



Wabash Local Trax Railroad Grade Separation

DES# 1801915



Introduction

To address safety and mobility issues, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and City of Wabash are partnering to study, design and construct the Local Trax Railroad Grade Separation project.

Local Trax provides grants to cities, towns and counties to address high-priority railroad and local road intersections. The program's focus is providing grade separation, closing crossings and constructing other safety enhancement projects at rail-highway intersections.

Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility by addressing the adverse effects of the current at-grade crossings. By constructing a bridge to carry the motorists and pedestrians over the railroad, safety is greatly improved by reducing the potential for train, vehicle and pedestrian collisions while simultaneously providing north-south access, reducing delays in emergency response times.

The proposed project area includes East Street from the hill to the south to just north of Maple to the north, and portions of Maple Street.

Project Scope

Six "build" alternatives and one "no build" alternative were analyzed. The engineers report updated in June 2020 determined that constructing the overpass at East Street best met the purpose of the project. The City and INDOT have proposed closing the railroad intersections at Spring, Huntington and Thorne streets once construction is complete. The preliminary preferred alternative currently includes accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians to use the new overpass.

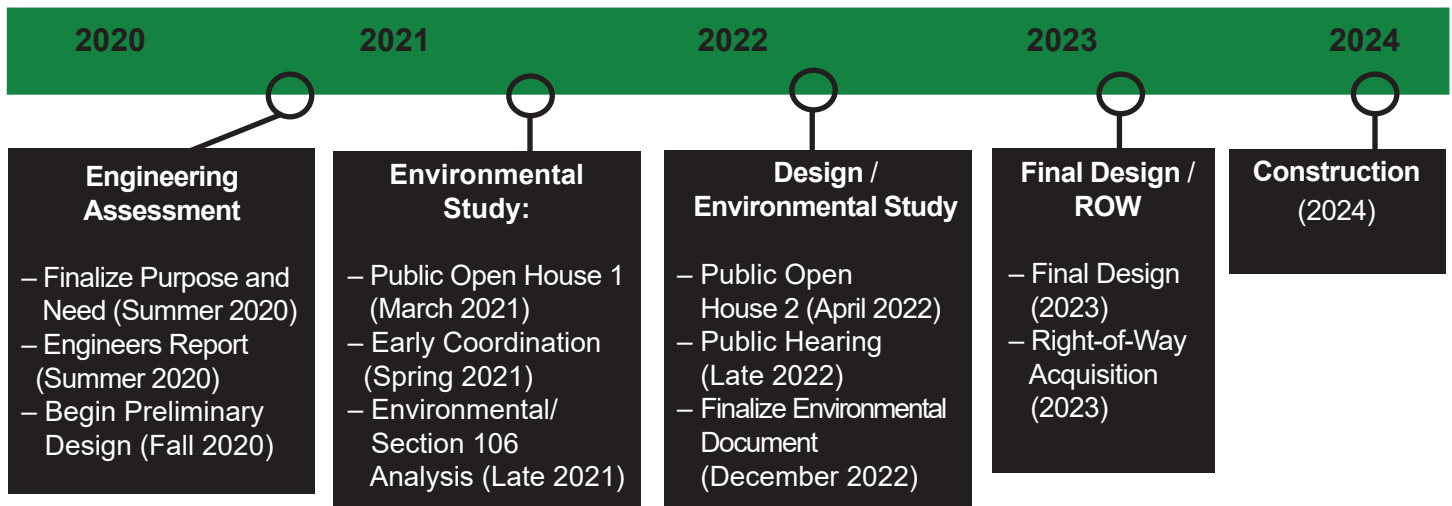
Right-of-way appraising will be finished in last quarter of 2022. Right-of-way offers are scheduled for early 2023. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

The estimated total cost is \$11.1 million, \$9.2 million of which will be paid through the state-funded Local Trax grant and federal funding. The remaining costs will be covered by local funds.

The impacts of this alternative on people and the natural environment will be documented in a Categorical Exclusion - Level 4 (CE-4), as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Current Schedule



Environmental Study

NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. NEPA is broad and includes constructing highways and other publicly-owned facilities. While the overpass at East Street is the preliminary preferred alternative, design will not be finalized until the environmental document has been approved. The CE-4 will document potential impacts to:

- Streams, wetlands and other waters
- Floodplains
- Endangered and threatened species
- Cultural resources (historical and archaeological)
- Parks, trails and recreational lands
- Air quality
- Right of way/relocations
- Noise
- Community impacts
- Low-income and minority populations (Environmental Justice (EJ))
- Hazardous materials

The CE-4 will also document public involvement efforts, permitting needs and how impacts to the items listed above will be mitigated.

Questions or Comments?

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Please mention "Wabash Local Trax Project" in your correspondence.