been disturbed by parking lots, land grading, sidewalks, curbs, curb ramps, roads, businesses, residential construction, city infrastructure and utilities. Several underground storage tanks, leaking underground storage tanks and state clean-up sites occur within the project area. According to SHAARD GIS, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, there are no archaeological concerns.

If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, construction in the immediate area of the find will be stopped, and the INDOT Cultural Resources Section and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology will be notified immediately.

INDOT Cultural Resources staff reviewer(s): Mary Kennedy and Shaun Miller

****Be sure to attach this form to the National Environmental Policy Act documentation for this project. Also, the NEPA documentation shall reference and include the description of the specific stipulation in the PA that qualifies the project as exempt from further Section 106 review.*