

Progress on Ind.13/Ind.15 corridor still behind scenes

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Wabash is on the right the path towards making improvements to the Ind. 13/ Ind. 15 corridor on the south side of town.

The Stellar project will cover a stretch of roads extending from the Wabash Street Bridge to Water Street and will be funded by grants from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

The goal is to improve both the aesthetics of this INDOT-owned roadway as well as the roadway itself, according to John Nelson of DLZ Indiana, the contractor handling the project. Nelson noted that the project also focuses on concerns about pedestrian access and drainage along the corridor.

“The roadway is owned and maintained by INDOT, but the City of Wabash has a vested interest in the roadway as well,” Nelson said. “The proposed improvements to the roadway, from the pavement perspective, is going to be largely a mill and resurface project.”

Improvement plans for the corridor’s aesthetics, as stated by Nelson, will include new curbs, drains and sidewalks along the edge of the roadway, as well as an arch that will be installed on the south end of the corridor. The goal is to spruce up that area of the corridor and make it a “gateway” for those entering into the City of Wabash from the south, as described by Deputy Program Manager Rachel Swanson.

“The bridge is the gateway into the town, but it’s not really a ‘Welcome to Wabash’ kind of corridor,” Swanson said. “We are extending more of that environment down to where people actually enter and arrive into town.”

The roadway itself will be improved so that driving through the corridor is quicker and easier.

“The proposed roadway will consist of a single lane northbound and a single lane southbound,” Nelson said. “For almost the entire length of a corridor, there will be a two-way left turn lane in the center of the roadway. It will allow traffic along the corridor to move much more smoothly when a vehicle is waiting to turn left. It will allow people to continue to move northbound and southbound.”

The budget is expected to cost about \$2.7 million, paid through INDOT grants and local tax dollars. But according to Nelson, a final cost for the project has not been determined.

The project will be bid out to contractors around February 2018, according to Nelson. Once a contractor is selected, Nelson said that construction will begin shortly after with work expected to be complete in the fall or early winter of 2018.



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ROADWAY: Plans are in the works to improve the aesthetics and traffic flow along the Ind. 13/Ind. 15 corridor.