



US 30 East

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	4
1.1.	Report Purpose.....	4
1.2.	ProPEL US 30 East Study Corridor.....	4
2.	Methodology.....	5
3.	Existing Conditions Analysis.....	6
3.1.	Socioeconomic Considerations.....	6
3.1.1.	Demographic Characteristics.....	6
3.1.2.	Underserved Communities.....	9
3.1.3.	Community Plan Summaries.....	14
3.1.3.1.	Existing Land Use.....	14
3.1.3.2.	Future land Use.....	17
3.1.3.3.	Agriculture.....	19
3.1.4.	Economy.....	21
3.1.5.	Infrastructure.....	22
3.1.6.	Community Facilities.....	24
3.2.	Natural Resources.....	27
3.2.1.	Wetlands.....	27
3.2.2.	Soils.....	28
3.2.3.	Streams and Groundwater.....	29
3.2.4.	Floodplains.....	31
3.2.5.	Wildlife Habitat.....	31
3.2.6.	Protected Species.....	32
3.2.7.	Cultural Resources.....	33
3.2.8.	Aboveground Resources.....	33
3.2.9.	Archaeological Resources.....	35
3.3.	Section 4(f).....	35
3.3.1.	Potential Section 4(f) Resources: Publicly-Owned Parks, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges.....	35
3.3.2.	Potential Section 4(f) Historic Resources.....	37
3.4.	Section 6(f).....	38
3.4.1.	Methodology.....	38

3.4.2.	Study Area Section 6(f) Resources.....	38
3.5.	Mineral Resources/Petroleum Wells.....	39
3.5.1.	Methodology.....	39
3.5.2.	Study Area Mineral Resources and Petroleum Wells.....	39
3.6.	Air Quality.....	39
3.7.	Noise.....	40
3.8.	Hazardous Materials.....	40
4.	References.....	44

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 1-1. Study Location Map	5
Table 3-1. US 30 East Population Characteristics	7
Table 3-2. US 30 East Population Projections	8
Table 3-3. Population by Age	8
Table 3-4. Educational Attainment	9
Table 3-5. Income	9
Figure 3-1. Regions of Origin for US 30 East Foreign-Born Persons	12
Figure 3-2. Farmland Profile, US 30 Study Area	20
Table 3-6. Employment Profile for US 30 East Counties	21
Table 3-7. US 30 East Community Resources	24
Table 3-8. Housing Types	27
Table 3-9. US 30 East NWI Wetlands	28
Table 3-10. Study Area Muck Soils	29
Table 3-11. Study Area Streams, By Type	30
Table 3-12. Potential Park and Recreation Section 4(f) Resources	36
Table 3-13. Mineral Resources and Petroleum Wells	39
Table 3-14. Identified Hazardous Materials Concerns	41

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Exhibits

- Project Location Map
- Environmental Constraints Map: Community Resources Series
- Environmental Constraints Map: Natural Resources Series
- Soils & Prime Farmlands Map Series
- Topographic Map Series
- US 30 East Existing Land Use Map Series
- US 30 Future Land Use Map Series

Appendix B: Constraints Summary Table

Appendix C: Environmental Justice

Appendix D: Community Resources

Appendix E: Natural Resources

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. REPORT PURPOSE

ProPEL is an Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) initiative for transportation planning that uses collaborative Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) studies to consider environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning process. Through the PEL studies, INDOT aspires to create smarter transportation systems that build stronger communities. PEL studies allow INDOT to better understand community needs and develop alternatives that meet those needs. The PEL studies may ultimately identify a range of alternatives or several project areas that address the identified needs for the corridor. After the PEL studies are completed, INDOT may identify a reasonable range of alternatives for further development.

This Environmental Constraints Report is part of the data collection process for the ProPEL US 30 East study. It will identify known environmental resources (see sidebar) along and near the ProPEL US 30 East study that will be considered during development of the study’s purpose and need statement, as well as the development and screening of potential alternatives.

“Environmental Resources” studied in this report include human, community, socioeconomic, natural, cultural, or other types or resources. Environmental resources exist in community or natural environments.

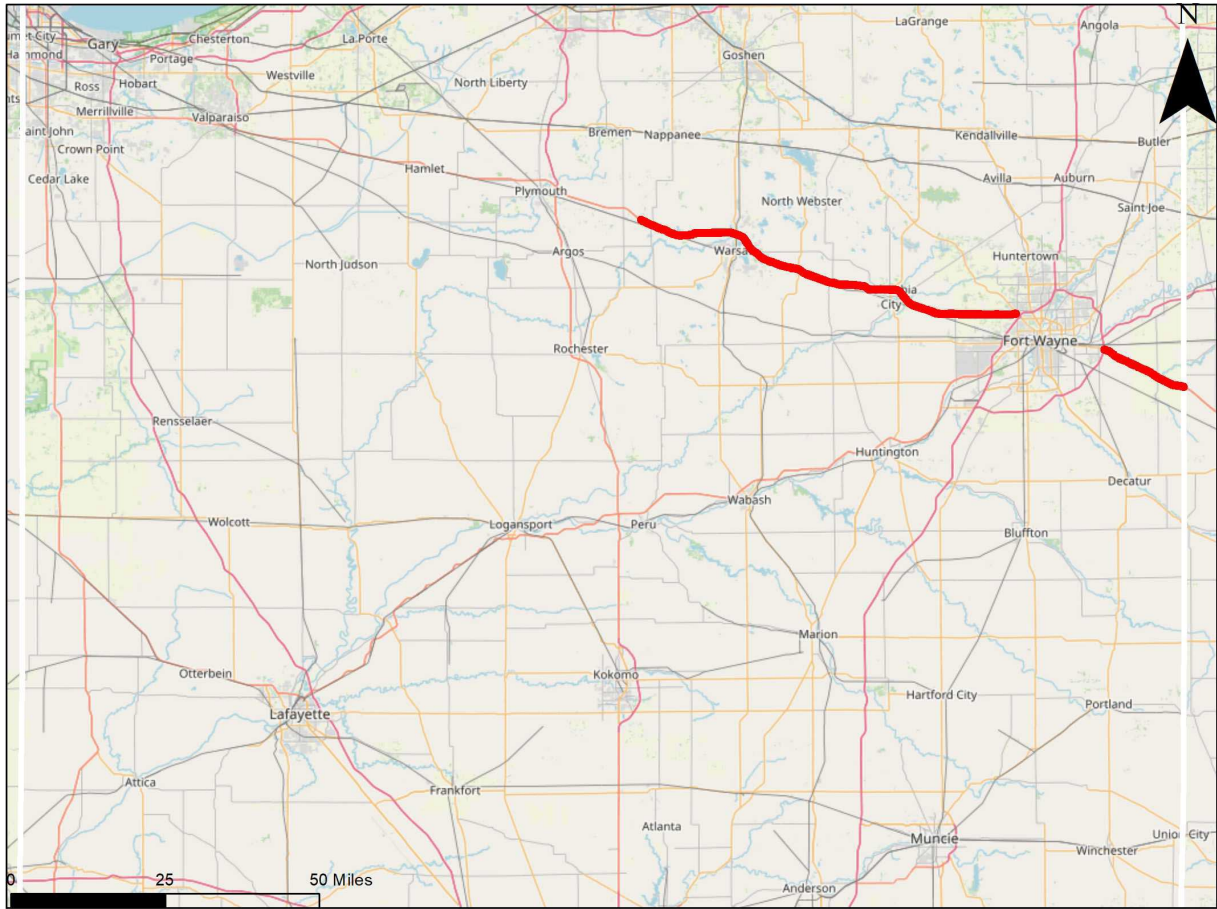
INDOT intends to carry forward the information, analysis, and decisions from the ProPEL US 30 East study into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for any resulting projects. The types of environmental resources documented in this report align with categories evaluated during the NEPA process to establish continuity from the ProPEL US 30 East study into the NEPA process.

Agency, stakeholder, tribal, and public engagement will be collected and included throughout the ProPEL US 30 East study. The Environmental Constraints Report is based on existing information, much of which is publicly available. The ProPEL US 30 East study did not conduct fieldwork, delineations, or surveys for environmental resources, as this level of study is typically conducted during NEPA, as required. Corridor drive-throughs were used for general observations on the study area.

1.2. PROPEL US 30 EAST STUDY CORRIDOR

The ProPEL US 30 East study area is comprised of two US 30 sections, as shown in Figure 1-1 below. The study area is approximately 60 miles from reference post (RP) 78.4 (Beech Rd) to RP 151.9 (State Line Rd). The western section of the ProPEL US 30 East study begins in Marshall County at Beech Road, approximately one mile west of the Kosciusko County line, extends through Kosciusko and Whitley counties, and ends west of Fort Wayne at US 33. The eastern section of the ProPEL US 30 East study begins east of New Haven at Interstate 469/US 24 and ends at the Ohio state line. Much of the city of Fort Wayne is outside the ProPEL US 30 East study area, as I-469 provides a freeway bypass of Fort Wayne. The study area does not include the portion of US 30 that follows I-69/I-469 in the Fort Wayne area.

Figure 1-1. Study Location Map



Specific descriptions of the ProPEL US 30 East corridor’s existing transportation conditions are documented in the Existing Transportation Conditions Report for ProPEL US 30 East.

2. METHODOLOGY

Methodology for each resource is listed by section through this memorandum. Generally, the environmental data are readily available using existing online data sources (local, state, and federal agencies, spatial data, and more), as well as drive-through observational surveys and other readily available data for the ProPEL US 30 East study. Applicable laws and regulations are listed by section.

Environmental resources were identified within a study area defined as a half-mile (from existing centerline) from the ProPEL US 30 East within the study limits noted in Section 1.2. Select environmental resources were studied using a larger study area, including underserved communities (within a study area buffer of five miles) and some socioeconomic metrics are reported at a county, community, or census tract level. Study areas used

are discussed within each resource section. Unless noted, environmental resources discussed in this report will continue to be assessed through the ProPEL US 30 East study.

3. EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

3.1. SOCIOECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

In the context of the ProPEL US 30 East PEL study, the analysis of socioeconomic is concerned with the interaction between social and economic characteristics of populations with the potential to be affected by a proposed action. The primary socioeconomic resources of potential concern in the study area include population characteristics, underserved communities, language, land use, education, employment, income, and homeownership.

3.1.1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

STATS Indiana (www.stats.indiana.edu) and the US Census were used to develop demographic profiles and identify population characteristics of the communities within the study area. STATS Indiana is a public data utility developed by Indiana University and the State of Indiana, and is a leading source of Indiana economic and demographic data. Information presented by STATS Indiana is based on 2020 Decennial US Census data. The demographic analysis conducted for this study identified population, age, education, income, and homeownership statistics for each community.

Table 3-1 displays population characteristics of the study area. The overall population within Indiana and most sections of the study area has increased over the past 30 years, indicating a pattern of long term positive growth. Over this long term timeframe, the state of Indiana population has grown by approximately 22% and the study area counties of Marshall, Kosciusko, Whitley, and Allen have experienced population growth of approximately 9%, 23%, 24%, and 28%, respectively. Since 1990, most townships and cities within the study area have experienced population growth, with rates ranging from 2%-42%. Bourbon Township, Washington Township (Kosciusko County), Pierceton, Etna Green, and Jackson Townships saw a moderate decline in population over this same 30-year timeframe.

In the shorter term, between 2010 and 2020, growth within the study area counties has been more moderate with rates ranging generally between 3% to 8%, although Marshall County saw a decline of 2% over this period. As with the county population, growth within the townships has been more moderate with rates ranging from approximately 1% to 21% over the past ten years. Approximately 26% of the study area communities saw a small decline in population in this short term timeframe; however, of the communities experiencing a decline, most saw growth or steady population rates over the long term.

Table 3-1. US 30 East Population Characteristics

Location	1990	2000	2010	2020	% Change 2010-2020	% Change 1990-2020
State of Indiana	5,544,159	6,080,485	6,483,802	6,785,528	4.65%	22.39%
Marshall County	42,182	45,128	47,051	46,095	(2.03%)	9.28%
Bourbon Township	2,976	2,970	3,152	2,861	(9.23%)	(3.86%)
Town of Bourbon	1,672	1,691	1,810	1,698	(6.19%)	1.56%
Kosciusko County	65,294	74,057	77,358	80,240	3.73%	22.89%
Washington Township	3,128	2,819	2,996	3,025	0.97%	(3.29%)
Wayne Township	22,456	25,262	27,551	29,110	5.66%	29.63%
Town of Pierceton	1,030	695	1,015	928	(8.57%)	(9.90%)
Town of Winona Lake	4,053	3,987	4,908	5,053	2.95%	24.67%
City of Warsaw	10,968	12,415	13,559	15,804	16.56%	44.09%
Plain Township	5,211	7,194	7,698	8,819	14.56%	69.24%
Prairie Township	1,279	1,590	1,651	1,774	7.45%	38.70%
Etna Township	1,290	1,521	1,503	1,500	(0.20%)	16.28%
Town of Etna Green	578	663	586	570	(2.73%)	(1.38%)
Whitley County	27,651	30,707	33,292	34,191	2.70%	23.65%
Richland Township	1,492	1,732	1,758	1,786	1.59%	19.71%
Columbia Township	8,134	9,582	11,047	11,715	6.05%	44.03%
City of Columbia	5,706	7,077	8,750	9,892	13.05%	73.36%
Union Township	1,898	1,941	2,244	2,625	16.98%	38.30%
Allen County	300,836	331,849	355,329	385,410	8.47%	28.11%
Lake Township	1,914	1,985	2,301	2,789	21.21%	45.72%
Washington Township	27,416	33,105	36,092	38,434	6.49%	40.19%
City of Fort Wayne	173,072	205,727	253,691	263,886	4.02%	52.47%
Adams Township	31,023	31,394	31,816	34,192	7.47%	10.22%
City of New Haven	9,320	12,406	14,794	15,583	5.33%	67.20%
Jefferson Township	1,882	1,958	2,109	2,037	(3.41%)	8.24%
Jackson Township	561	498	504	523	3.77%	(6.77%)
Monroe Township	1,969	1,963	1,927	1,960	1.71%	(0.46%)

Source: STATS Indiana

Table 3-2. US 30 East Population Projections

Location	2020	2050	% Change 2020 to 2050
State of Indiana	6,785,528	7,272,579	7.18%
Marshall County	46,108	46,931	1.78%
Kosciusko County	78,988	84,493	6.97%
Whitley County	34,378	34,995	1.79%
Allen County	382,187	433,735	13.49%

Source: STATS Indiana

Table 3-2 displays STATS Indiana population estimates showing continued population growth into the future (2050). STATS Indiana estimates show Allen and Kosciusko Counties growing by 13.5% and 7.0%, respectively, while Marshall and Whitley Counties are each predicted to grow by 1.8% over the subsequent 30 years.

Tables 3-3 through 3-6 provide a summary of community characteristics including age, education, homeownership, and income for the counties within the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

Table 3-3. Population by Age

Age (Years)	Allen		Kosciusko		Marshall		Whitley		Indiana	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
0 to 4	26,476	6.90%	5,040	6.30%	2,896	6.30%	2,150	6.30%	415,542	6.2%
5 to 17	72,041	18.9%	14,183	17.7%	8,709	18.9%	5,734	16.9%	1,176,545	17.4%
18 to 24	34,403	9.00%	7,325	9.10%	3,845	8.30%	2,457	7.20%	658,039	9.7%
25 to 44	100,893	26.4%	19,700	24.6%	10,358	22.5%	8,105	23.8%	1,722,385	25.5%
45 to 64	92,445	24.2%	20,562	25.6%	12,249	26.5%	9,498	27.9%	1,721,282	25.6%
65+	55,581	14.60%	13,341	16.60%	8,118	17.60%	6,104	17.90%	1,057,547	15.7%
Median Age	36.1		38.8		39.7		41.9		37.9	

Source: US Census Bureau. 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

Marshall, Kosciusko, Whitley, and Allen Counties have a combined population of 542,213 people, with a median age of 39.1. Approximately 50% of the population is aged 25-64. Additionally, 25% of the population is under 18, while those aged 65 and over account for 15%. The remaining 9% of the population is college aged (18-24).

Table 3-4. Educational Attainment

	Allen County	Marshall County	Kosciusko County	Whitley County	Indiana
Adults 25+ with High School diploma or higher	90.1%	85.5%	87.7%	92.1%	89.3%
Adults 25+ with two-year degree or higher	19.5%	12.5%	15.4%	16.2%	17.3%
Adults 25+ with four-year degree or higher	29.9%	20.5%	24.3%	23.1%	27.2%

Source: US Census Bureau. 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

The majority of the population (89%) has achieved a high school diploma or equivalent. Additionally, 25% of the population has obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 16% of the population has obtained an associate degree.

Table 3-5. Income

	Allen County	Marshall County	Kosciusko County	Whitley County	Indiana
Per Capita Personal Income (2018)	\$32,079	\$28,746	\$32,250	\$33,649	\$32,537
Median Household Income (2018)	\$61,456	\$58,296	\$66,764	\$67,716	\$60,794

Source: US Census Bureau. 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

The combined median household income for Marshall, Kosciusko, Whitley, and Allen Counties is \$63,558 with a per capita income of \$32,537.

3.1.2. UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Environmental Constraints Report identifies Environmental Justice (EJ) communities per *Executive Order (EO) 12898* and INDOT Environmental Justice policy. It also evaluates the study area for additional underserved communities that INDOT typically identifies in transportation studies, such as foreign-born people, non-English speakers, those without an automobile at home, and those without internet at home. Justice40’s mapping tools were used to identify additional underserved communities as well. Finally, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Resource Locator was reviewed to identify areas with federally funded housing stock for low-income people.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations and INDOT Environmental Justice policy were used as a basis for the EJ assessment. The EO directs federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. *EO 12898* has since been supplemented by *EO 14096 (Revitalizing our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations)*, which defines EJ as the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

(i) are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and

(ii) have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

USDOT Order Number 5610.2(c), issued in 2021 to direct the department’s environmental justice work, issues the following definitions:

- Low-income persons are defined as those whose household income is below the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) poverty guidelines.
- Minority persons include citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States who are African American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian-American, American Indian, or Native Alaskan. USDOT Order 5610.2(c) provides the following definitions for minority populations:
 - Black: a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
 - Hispanic or Latino: a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race
 - Asian American: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent
 - American Indian and Alaskan Native: a person having origins in any of the original people of North America, South America (including Central America), and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition; or
 - Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands

Transportation Is for Everyone

[Environmental justice](#) (EJ) is the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies” (*EO 12898*).

This PEL study identifies EJ communities and includes meaningful and thorough outreach with these communities.

The ProPEL US 30 East study area for EJ communities includes all areas within five miles of the US 30 East centerline. In accordance with *EO 12898*, INDOT provides further guidance for an EJ analysis in the context of NEPA. A census tract (CT) or other geography can be considered an EJ community if its low-income or minority community represent more than 50% of the overall CT’s population, or 125% of the same population for a Community of Comparison (COC). INDOT provides flexibility as to how to define a COC for a particular area. For ProPEL US 30 East, the COC is the combined population of every county represented in the study area: Allen, Kosciusko, Marshall, and Whitley. This includes communities within Fort Wayne. Although a portion of western Ohio is within the study area, CTs there were not included in the COC. US Census Bureau ACS 2021 5-year estimates were used in this analysis.

Underserved Communities

According to *EO 13985 (Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government)*, the term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native

American persons; Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. For ProPEL US 30 East, underserved communities include the EJ communities discussed above, as well as communities meeting four other criteria:

- Limited-English households: This will help identify areas where non-English outreach materials may be warranted.
- Households with foreign-born occupants: This will guide areas where non-English materials may be needed, in consideration of the occupants’ region of origin.
- Zero-vehicle households: This serves as a potential indicator of socioeconomic status and a proxy for potential Amish populations that would benefit from non-electronic public engagement methods.
- No-internet households: An indicator of socioeconomic status and potential Amish populations.

The methodology for identifying underserved communities aligns with the EJ methodology for INDOT. As discussed above, INDOT classifies a community as an EJ community if the “population is more than 50% minority or low-income or if the percentage of low-income population or minority population in the AC [affected community] is 125% of the percentage of low-income or minority population in the COC [community of comparison].” This practice was replicated for each of the criteria. For the purposes of this analysis, the AC is the census tract, and the COC is the combined population of the four affected counties of Allen, Kosciusko, Marshall, and Whitley. A combined population of these four counties as a COC reflects that this is a collective region that will be impacted by the improvements.

Disadvantaged Communities

In addition to the EO and INDOT methodology to identify underserved communities, two of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)’s Justice40 resources were explored to identify disadvantage communities (DACs). Justice40 was directed by *EO 14008* to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. In support of *EO 14008*, USDOT has published screening tools to identify such communities. One is its Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP) and Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC) mapping tool. The other is its Climate and Economic Justice (CEJ) screening tool. The APP/HDC tool identifies communities that have faced poverty for 30 years prior to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (November 15, 2021), and those who are considered disadvantaged in four of six criteria: transportation access, health, economic, equity, resilience, and environmental. The CEJ screening tool identifies CTs that face high pollution burden and are historically underserved. It does so by establishing eight criteria, and exploring CT-level federal data from sources such as the US Census, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the First Street Foundation, and the Department of Energy to evaluate which CTs are considered disadvantaged. The eight criteria considered by the CEJ screening tool are climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, water and wastewater, and workforce development. For the purposes of this analysis, any CTs within five miles of the study corridor that were identified as an APP or an HDC, or which met at least one of the CEJ screening tool’s threshold criteria, is considered a DAC.

Disadvantaged Communities

Per [*EO 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*](#), Justice40 is interested in ensuring that Federal investments flow to **disadvantaged communities (DACs)**: those communities that are “historically marginalized and overburdened.” DACs are identified at the Census Tract level, and may be classified as such based on a number of criteria including pollution burden, poverty, and access to opportunity.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Resource Locator

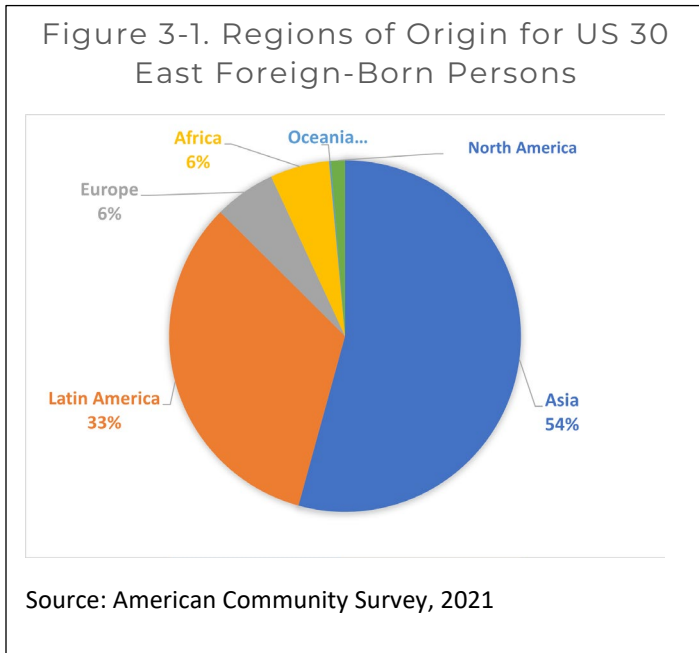
The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Resource Locator was reviewed to identify the following types of resources within five miles of US 30 East:

- Multifamily Assisted Properties, which include properties that receive HUD project-based assistance through its Section 8 rental assistance program; Section 202 Housing for Low-income Elderly; or Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities programs
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Properties
- Public Housing Buildings
- Public Housing Developments
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Housing, which includes housing that was developed through a loan or grant from the USDA’s Rural Housing Service.

Identified Underserved Communities, DACs, and HUD Resources

Of the 115 CTs within the study area, eighty-two (82) are identified as underserved communities. Many CTs in Fort Wayne demonstrate disproportionately high rates of multiple or all of the six criteria. CTs in Marshall and Kosciusko Counties identified as underserved communities have disproportionately high rates of no-vehicle households. CTs with elevated percentages of no-internet households are present in every county throughout the five-mile buffer. Refer to Appendix C for a list of CTs and results of EJ analysis, as well as a map of underserved communities. Per Justice40’s screening tools, 43 of 113 CTs in the ProPEL US 30 East study area are identified as a DAC. Note that the CTs were classified by Justice40 status prior to 2020 redistricting. As a result, these tools show 113 total CTs in the five-mile buffer, two fewer than the 2021 5-year ACS estimates show; CTs 504 (Whitley County) and 9621 (Kosciusko County) have since been divided into two CTs (504.01 and 504.02, and 9621.01 and 9621.02, respectively). Most DACs are concentrated around Fort Wayne— including every CT meeting at least one criterion on the CEJ screening tool. The APP/HDC tool flags some communities in Kosciusko County as well. A list of DACs, and a map of these communities, are included in Appendix C.

Within the ProPEL US 30 East study area, foreign-born and limited-English populations are located in and around Fort Wayne as well as Warsaw. ACS 5-year 2021 estimates were used to identify regions of origin for foreign-born people in the study area. The majority of study area foreign-born persons are from Asia (see sidebar graphic, Figure 3-1), and another one-third are from Latin America. Exploring these data further, a 2018 report by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County (using data analysis from the American Immigration Council) indicates that the top five countries of origin for immigrants in Northeast Indiana are Mexico (28.9%), Myanmar (10.7%), India (5.2%), Guatemala (5.1%), and China (4.6%).



Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne provides refugee resettlement services, as well as medical screenings, job placement services, housing, and other needs. They relayed to the ProPEL US 30 East study team (June 2023) that there are thousands of refugees in the Fort Wayne area presently, largely from Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia. Many refugees live in Fort Wayne’s southern neighborhoods, and many are receiving jobs well beyond the limits of Fort Wayne, frequently using US 30 for travel. Maple Leaf Farms (headquartered

in Leesburg, IN, north of Warsaw) Miller Poultry (headquartered in Orland, IN with various locations), and Sweetwater Sound on the US 30 corridor in Fort Wayne were cited as among the largest employers of refugees. Catholic Charities states that transportation is a hurdle for these refugees, who typically do not have access to their own personal vehicles or driver's licenses until they have a job in place. Citilink, the public transportation service for Fort Wayne and Allen County, does not provide frequent service, with only one bus circulating on each route per hour. Community Transportation Network (CTN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency offering on-demand individual and group rides in Fort Wayne and Allen County, assists with transportation, but securing a ride can be difficult as well because a ride request requires a form be filled out, a task that often rests with Catholic Charities.

Primary languages spoken among the limited-English populations identified in the ProPEL US 30 study area include Spanish (52%), Asian and Pacific Islander languages (30.4%), and other Indo-European languages (13.5%). These languages are likely related to the noted foreign-born persons from Mexico, Myanmar, India, Guatemala, and China living in the study area.

The sizable number of Latin American descendants among foreign-born individuals and Spanish speakers can be attributed in large part to Mexican immigrants. In addition to notable percentages of people of Indian and Chinese descent, the presence of Asian immigrants and Asian and Pacific Islander languages is due in part to the large number of Burmese people in the region, estimated to be about 20,000 today.

In addition to the underserved community characteristics of foreign-born and limited-english described here, sections of the study area in Marshall and Kosciusko Counties have elevated percentages of zero-car and no-internet households. Another area identified with high percentages of no-internet households is in western Whitley County. Continuing eastward and approaching Fort Wayne from Whitley County, many CTs meet most and occasionally all the EJ criteria discussed above.

Two Justice40 tools were used for the analysis: the CEJ screening tool, to identify any communities that meet at least one criteria threshold for which they are disadvantaged, and the HDC/APP screening tool developed by USDOT to identify any CTs recognized as historically disadvantaged or in persistent poverty. All communities identified by the CEJ screening tool are located in Greater Fort Wayne (see Appendix C). There are 34 such communities, reaching or exceeding between 1 and 4 thresholds. The threshold criteria and number of CTs that exceed them are as follows:

- Health: 26 CTs
- Legacy pollution: 26 CTs
- Workforce development: 23 CTs
- Housing: 20 CTs
- Energy: 2 CTs
- Traffic: 1 CT
- Water and wastewater: 1 CT
- Climate change: 0 CTs

The APP/HDC identifies thirty-two (32) APPs and twenty-three (23) HDCs. Eighteen CTs are designated as both. As with the CEJ screening tool, a concentration of these communities is located in and around Fort Wayne; however, the tool identifies two HDCs in Kosciusko County, as well as an APP in Warsaw. Each of the 34 DACs is also classified as a community with EJ concerns.

The following HUD resources were identified within a five-mile buffer of US 30 East:

- Multifamily Assisted Properties: 24
- LIHTC Properties: 54

- Public Housing Buildings: 109
- Public Housing Developments: 5
- USDA Rural Housing: 11

Public housing buildings and developments within the study area are all located in Greater Fort Wayne. Rural housing is scattered throughout, with one each in Marshall and Allen counties, four in Kosciusko County, and five in Marshall County. Multifamily Assisted Properties are concentrated largely in Greater Fort Wayne, with a few locations in Kosciusko, Marshall, and Whitley counties. In addition to Fort Wayne, LIHTC properties are concentrated in the cities of Warsaw and Columbia. HUD resources located in the ProPEL US 30 East study corridor are shown in the Community Resources Map (Appendix A).

There are 32 individual manufactured home communities (MHC) within five miles of the existing US 30 East corridor. Fifteen (15) MHC are in Fort Wayne, 11 in Warsaw, 3 in Columbia City, 1 in Pierceton, 1 in Monroeville, and 1 in Etna Green.

The ProPEL US 30 East study team will continue to engage with identified communities with EJ concerns or other underserved communities through the public engagement process. This engagement is important for the ProPEL US 30 East study to understand the needs of specific communities or populations in relation to US 30 East, and to assess each PEL alternative's effects to underserved communities.

3.1.3. COMMUNITY PLAN SUMMARIES

3.1.3.1. EXISTING LAND USE

Marshall County

The study area includes a one-mile section of Marshall County jurisdiction from Beech Road to the Marshall/Kosciusko County line. The area is largely rural and primarily used for agriculture. There is some existing single family residential located on the north side of the Old US 30/ E. Lincoln Highway and 12B Road. A commercial node exists at the southeast corner of S. Beech Road and Old US 30/E. Lincoln Highway and at the northwest corner of US 30 and S. Beech Road.

Kosciusko County

The dominant current land use of Kosciusko County is agriculture, especially along US 30. There are three communities including Etna Green, Warsaw, and Pierceton. Much of the development has occurred along "Old Road 30/Lincoln Highway," signed as State Street in Etna Green, Lake Street and Center Street in Warsaw, and Market Street in Pierceton. Interspersed in that agriculture are single family homes that sit on land subdivided off of the agricultural tracts for family members of the farmers. Throughout the ½ mile study area in the county, there are some industrial and commercial properties that occur at intersections. In addition to agriculture, the existing development pattern outside city limits in Kosciusko County are as follows:

- Residential at N 875 west and south of W Old Road 30 (east of Etna Green)
- Commercial (building materials store, home based business, storage facility) south of US 30 from 800 W to approximately N 750 W (east of Etna Green)
- Subdivision north of US 30 from 800 W to 700 W (east of Etna Green)
- Subdivision south of US 30 from N 700 W (east of Etna Green)
- Commercial (gas station) at N 650 W (east of Etna Green)
- Commercial/Service (Superior Landscape Products, Tractor Supply, Why Pay Retail, American Outdoor BBQ) and industrial (furniture factory outlet, Lake City Car and Truck, Granite Shop, Lake City Cycle) development from the eastern boundary of the City of Warsaw east to S 450 E along the northern side of US 30 (east of Warsaw)

- Church at intersection of US 30 and S 450 E (east of Warsaw)
- Residential subdivision south of US 30 at E. Van Ness Road (east of Warsaw)
- Residential subdivision north of US 30 at a private road, west of S 900 E (east of Warsaw)
- Commercial (Maverick Motorcycle) just on the south side of US 30 and just west of S 900 E (east of Warsaw)
- Service (Phillips Tree Service) at the southeast corner of US 30 and S 900 E (east of Warsaw)

Etna Green

The primary land use within the city limits of Etna Green is single family residential. Most of Etna Green is located south of US 30, with the development pattern in that area as follows:

- Residential at the intersection of US 30 and State Road 19
- East of Etna Green, along US 30 includes Gulf Stream manufacturing, Kitchens to Go by Mobile Modular Manufacturing, and Winona Power Coating Manufacturing

Warsaw

The City of Warsaw has a mix of existing land uses. The primary land use within the community is single family residential, but the predominant land use along the US 30 corridor is commercial. The City of Warsaw has many existing orthopedic device manufacturing companies, including the large orthopedic companies of DePuy Synthes and Zimmer Biomet. US 30 through the western side of Warsaw includes industrial uses. Land use along the corridor through Warsaw includes:

- Service & Industrial area (American Concrete Pumping, Hall Automotive, Indiana Department of Transportation, Explorer Van Company, Pak A Sak Convenience Store) at the intersection with N Fox Farm Road in western Warsaw.
- Industrial area north of US 30, from west of N 200 W to east of Silveus Crossing. Uses include a variety of manufacturing companies including: Medtronic Inc. Premier Concepts, Ivy Tech Community College Warsaw, Medartis Inc. US Headquarters, OMCO-Warsaw, Banner Medical, Frontline Manufacturing, and vacant land for industrial development.
- Industrial area south of US 30, from west of N 150 W to Executive Boulevard. Uses include a variety of manufacturing companies including GreenMark Equipment, King Cabinets, Danco Anodizing, Standard Electric Supply Co, Circle M Spring, and vacant land for industrial development. A mining extraction facility (G&G Hauling Excavating) and Warsaw Waste Water Treatment Plant are both located south of this industrial area
- Commercial development at the Detroit Street interchange with US 30, including chain big box stores, chain fast food, sit down restaurants, service stores like Smith Tires and Babsco Supply, Goodwill, a gym, commercial door retail, automotive repair, and storage
- Industrial and Service area north of US 30, east of Detroit Street, including such companies as Zimmer Biomet, Torrent Engineering & Equipment, Touloukian Supply Plumbing Supply Store, Indiana Vac Form, Warsaw Schools Bus Garage, and Triple Medical Supply Store.
- Commercial and Service area with fast food restaurants, sit down restaurants, gas stations, medical offices, gyms, social service offices, grocery stores, big box retailers, and offices are along the US 30 corridor through eastern Warsaw.

Pierceton

Pierceton has a mix of existing land uses overall, but the primary land use is residential. Along the US 30 study corridor, the land use mix is primarily industrial, followed by residential and commercial (gas stations, fast food) uses.

- Industrial (Gills Manufacturing, OMCO, Aludyne) uses are in western Pierceton, at the intersection of Arnolt Drive and US 30
- Vacant parcel located at the southwest corner of US 30 and Tulip Drive
- Retail (gas station, fast food, discount store) at the intersection of US 30 and Main Street/S State Road 13
- Industrial Subdivision (Diesel Power & Machine, Paragon Medical, Suncoast Trailer) located on the north side of US 30 at Matchette Industrial Park Road
- Residential subdivision located on the south side of US 30 from Main Street/S. State Road 13 to E Mill Street
- Commercial/service (fast food, sit down restaurant, auto repair, P&P Engineering) development along US 30 from E 250 S / E Mill Street to Pierceton's eastern jurisdictional boundary

Whitley County

The US 30 East study corridor through Whitley County is primarily agricultural with some established single-family residential. Larwill and Columbia City are the Whitley County cities within the study area. There are commercial and industrial areas that have developed along US 30 in Whitley County, outside of the cities, as follows:

- Commercial (antique store) at US 30 and N Binkley Road (west of Larwill)
- Commercial (auto body shop) at US 30 and N 650 W (east of Larwill)
- Commercial (storage, car sales), Industrial (Jaxon Industries), and Institutional (church) at US 30 and N 400 W (west of Columbia City)
- Industrial (Five Star Distributing, Qualitex, 80/20, Wright Medical, Restoration Medical Polymers, Pyrotek, Breyden Products, Warner Electric Sites Medical, Ultra Maritime, Northeastern REMC, 3E Industries & Woodland Water) north of US 30 from S 400 E to S 500 E (east of Columbia City)
- Institutional (church) and residential south of US 30 at S 500 E (east of Columbia City)
- Industrial (Columbia City Plastic, Triad Metals International, Landmaster UTV, Impact CNC, Essex Furukaw, Chroma Source, Lear Corporation) at US 30 and S 600 E (east of Columbia City)
- Industrial (Steel Dynamics) south of US 30 from west of County Road S 700 E to W County Line Road/ S 800 E

Columbia City

- Residential and institutional (church) at US 30 and W. Lincolnway
- Commercial (fast food, medical office, hotel, gas station, big box retail, bank) north of US 30 from W. Lincolnway to Denzil Drive
- Vacant land along the south side of US 30 from W Lincolnway to the Take 5 Oil Change
- Commercial (fast food, auto repair, gas station, hotel, coffee shop, video store) begins at the Take 5 Oil Change and continues east on the south side of US 30 to W Columbia Parkway
- Residential extends east along US 30 from W Columbia Parkway to Blue River Road
- Recreation located east of Blue River Road
- Residential subdivision located on the northeast corner of US 30 and Old Trail Road
- Commercial (automotive) at US 30 and E Van Buren Street
- Institutional (Parkview Whitley Hospital) located on the southwest corner of US 30 and E Van Buren Street
- Industrial (PDQ Tooling, Fort Wayne Metals, WA Jones, All Pro Towing, Baron & Joseph Manufacturing Services, Starlight Instruments, Triad Metals) and commercial (Sailrite Fabric Store) on the south side of US 30 from E 100 S to E Business 30
- Commercial (Eel River Veterinary Clinic, Automotive shop, driving range, recreation) and industrial (Reelcraft Industries, Viking) at US 30 and E 100 S
- Residential subdivision at US 30 and S 300 E

Allen County

Allen County is a more urbanized county compared to the other three counties in the study area. Its two main communities of Fort Wayne and New Haven are not included in the US 30 East study area, but they affect land development along roadways in the study area. The land uses in the study corridor, outside Fort Wayne and New Haven, are a mixture of agricultural and single-family homes. As US 30 enters the western edge of Fort Wayne, the land use transitions to commercial and industrial. East of New Haven, there is a commercial node in the study area, then the land use transitions to single family homes and agricultural use until the eastern study terminus. Some land use development patterns to note in Allen County, outside of urbanized areas, include:

- Commercial (restaurant, travel plaza) node at US 30 and W County Line Road
- Industrial (Amazon warehouse) uses at US 30 and Flaugh Road
- Residential subdivision, Events Center (Sweetwater Sound) and Industrial (Synergy Radiology, Partstown, CRST Specialized Transportation, Motorcycle Rider Training, Allied Van Lines) at US 30 and Kroemer Road
- The US 30 interchange with US 33 and the US 30 interchange with I-69 on the east side of Fort Wayne has typical development pressures, with a resulting mix of industrial, commercial, service, residential, and recreation (golf course) development.

3.1.3.2. FUTURE LAND USE

Marshall County, Indiana

- **2013 Marshall County Comprehensive Plan:** The future land use plan for Marshall County shows the future land use for Marshall County in the study area as agriculture.

Kosciusko County, Indiana

- **Kosciusko County-wide/Comprehensive Plan 2022-2042:** The western portion of Kosciusko County along US 30 is designated as agricultural in the 2022 Forward Kosciusko County Comprehensive Plan, with the south side of Hoffman Lake classified as suburban residential and commercial (large scale retail and office). This area is intended to attract offices, restaurants, a range of commercial and retail uses, and multi-family residential. The County-wide Comprehensive Plan anticipates most of its new growth to occur within industrial parks along US 30. This growth includes industrial uses, commercial development, learning centers, and medical facilities. Highway repair and maintenance, interchange improvements, and frontage road installations are key parts of the county's infrastructure plan.

The City of Warsaw has many existing orthopedic device manufacturing companies, including the large orthopedic companies of DePuy Synthes and Zimmer Biomet. East of the City of Warsaw, there are mixed land use classifications around US 30 including commercial, industrial, and residential suburban. This area is identified for residential growth and extends into Kosciusko County. Over the last decade, Warsaw has experienced new residential growth outside of, or adjacent to city boundaries, including large lot and rural residential lots.

Winona Lake Along US 30 and east of Winona Lake is predominately classified as agricultural, with areas of residential suburban. In Pierceton, commercial land use is planned for the west side of the town and residential suburban planned on the east side of Pierceton, with remaining areas adjacent to US 30 planned as agricultural.

- **City of Warsaw Comprehensive Plan 2015-2035:** West of Warsaw, there is a large area on the north and south sides of US 30 planned for industrial use. The Plan states the location of this site was chosen due to its high visibility, access to US 30, future opportunities for high-tech and manufacturing uses, and the need to accommodate freight movement through the county to the rest of the country.

These industrial areas are intended to contain a mix of low- and medium-density industrial buildings and industrial yards with large surface parking for cars and trucks. All planned traffic improvements must be wide enough to accommodate large-scale agricultural and mechanical vehicular movements to support multifaceted industries.

- **Etna Green Comprehensive Plan 2022-2047:** The plan indicates that Etna Green will be primarily impacted by recommendations to the SR 19 and US 30 interchange that is located along the Town’s northern boundary. The comprehensive plan emphasizes growth and development opportunities as a unique advantage of US 30. This area should be used to attract industrial land uses who need access to the highway. Furthermore, the importance of US 30 to Etna Green is highlighted due to the high volume of traffic passing through Etna Green along US 30, with an average of over 10,000 daily travelers. The northwest side of the intersection of US 30 and SR 19 is planned to be agriculture and commercial. The northeast side of the intersection is planned to be commercial, industrial and agricultural. The southwest side of the interchange is proposed to be agriculture and urban neighborhood/residential and the southeast side of the US 30 and SR 19 interchange is planned to be urban neighborhood/industrial, residential subdivision, and commercial.
- **Town of Pierceton Comprehensive Plan 2022-2047:** The Pierceton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map shows commercial development at the northwest and northeast intersection of SR 13/First Street and US 30. Also on the northeast quadrant behind the commercial is proposed to be additional industrial and office development. The southwest quadrant of US 30 and SR 13/First Street contains a combination of neighborhood residential closest to the interchange, commercial, park space, then some industrial about a mile from the interchange.

Whitley County, Indiana

- **Whitley County Comprehensive Plan 2022-2042:** The future land use map adopted for Whitley County (2022 Whitley County Comprehensive Plan) was used to identify future land uses for the county. Areas west of the town of Larwill are classified as existing Traditional Neighborhood and Employment Centers. East of Larwill is planned for the Suburban Living and Lake Village land use classifications with potential for increasing residential density outside of the city limits. The established neighborhoods of this area were historically fishing or summer resorts with closely spaced cottages on narrowly accessed roads.

Most of Whitley County along US 30 East, between urbanized areas, is classified as Mixed Rural. These areas are primarily agricultural, inclusive of established single-family residential, and will experience residential growth pressure from nearby urbanized areas. The character in this area is expected to continue to be recognizably rural throughout the timeframe of the Form Whitley County Comprehensive Plan, but over time, farms may be further blended with rural low-density residential development.

Outside of Columbia City, the comprehensive plan classifies the ProPEL US 30 East study area towards the Whitley/Allen County line as employment centers, with a mix of traditional neighborhoods in Coesse. The Plan states that this section of US 30 East is intended to attract large employers like light-industrial, commercial, and office uses typically located in a conventional “business park” setting. Buildings should be oriented to the street and include supporting uses like housing with plazas, pocket parks, restaurants, and employee amenities services.

- **Columbia City Comprehensive Plan 2015: 2035:** The 2015 Comprehensive Plan for Columbia City designates the north side of US 30 as a commercial center serving regional markets and mixed rural

developments. To attract anchor tenants, whose main buildings are typically “big-box” style architecture providing regional shopping and employment opportunities for the City of Columbia and countywide, the Plan calls for the existing development patterns and policies to evolve to raise design quality, improve connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods, and become more walkable with sidewalks, shorter blocks, buildings near streets and shared parking.

Allen County, Indiana

- **All In Allen County Comprehensive Plan: 2023-2043:** The 2023 All In Allen County Comprehensive Plan includes the following excerpts reflecting future land use priorities along US 30:
 - Felger Road and Flaugh Road along US 30: This area has been designated as a potential economic development growth area and potential adjacent growth area. Its specific land use is designated “economic development transitional area,” which is an extension of the Cook Road (Northwest) Industrial area with access to Interstate 69 at both Lima Road and the US 30 Highway Interchange. The designation of an economic development transitional area means that due to a variety of site characteristics, the area has the potential to transform from rural agricultural or rural residential to production center, business and office park. An interchange is proposed at Flaugh Road as part of a separate project.
 - The south side of US 30 from O’Day Road to Flaugh Road: This section of US 30 is designated as “future complete neighborhood” area, where residents have access to a variety of amenities within a 15-minute walk. Residential use in this area could include a higher density development pattern with mixed use buildings and focused points of professional office and personal services, local serving commercial areas at intersections surrounded by attached and detached single family residential, duplex, multiple-family, and other residential “missing middle” (small multi-unit residential) types.
 - US 30 east of New Haven to the state line: All of the land has been designated as rural or agricultural area.
 - A small portion of US 30 (east of Interstate 469 between US 24 and US 30) is noted in the New Haven Comprehensive Plan for industrial uses. Primary industries targeted for this area include heavy industrial, warehousing, open storage, and distribution.

3.1.3.3. AGRICULTURE

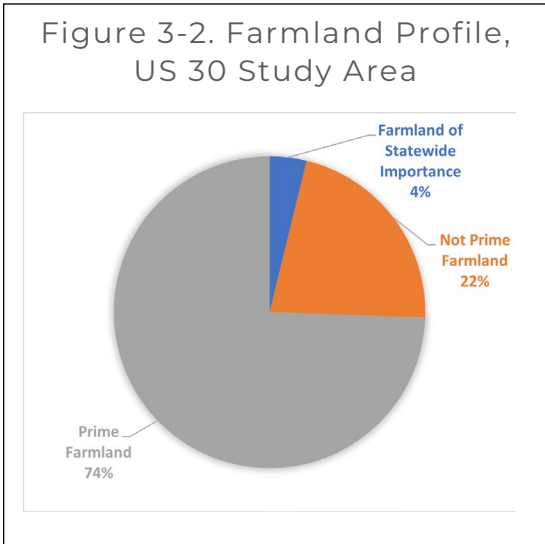
Methodology

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)’s Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) was reviewed to identify the general agricultural suitability of land within a half-mile of the center line of existing US 30 (ProPEL US 30 East study area), including Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines Prime Farmland as “land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses” (7 U.S.C. § 4201©(1)). Farmland of Statewide Importance, hereafter referred to as “Important Farmland,” is determined by the appropriate state agency as farmland “for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops.”

Agricultural Profile of Study Area

Data from the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) were reviewed for each of the four counties within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. A majority of agricultural land in these counties is dedicated to soybean and corn production. Soybean production represents the largest share of cropland for Allen and Whitley Counties with corn in second place. For Kosciusko and Marshall Counties, corn represents the highest share of cropland and soybeans second. Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas dominate agricultural sales in these counties. NASS information for the counties in the study area is provided in Appendix D.

As discussed in Section 3.2.2 Soils, much of the soil in the study area is classified as muck. Muck soils are the product of former wetlands, swamps, and marshes where organic matter decomposes very slowly. While considerable investment and skill are required to produce crops on muck soils, once drained they are highly suitable for specialty crops such as carrots, onions, radishes, lettuces, potatoes, and mint.



Prime and Important Farmland

Per SSURGO, approximately 74% of the land within five miles of US 30 in the study area is considered to be Prime Farmland. About 4% of the land is considered to be Farmland of Statewide Importance, while about 22% is not Prime or Important Farmland (Figure 3-2). The soils map in Appendix A shows a heavy concentration of Prime and Important Farmland in the small Marshall County portion of the study area in the west, as well as in Allen County, to the east. While there is Prime and Important Farmland in Kosciusko and Whitley counties, these counties have the largest concentration of land in the study area that are not considered farmland.

Coordination with USDA/NRCS for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur

during NEPA, using the NRCS-CPA-106 form.

Centennial Farms

The Hoosier Homestead Award Program honors Indiana’s agricultural heritage by recognizing families with farms owned by the same family for 100 years or more. The Hoosier Homestead program is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, and has been active since 1976. During this time, more than 5,800 Indiana farms have received a Hoosier Homestead Award. The awards include:

- Centennial Award: 100 years of ownership in the same family
- Sesquicentennial Award: 150 years of ownership in the same family
- Bicentennial Award: 200 years of ownership in the same family

Hoosier Homestead Award winners are available by name and by county. Per the Indiana Department of Agricultural, individual awards by address are not available at this time. The study area counties were characterized by the number of awards received. The four ProPEL US 30 East study counties have received a total of 366 awards since 1976. Ninety-one percent (91%) of the awards were Centennial Awards only (114 in Allen County, 90 in Kosciusko County, 66 in Whitley County, and 62 in Marshall County), and 9% of the study area awards were Sesquicentennial Awards (17 in Allen County, 6 in Kosciusko County, 6 in Marshall County, and 5 in Whitley County). No Bicentennial Awards were granted in the study area. Allen County received the highest number of awards among the study area counties, and Marshall County received the lowest. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of statewide Hoosier Homestead Awards were Centennial Awards, 10% were Sesquicentennial Awards, and 1% were Bicentennial Awards, following a similar distribution to awards in the study area counties.

Alternatives development and screening will consider the age of adjacent or impacted farmsteads, seeking to avoid impacts to family farms eligible for or holding Hoosier Homestead Awards.

3.1.4. ECONOMY

The Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana represents the private business interests of eleven counties in Northeast Indiana. In addition to promoting an environment for businesses to get the resources and regulatory environment they need to succeed, the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana creates regional economic profiles for public use. These regional profiles provide valuable insight into each county’s economy. For the purposes of the ProPEL US 30 East Study, the profiles for Allen, Whitley, Kosciusko, and Marshall have been combined. The following is a regional profile overview of the four counties along the US 30 East study area.

Table 3-6. Employment Profile for US 30 East Counties

US 30 East Employment Profile		
Total Jobs	419,538	
Average Earnings per Job	\$58,928	
Private Employment	380,657	90%
Accommodation, Food Service	28,463	7%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	7,033	2%
Construction	24,501	6%
Health Care, Social Services	50,285	12%
Information	3,369	1%
Manufacturing	53,500	13%
Professional, Technical	16,237	4%
Retail Trade	49,060	12%
Transportation, Warehousing	31,322	7%
Wholesale Trade	17,075	4%
Other Private	61,518	15%
Government Employment	34,544	8%
Farm Proprietors	4,337	1%

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2021

Major industries within the region include manufacturing, retail, and health care.

Fort Wayne is the second largest city in Indiana and serves as the economic hub of northeast Indiana. Per the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership (NEI), more than \$1 billion in investment has occurred in downtown Fort Wayne over the last ten years. Fort Wayne is home to several insurance companies and to Purdue University Fort Wayne, Indiana Tech, and Ivy Tech Community College. *All In Allen County* identifies GM, BF Goodrich, Lutheran Health Network, Sweetwater, Frontier Communications, and Lincoln Life as top employers in the city and county.

Warsaw is the second largest city in the study area and is known as the Orthopedic Capital of the World®. Per NEI, nearly one-third of the \$38 billion global orthopedic industry is headquartered in the County. Kosciusko County is also a leading agribusiness hub. Per the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO), the county is home to the world's largest bio-diesel plant, world's leading producer of chicken eggs and duck, and ranked 4th in Indiana for total value of agriculture products sold. Major employers in Kosciusko County include Zimmer Biomet, Depuy Synthes, Polywood, and Maple Leaf Farms.

The largest industries within Whitley County include manufacturing, health care and social services, retail trade, and education. The Whitley County Economic Development Corp (WCEDC) identified Lear Corporation, Ultra Electronics-USSI, C & A Tool Engineering Inc, 80/20 Inc, Whitley County Consolidated Schools, and Steel Dynamics as the top employers in the county.

The Marshall County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) notes that almost one hundred different manufacturing companies are located in the county, including six international operations and over a dozen corporate headquarters. The largest industries are manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and retail trade. Major employers include Southwire Company, Nishikawa Cooper LLC, Walmart Supercenter, Aker Plastics Co Inc, Ancilla Domini Sisters Inc, and Universal Bearings Inc.

A wide variety of businesses exist within the four counties in the ProPEL US 30 East study area. Several grocery stores, general stores, and fast-food restaurants are located along US 30 at major intersections with north-south arterial roads. Within the more urbanized areas in Columbia City, Warsaw, and New Haven, transportation supportive uses such as automotive parts stores, car washes, and gas stations exist in higher quantities along with banks, hotels, and other restaurants.

3.1.5. INFRASTRUCTURE

Please refer to the Environmental Constraints Map series in Appendix A for locations of infrastructure discussed in this section.

Airports

Warsaw Municipal Airport is located approximately 0.25 miles north of the US 30/SR 15 interchange. The airport is owned by the City of Warsaw. The airport consists of a 5,000-foot north/south runway (RWY 18/36) and a 6,000-foot east/west runway (RWY 9/27). The airfield facilities include a fixed-based operator (FBO), hangars, tarmac tie-down area, and Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS). In 2019, the Federal Aviation Administration awarded the city a \$6.3 million supplemental grant for phase one of the Warsaw Airport runway extension. Phase one includes the lowering of the electrical powerlines to the east of Runway 9/27 which is within the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

Smith Field Airport is located approximately two miles northeast of the US 30/US 33 interchange near Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) is located approximately 15 miles south of US 30 and can be accessed indirectly from US 30 via I-69 to Airport Expressway.

See the Environmental Constraints Mapping in Appendix A for airport locations in the study area.

Railroads

There are no at-grade railroad crossings of US 30 within the study area. The Norfolk Southern Railroad extends from north to south through Kosciusko County within the study area. The railroad travels through the City of Warsaw and crosses US 30 east of the US 30/SR 15 interchange. The railroad crossing is grade-separated from US 30 via a bridge over the railroad.

The Chicago, Fort Wayne & Eastern Railroad extends from northwest to southeast through Marshall, Kosciusko, Whitley, and western Allen counties within the study area. A rail yard and spur, associated with

Steel Dynamic, Inc. is located adjacent to US 30 east of Columbia City. From the study's western terminus to Columbia City, portions of the railroad are within the study area parallel with US 30, and comes within half a mile of the US 30 East study area in and near Atwood, Winona Lake, Pierceton, and Larwill. The railroad does not have a crossing with US 30 within the study area.

The Norfolk Southern railroad lies approximately 0.5 miles north of the I-469/US 30 interchange near New Haven. The railroad travels parallel with Dawkins Road and has a rail yard at Dawkins and Berthaud Road, but does not have a crossing with US 30 within the study area.

Utilities

Utilities within the study area include fiber optic, electric, sewer, water, gas, telephone, cable TV, and communications. See the *Existing Transportation Conditions Report* for a complete list of utility owners and see the Environmental Constraints Mapping in Appendix A for the locations of utilities in the study area. Several high voltage powerlines and associated transmission towers cross US 30. The crossings are located:

- West of CR 900 E with transmission towers 100 and 300 feet from US 30
- Between CR 650 W and CR 500W with transmission towers 520 and 540 feet from US 30
- West of CR 350 W with transmission towers 150 and 775 feet from US 30
- West of Stahlhut Road with transmission towers 70 and 640 feet from US 30

An electrical substation is located 40 feet south of US 30 east of Van Ness Road near Wooster. Additionally, several utility lines and poles are located at the US 30/CR 600E intersection and a utility line extends along the south side of US 30 from Warsaw to Business 30.

In Allen County, an electrical substation is located approximately 600 feet northeast of US 30 on Martin Road. An associated high voltage powerline and transmission towers cross US 30 between Martin Road and Sampson Road. The transmission towers are approximately 150 feet from US 30. A second high voltage powerline crosses US 30 east of Giard Road, with transmission towers 120 and 260 feet from US 30.

Electric utility owners within the ProPEL US 30 East study area include Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Town of Etna Green, Kosciusko REMC, Columbia City Municipal Utility, Northeastern REMC, Paulding-Putnam REMC, and Indiana Michigan Power Company.

Several Northern Indiana Public Service Company pipelines are located within the study area. Pipelines are located:

- West of CR 150 W (two pipelines)
- East of Detroit Street (Warsaw)
- West of CR 250 E
- East of CR 250 E
- West of Line Street (Columbia City)
- West of CR 600 E
- West of US 33, south of Washington Center Road and east of Hatfield Road
- West of State Line Road

3.1.6. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Northeast Indiana and the US 30 East communities boast a wide array of community facilities frequented by local community members and visitors alike. To identify community facilities in the study area, the study team conducted spatial analysis using ArcGIS Pro and ESRI Community Analyst within a half-mile of the existing US 30 corridor. These community resources located within the study area are described in further detail in the following sections and are shown on the Environmental Constraints Mapping in Appendix A.

Community Centers, Libraries, and Post Offices

There are two public libraries along the corridor, one in Columbia City, Whitley County (Peabody Public Library) and one in Pierceton, Kosciusko County (Pierceton Public Library). There are no community centers within the study area.

There are four United States Postal Service offices located in Pierceton, Larwill, Atwood, and Etna Green.

Government Offices

There are twelve government offices located within the study area. This includes three State of Indiana offices (INDOT Maintenance Unit fueling station in Warsaw, Indiana DNR District 2 Law Enforcement Office in Columbia City, and an Indiana DNR Fish and Wildlife Office in Columbia City), three Whitley County offices (County of Whitley Extension office in Columbia City, Whitley County Sewer, and Whitley County Corrections), two in Kosciusko County (County Child Protection and Animal Shelter), two in the Town of Pierceton (Street Dept. and Town Hall), and two water treatment plants (one in Larwill and one in Warsaw).

Medical Services

Medical services in the ProPEL US 30 East study area include dental offices, hospitals, pharmacies, outpatient doctor offices, and sports medicine centers. As discussed in the Economic section above, the City of Warsaw has emerged as a hub for the medical manufacturing industry. Of the 103 “medical services” (medical providers) in the study area, 63 are within the Warsaw City limits. There are three hospitals within the study area: Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City, as well as Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital and Parkview Kosciusko Hospital in Warsaw. There are also several nursing home/assisted living facilities/retirement homes within the study area, including Millers at Oak Pointe (Columbia City), Lake City Place (Warsaw), Grace Village (Warsaw), and Cedar Creek of Warsaw (Warsaw).

Parks and Recreation

Public parks and recreational facilities in the ProPEL US 30 East study area are documented in Section 3.4 (Section 4(f)), and in the Environmental Constraints Map (Appendix A). Several public waters or lakes are adjacent to the US 30 East PEL study corridor, including Little Pike Lake (Warsaw), Pike Lake (Warsaw), and Winona Lake (Warsaw).

Community Facilities Considered

- Schools/Education
- Emergency Services
- Community Centers
- Parks and Recreation
- Businesses
- Housing
- Post Offices
- Libraries
- Landmarks
- Gathering Spaces
- Government Facilities
- Social Services
- Religious Services
- Medical Services

Table 3-7. US 30 East Community Resources

Title	Title
Businesses	395
Community Centers, Libraries, and Post Offices	6
Government Offices	12
Medical Services	103
Parks and Recreation Services	17
Religious Services	10
Schools	8
Social Services	7
Total	550

Source: ESRI Community Analyst and Data Axle, 2022

US 30 East provides regional access to public recreational areas, such as the following sample of public recreational areas that are located beyond the PEL study area but within ten (10) miles of the study corridor:

- Allen County:
 - Cedarville Reservoir (Cedarville)
 - Fox Island County Park and Nature Preserve (Fort Wayne)
 - Lake Everett (Churubusco)
 - Schoaff Lake (Fort Wayne)
 - Soloman Farm Park (Fort Wayne)
- Whitley County:
 - Blue Lake and Campground (Blue Lake)
 - Goose Lake and Resort (Columbia City)
 - Loon Lake (Seward)
 - Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Round Lake, Shriner Lake (Tri-Lakes area)
 - Troy Cedar Lake (Lorane)
- Kosciusko County:
 - Big Barbee Upper Chain of Lakes (Pierceton)
 - Big Chapman Lake/Little Chapman Lake (Warsaw)
 - Center Lake (Warsaw)
 - James Lake and Tippecanoe Lake (Tippecanoe)
 - Ridinger Lake and campgrounds (Pierceton)

Places of Worship

There are 8 places of worship located within the study area:

- Hope Lutheran Church, 2001 S 500 E, Coesse (Whitley County)
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 3085 S Lincoln St, Coesse (Whitley County)
- New Hope Wesleyan Church, 971 N 400 W, Columbia City (Whitley County)
- Larwill Wesleyan Church, 114 N Center St, Larwill (Whitley County)
- Pierceton United Methodist Church, 502 N First St, Pierceton (Kosciusko County)
- First Baptist Church-Pierceton, 208 West Market St, Pierceton (Kosciusko County)
- St Francis Xavier Parish, 408 W Catholic St, Pierceton (Kosciusko County)
- Christian Health Fellowship, 220 Parker St, Warsaw (Kosciusko County)

Schools

There are 10 schools located in the study area within Columbia City, Whitley County (3), Warsaw, Kosciusko County (5), Winona Lake, Kosciusko County (1), and Fort Wayne, Allen County (1).

- Coesse Elementary School, S 500 E, Columbia City (Whitley County; public school)
- Brightpoint Headstart, S Governors Dr, Columbia City (Whitley County)
- Faith Christian Academy, E State Road 205, Columbia City (Whitley County; private school)
- Harrison Elementary School, Husky Trail, Warsaw (Kosciusko County; public school)
- Ivy Tech Community College, Silveus Crossing, Warsaw (Kosciusko County; public school)
- Lakeland Christian Academy, S 250 E, Winona Lake (Kosciusko County; private school)
- Monarch Christian Academy, S 325 E, Warsaw (Kosciusko County; private school)
- Suburban Bethlehem School, W California Rd, Fort Wayne (Allen County; private school)
- Trinity School of Natural Health, Parker St, Warsaw (Kosciusko County; private school)
- Warsaw Kindercare, Capital Dr, Warsaw (Kosciusko County)

The schools in the study area include preschools, public, private, college facilities and are listed below. The study area is also served by the Northeast Indiana Colleges and Universities network, which includes Grace College, Huntington University, Indiana Tech, Indiana University (Fort Wayne) Indiana Wesleyan University, Ivy Tech Community College, Manchester University, Purdue University (Fort Wayne), Trine University, and University of Saint Francis (NE Indiana Regional Partnership, 2022).

Social Services

There are seven social services locations located within the ProPEL US 30 East study area, with seven in Warsaw and one in Columbia City. These social services include homeless shelters, a medical and dental clinic focused on supporting low-income persons, women, infants, and children's services. Many of the social service providers along US 30 are located in Warsaw, clustered around Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital at Parker Street.

- Beaman Home Shelter, Provident Dr, Warsaw
- BABE of Whitley County, N Line St, Columbia City
- Combined Community Services, Mariners Dr, Warsaw
- Health Services Pavilion, Community Action Northeast Indiana/Medication & Dental Assistance, Provident Dr, Warsaw
- United Way-Kosciusko Co, Lake City Hwy, Warsaw
- WIC Program Women Infants-Children, Provident Dr, Warsaw
- Combined Community Services, Mariners Drive, Warsaw Housing

According to estimates from ACS (2021)¹, there is a population of 18,346 persons living in 8,684 housing units within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. This population accounts for only 3.7% of the total population within Allen, Kosciusko, and Whitley Counties; the primary counties within which the study area is located (the small segment in Marshall County was not considered in this housing study). A few relevant housing trends are evident in a review of this census data (US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey Five-Year Summaries).

- The housing stock in the ProPEL US 30 East study area contains a smaller percentage of pre-war housing (built in 1939 or earlier) when compared to the state and study area counties. Approximately half (49.3%) of all housing units within the study area were built between 1970 and 2000. The median age of these housing units is 40-years old (built in 1983).
- Two-thirds of people that own homes in the study area have lived there for at least 9 years. One-third of residents have moved into their housing unit (either as a renter or owner) within the past 9 years.
- The median home value within the study area counties is \$155,875. This value is slightly higher to that of the state.
- There are seven manufactured home communities (MHC) within a half-mile of US 30 East between Etna Green and Columbia City (see Community Resources Map in Appendix A). Four of the seven MHC are within a half-mile of US 30 East are located in Warsaw, with one each in Etna Green, Pierceton, and Columbia City.

¹ [6 2020 ACS Housing Summary - Summary Key Metrics.xlsx](#)

Table 3-8. Housing Types

	Allen County		Marshall County		Kosciusko County		Whitley County		Indiana
Owner Occupied	103,849	69.3%	12,763	75.7%	23,486	75.7%	11,344	82.7%	69.9%
Median Value	\$149,000		\$150,200		\$160,500		\$163,800		\$148,900
Renter Occupied	45,902	30.7%	4,102	24.3%	7,526	24.3%	2,381	17.3%	27.4%
Average Household Size	2.51		2.54		2.69		2.45		2.50
Median Rent	\$840		\$833		\$852		\$799		\$844

Source: US Census Bureau. 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates.

The majority of the study area population (76%) lives in owner-occupied units at a median value of \$155,875. Twenty four percent (24%) of the population rents their homes at a median rent of \$831. There are 19 HUD subsidized properties within the study area, as identified on the HUD Resource Locator as discussed in Section 3.1.2 (see Community Resources Map in Appendix A).

Housing statistics for the study area counties, including but not limited to age of structures, ownership, and median home values can be found in Appendix D.

3.2. NATURAL RESOURCES

The natural environment comprises all living and non-living things that occur naturally. The environmental resources studied within this study area includes streams, soils, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and floodplains. These resources are often resources that have separate regulatory drivers, such as the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act. The resource identification provided in this study should be considered preliminary. Further natural resources studies and surveys will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

Unless otherwise noted, all natural resources were identified within a half-mile of the existing US 30 corridor.

3.2.1. WETLANDS

Wetlands are areas in the landscape that contain standing water or have water at or near the soil surface for part or all of the year. Categorically different from both dry land (upland) and deep water of lakes and streams, wetlands often occur in the transitional zones between these features. Wetlands support an array of plants (hydrophytic) and animals which are uniquely adapted to life in saturated or flooded conditions. Wetlands can be classified by their connection to surface water conveyances such as streams and rivers, by their dominant vegetation type, or by their hydrologic regime such as depth, duration, and frequency of water.

A **Freshwater Emergent Wetland** is one that usually has saturated soil or standing water less than one foot deep and dominated by herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation.

A **Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland** is one that has saturated soil or standing water less than one foot deep and is dominated by trees or shrubs.

A **Freshwater Pond** is one that has a surface water such as a lake or pond, which is a body of water typically more than one foot deep for the majority of the year and does not support widespread herbaceous or woody vegetation.

A **Lake** is a large body of water surrounded by land.

NWI Wetlands: The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) was established by the USFWS to conduct a nationwide inventory of US wetlands to aid in conservation efforts. The NWI wetland classification system and mapping techniques were developed from this need. There are approximately 3,048 acres of NWI mapped wetlands in the study area. These can be broken down into the categories shown in Table 3-8, with associated totals estimated within the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

Additional information about wetland limits, plants, connectivity, and quality will be available through field delineation for any resulting project areas will be generated during NEPA.

Wetland Mitigation Sites: Coordination with INDOT Environmental and Waterway Permitting Office (EWPO) occurred to record the wetland mitigation sites that may be within the study area; however, none were identified.

Table 3-9. US 30 East NWI Wetlands

Wetland Type	Acres in Study Area
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	942
Freshwater Forested /Shrub Wetland	1,588
Freshwater Pond	312
Lake	206
Total Wetlands	3,048

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory

NWI wetlands in the ProPEL US 30 East study area are shown in the Environmental Constraints Map series (Appendix A).

3.2.2. SOILS

The United States Web Soil Survey (WSS) was used to identify peat and muck soils within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. This study area is located outside of the designated Indiana Karst Region as outlined in INDOT’s current Protection of Karst Features during Project Development and Construction. While no peat-type soils were identified, a list of muck-type soils were present. Muck soils can indicate the presence of existing or former wetlands and they are unsuitable for building roads, buildings, or other infrastructure. Muck soils in the study area are identified in Table 3-9 and mapping in Appendix A. In total, there are 2,204 acres of muck soil, accounting for 5.5% of the 40,057-acre study area.

Table 3-10. Study Area Muck Soils

Type	Description	Acres
AdwAD	Adrian muck, drained, disintegration moraine, 0 to 1% slopes	36
Ca	Houghton muck, drained, 0 to 1% slopes	113
EchAN	Edwards muck, drained, 0 to 1% slopes	20
Ed	Edwards muck, drained	46
Gm	Gilford mucky sandy loam, gravelly substratum, 0 to 2% slopes	164
HpjmA	Houghton muck, disintegration moraine, 0 to 2% slopes	522
Ht	Houghton muck, drained	267
HtbAN	Houghton muck, drained 0 to 1% slopes	50
Hx	Houghton muck, drained	387
Md	Martisco muck, drained	2
Mz	Muskego muck, clay loam substratum, drained	62
Pa	Palms muck, sandy substratum, undrained	93
Pb	Palms muck, sandy substratum, drained	267
Pc	Pewamo mucky silty clay loam	17
Rn	Rensselaer mucky silty clay loam	65
Sf	Sebewa mucky loam	78
Wu	Willette muck	15
Total		2,204 ac

Source: US Department of Agriculture, National Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey

3.2.3. STREAMS AND GROUNDWATER

The EPA’s Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) was referenced for the study area. The ProPEL US 30 Study area covers portions of Marshall, Whitley, Kosciusko, and Allen Counties, and is outside of the designated St. Joseph Sole Source Aquifer, the only legally designated sole source aquifer in the state of Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s Wellhead Proximity Determinator website was referenced for the study area (IDEM, 2022). The study area is within Source Water Areas and Wellhead Protection Areas. Coordination with IDEM will be required to ensure compliance with the Wellhead Protection Program and/or the Source Water Assessment Program for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

The InDNR (Indiana Department of Natural Resources) Water Well Record Database was referenced for the study area. A number of wells and extraction points are within the study area. Coordination for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA to minimize and mitigate any impacts to these resources.

Any potential impacts to public water systems will be minimized and mitigated for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA with applicable regulating agencies.

The Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) is a numbering system for watersheds developed by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The 8-digit HUC is used in Indiana to identify sub-regions that drain to major river systems. The ProPEL US 30 East study area crosses six 8-digit HUC watersheds; three which drain south and west to the Ohio River: 05120106 Tippecanoe River, 05120104 Eel River, 05120101 Upper Wabash, and three which drain east and north to western Lake Erie: 04100004 St Mary’s River, 04100005 Maumee River, and 04100007 Auglaize River. Within these sub-basins, hundreds of smaller streams are present that convey water across the landscape.

Rivers and Streams: The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) layer provided by the USGS was reviewed for the presence of rivers and streams within the study area. This data is derived from high-resolution mapping at 1:24,000 scale. There are 188 river and stream segments identified within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. Many of these segments cross US 30 or run parallel to US 30 for long stretches. Within this study area, one stream, Tippecanoe River, is listed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) that is designated for outstandingly remarkable natural or cultural values, considered to be regionally significant, and qualifies for classification as a State Natural and Scenic River segment. Other streams of note that can be found in the study area are Blue River, Eel River, Deeds Creek and Seegar Ditch. A full list of streams can be found in the Natural Resources appendix (Appendix E) and the Environmental Constraints Map series (Appendix A).

Table 3-11. Study Area Streams, By Type

Type	Stream Length in Study Area (Linear Feet)
Artificial Path	12,278
Canal/Ditch	100,842
Connector	1,404
Intermittent	114,441
Perennial	164,731
Total	396,696

Source: USGS, 2022

IDEM 303(d) Listed Streams and Lakes (Impaired): The IDEM 303(d) Listed Streams and Lake segments are reported to the EPA as part of the Indiana Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report, and includes the rivers, streams, and tributaries that do not meet water quality standards for one or more monitored indicators, and are listed as not supporting one or more uses (i.e., recreation, fish consumption, aquatic life, and drinking water supply). There are 40 IDEM 303(d) Listed Streams and Lake segments found within the US 30 study area. Many of these segments are listed for Escherichia coli (E. coli), impaired biotic communities (IBC), and dissolved oxygen levels. One notable IDEM 303(d) listed feature is Seegar Ditch and its unnamed tributaries. Seegar Ditch crosses US 30 in Allen County, west of Fort Wayne. Tippecanoe River, in the City of Warsaw in Kosciusko County, is listed for E. coli and dissolved oxygen and is located 0.6 mile west of SR 15. A full list of impaired streams and their impairments can be found in the Natural Resources appendix (Appendix E) and the Environmental Constraints Map series (Appendix A).

3.2.4. FLOODPLAINS

Methodology

The Flood Control Act (IC-14-28-1; Indiana General Assembly) requires that any person proposing to construct a structure, place fill, or excavate material at a site located within the floodway of any river or stream, unless that activity is exempted, must obtain written approval of the InDNR prior to initiating activity. A “floodway” is defined as the channel of a river or stream and those portions of the flood plain adjoining the channel which are required to efficiently carry and discharge the flood water or flood flow of any river or stream. Typical transportation projects that may require an InDNR approval when work occurs within a floodway may include, but not limited to:

- Bridge and/or culvert construction or widening,
- Bank protection,
- Channel modification and/or relocation,
- Temporary runaround structure construction, including approaches,
- Construction access bridges and/or causeways,
- Borrow pit excavation, and
- Cofferdams.

DFIRM: The Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) are developed by FEMA to show flood hazard areas within a community that are prone to flooding using historic, meteorological, hydrologic, hydraulic, and topographic data in a process called Flood Insurance Studies. These provide the technical engineering basis for determining lands that are subject to inundation by a flood that has a 1% or greater chance of occurring annually at any given time. This is described as a 100-year flood. DFIRM floodplain areas can be found in the Environmental Constraints Map series (Appendix A).

US 30 East Floodplains

Floodplain – DFIRM – Zones A and AE: There are 98 DFIRM (digital floodplain; FEMA) floodplain polygons found within the ProPEL US 30 East study area that are in Zones A or AE (FEMA, 2022). Zone A are areas that have a 1% chance of flooding per year and have not had a basic hydraulic analysis performed for the area. Zone AE are areas that have a 1% chance of flooding per year with an elevation less than 3 feet above the base flood elevation. These locations are largely associated with streams and river segments.

Coordination will occur with InDNR for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA and any required permits will be obtained prior to construction.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:

The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments so they can develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces or mitigates future disaster losses in their communities. This funding is available after a presidentially declared disaster when requested by an authorized representative (FEMA, 2022).

Coordination with FEMA Grants Management occurred to find any parcels that have been purchased by local entities for this program. There are no parcels that have been purchased as part of this program within the study area.

3.2.5. WILDLIFE HABITAT

USFWS Bat Hibernacula: As part of the Rangelwide Programmatic Agreement between US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), a confidential GIS layer of documented roost, captures, and/or hibernaculum is

kept. INDOT maintains coordination between the consultant and the confidential information. A request of the bat database review for the ProPEL US 30 study area made on September 30, 2022 returned no recorded roost, capture or hibernacula sites.

BIAS Bat/Birds Inspections: The Bridge Inspection Application System (BIAS) bridge inspection reports were researched for all the listed structures within or immediately adjacent to the ProPEL US 30 East study area. There were 91 inspection reports reviewed and one structure, 43-00231 on Hoffman Lake Road in Kosciusko County, has had bird or bird nesting activity spotted during inspections. Seven reports had no recorded information of whether bats or birds were present. USFWS Bridge/Structure Assessments are only valid for two years. If any construction activity occurs two years after most recent inspections, an additional inspection must be performed by a qualified individual. A table detailing the structures and the findings can be found in the Natural Resources appendix.

3.2.6. PROTECTED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act was established in 1973 to provide protections for fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered, to provide an opportunity to add and remove these species from the list and provided interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities. Any potential impacts to federally threatened or endangered species will be further explored for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas during NEPA.

Federal Threatened and Endangered Species

Information about the ProPEL US 30 East study was submitted through USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) portal and an official species list was generated. There are seven federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species whose range is known to be within the study area. These species include the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), the copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*), the clubshell clam (*Pleruobema clava*), the rayed bean clam (*Villosa fabalis*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). There are no known critical habitats of these species within the study area (see Appendix E).

Indiana State Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center (INHDC) was established in 1978 to determine the state's most significant natural areas through an extensive statewide inventory. There are 51 plant and animal species in Allen County that are listed on the Indiana Heritage Database, 113 plant and animal species listed in Kosciusko County, 58 plant and animal species listed in Marshall County, and 45 plant and animal species listed in Whitley County.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) was established to prohibit the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior US Fish and Wildlife Services. A list of potential bird species that may be found within the study area has been established by the USFWS, such birds include the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), the chimney swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), and the red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), among others. A full list of bird species that are on the Birds of Conservation Concern list that are relevant to the study area are in Appendix E.

Bald eagles and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) currently have protections under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (1940). This Act prevents the "take" or "disruption" of eagles or their nests without prior permitted permission. Bald eagle populations in Indiana have increased to over 350 nesting territories and golden eagles have been documented migrating through Indiana. The Indiana Department of Natural

Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife documents bald eagle nesting territories. Coordination will occur for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA, prior to any federally funded or approved project is programmed, to avoid or minimize potential impacts to eagles and their nesting territories.

Bald eagles and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) currently have protections under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (1940). This Act prevents the “take” or “disruption” of eagles or their nests without prior permitted permission. Take is defined as, “take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald eagle ... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part (including feathers), nest, or egg thereof.” Disrupt is defined as, “to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.” Bald eagle populations in Indiana have increased to over 350 nesting territories and golden eagles have been documented migrating through Indiana. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife documents bald eagle nesting territories. Coordination will occur for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA, prior to any federally funded or approved project is programmed following the results of the US 30 East study, in an effort to eliminate, to avoid or minimize potential impacts to eagles and their nesting territories.

3.2.7. CULTURAL RESOURCES

An Aboveground Cultural Resources Identification memorandum and Archaeological Cultural Resources Identification memorandum were completed for the ProPEL US 30 East study area. Appendix F (Cultural Resources Appendix) includes the completed documents.

The purpose of the memoranda is to collect information on previously identified aboveground cultural resources and archaeological cultural resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or may be eligible for listing in the NRHP. For the purposes of this identification, an aboveground cultural resource may be any structure, building, object, bridge, or cemetery that is, in simple terms, above the ground as opposed to archaeological resources that are generally below the ground.

The compiled information is a planning tool to help inform INDOT, the study team, the public, and stakeholders of cultural resources within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. Specifically, a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas that would require federal involvement must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations under 36 CFR Part 800. Under Section 106, federal agencies must identify and assess their actions on those cultural resources that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NHRP and seek ways to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse effects. The data collected for the ProPEL US 30 East study will identify properties currently listed in the NRHP and those that have the potential to be eligible for listing in the NRHP based on previous surveys. Formal determinations of NRHP eligibility will occur during the Section 106 process for any federally funded or approved project programmed following the ProPEL US 30 East study.

Unless otherwise noted, all cultural resources were identified within a half mile of the US 30 existing corridor. It is recommended that the PEL study identify alternatives that avoid effects to listed historic sites.

3.2.8. ABOVEGROUND RESOURCES

The Aboveground Cultural Resources Identification Memorandum (Appendix F) compiled background information for previously recorded above ground cultural resources located within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. The previously recorded resources were identified primarily using the State Historic Architectural

and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD) and the associated Indiana Historic Buildings, Bridges, and Cemeteries Map (IHBBM). SHAARD is a collection of surveyed resources in the state maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DNR-DHPA).

See Appendix F (Cultural Resources Appendix) for more detail on known or potential aboveground cultural resources in the ProPEL US 30 East study area, and expanded details on methodology.

Research identified 240 previously recorded resources within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. Of these resources, the study area includes portions of three NRHP listed historic districts and two individual NRHP listed sites:

- IHSSI Nos. 183-129-21001-21297; NR-0803; NPS No. 87001307: Columbia City Historic District in Whitley County
- IHSSI Nos. 085-510-41001-41035/NR-1097/NPS No. 92001147: Pierceton Historic District in Kosciusko County
- IHSSI No. 003-382-09055/NR-1229/NPS No. 95001112: Saint Louis Besancon Historic District in Allen County
- IHSSI No. 085-080-45008/NR-1017/NPS No. 91001865: Justin O. Zimmer House, in Warsaw, Kosciusko County
- IHSSI No. 183-510-16028/NR-1809/NPS No. 05000315: Dr. Christopher Souder House, in Larwill, Whitley County

None of these sites are adjacent to US 30. Most of the State-listed, Outstanding, and Notable rated resources are concentrated within the adjacent communities along US 30. However, there are two Notable rated farmsteads with acreage that abut US 30, both west of Fort Wayne:

- IHSSI No. 003-286-16035, Dreyer-Mesing Farm at 5201 West Washington Center Road in Allen County, built c.1880
- IHSSI No. 099-061-30042, Ridenour Farm at 295 12B Road in Marshall County, built c.1870

There are three cemeteries that are near US 30 (see Environmental Constraints Maps in Appendix A):

- IHSSI No. 099-061-30044, Old Parks Cemetery, Marshall County
- CR-92-75 (no IHSSI No.), Union Township Cemetery, Whitley County
- IHSSI No. 003-692-15042, Sugar Ridge Cemetery, Allen County

The resources within the study area were recorded and rated in c.1990 (Kosciusko County), c.2000 (Whitley County), and c.2012-c.2014 (Allen County). Thus, in the event of a field survey, these ratings may change based upon the integrity and significance of the resource. Street and aerial mapping, county property records, and a study area drive-through observational survey conducted on October 27, 2022, were used to compile a list of 22 potentially historic neighborhoods, most of which date to the postwar period. These 22 potentially historic neighborhoods have not been previously surveyed. Fieldwork may identify additional potential historic districts, as well, such as the numerous early to mid-1900s lakeside communities that have developed in the study area. These potentially historic districts will be analyzed and evaluated for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA, in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

See Appendix F (Cultural Resources Appendix) for the full Aboveground Cultural Resources Identification memorandum for more detail on known cultural resources in the ProPEL US 30 East study area. The Environmental Constraints Map series (Appendix A) displays potential aboveground cultural resources and NRHP Districts in the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

3.2.9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The *Archaeological Cultural Resources Identification Memorandum* compiled background information for previously recorded archaeological sites located within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. The previously recorded archaeological sites were identified using SHAARD (Indiana Department of Natural Resources/State Historic Preservation Office 2022). Only archaeological sites recorded as NRHP eligible, potentially eligible, or with undetermined eligibility were included. No fieldwork or drive-through observational reconnaissance was conducted for this study.

Based on the review of SHAARD, there are two potentially NRHP eligible sites and 80 sites of undetermined eligibility within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. There are no archaeological sites currently listed in the NRHP in the study area.

Per the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (InDNR, DHPA) guidelines (2022, all previously known and reported sites must be revisited if not already determined not eligible for the NRHP. Sites recorded as NRHP eligible, potentially eligible, or with undetermined eligibility, should be avoided until a Phase I cultural resources survey is completed. The survey will involve an attempt to relocate these sites and investigate NRHP eligible resources.

3.3. SECTION 4(F)

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 provides protection of significant publicly-owned park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or any publicly or privately owned historic site listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. during transportation project development. Section 4(f) is codified in 49 U.S.C. §303 and 23 U.S.C. §138 and implemented by FHWA through 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 774. Section 4(f) applies to federal actions by the US Department of Transportation (US DOT). Section 4(f) prohibits the use of publicly owned land from any park, recreation area, or wildlife/waterfowl refuge or from a historic site of national, state, or local significance for transportation projects unless (1) there is no prudent and feasible alternative to the use; and (2) the proposed project includes all possible planning to minimize harm.

Potential Section 4(f) properties were identified via field investigations, review of county and city recreation plans, historical database search, and GIS data. The ProPEL US 30 East study does not propose a specific US DOT action at this time, but it is expected that the PEL study will identify multiple alternatives that will then be subject to environmental review under NEPA. The Section 4(f) resources identified in the PEL study are considered to be potential Section 4(f) resources at this time until a range of reasonable alternatives or any project areas are identified, and coordination with Officials with Jurisdiction (OWJ) for each potential Section 4(f) property occurs.

All potential Section 4(f) resources were identified within a half-mile buffer of the US 30 existing corridor. Refer to the Environmental Constraints Mapping (Appendix A) for locations of potential Section 4(f) resources in the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

3.3.1. POTENTIAL SECTION 4(F) RESOURCES: PUBLICLY-OWNED PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, AND WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL REFUGES

Methodology

Publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and refuge areas protected by Section 4(f) are any “publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance” (49 USC § 303). Public parks and recreation areas are properties that are owned, managed, or leased by the

public government (e.g., federal, state, city, village, county, township, or local parks authority). Refuge areas are typically federally or state owned and serves specific wildlife and waterfowl refuge activities. Refuge areas may or may not be open to the public. Privately-owned refuges are not subject to protection under Section 4(f).

Potential Section 4(f) Park, Recreation, or Refuge Resources

Table 3-11 summarizes the seventeen (17) potential park and recreational Section 4(f) resources in the ProPEL US 30 East study area. These properties are mapped in the Environmental Constraints Map in Appendix A. No public wildlife or waterfowl refuges or wildlife management areas are located within the study area.

Recreational Section 4(f) properties identified in the study area included city parks, trails, pools, fairgrounds, and community centers. The properties are owned and managed by local (city, township parks and recreation departments) and regional agencies (Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission, Fort Wayne Trails, Inc., NIRCC, and Whitley and Allen counties).

Public DNR managed lands within the study area include Morsches Park (pond/fishing access) and Jury Park. There are also two privately-owned lands managed by InDNR within the study area: the Wayne Township Property north of Winona Lake and the Dillion Farm Forest west of Larwill. Both properties are closed to the public, and would not have Section 4(f) protections since they are privately-owned.

There are two privately owned golf courses located in the study area. These include the Eagle Glen Golf Course located at 129 South Eagle Trail, Columbia City and the Coyote Creek Golf Club located at 4935 Hillegas Road, Fort Wayne. Section 4(f) applies to golf courses that are owned, operated, and managed by a public agency for the primary purpose of public recreation and determined to be significant. Section 4(f) does not apply to privately owned and operated golf courses even when they are open to the general public. Therefore, neither course is subject to Section 4(f).

Schools within the study area that include recreational amenities include Atwood Elementary School, Harrison Elementary School, Columbia City High School, Coesse School, Highland Terrace School, and St. Louis School.

Table 3-12. Potential Park and Recreation Section 4(f) Resources

Park and Recreation Resource	Location	Owner or Manager
Marshall County		
None		
Kosciusko County		
Heritage Park	301 South Walnut, Etna Green	Town of Etna Green
Lake City Greenway – Warsaw Trail & Connector Trails	Warsaw	City of Warsaw
Warsaw Side Paths	102 S. Buffalo St, Warsaw	City of Warsaw
Brower Park	105 East Market St, Pierceton	Pierceton-Washington Twp Park Board
Whitley County		
Whitley County Fairgrounds	680 W Squawbuck Rd, Columbia City	Whitley County

Park and Recreation Resource	Location	Owner or Manager
Patriotic Park	Redick Ave, Columbia City	Columbia City
Mayor's Park	N. Columbia Parkway, Columbia City	Columbia City
Russel and Evelyn Fahl Aquatics Center/Burnworth Memorial Pool	Columbia City	Columbia City
Morsches Park & Trails	Columbia City	Columbia City/DNR
Blue River Trail	Columbia City	Columbia City
Eel River Trail	Along SR 205	NIRCC
Trail US 30/Lincolnway Corridor Trail	Along US 30	NIRCC
Allen County		
East Washington Center Road Corridor Trail	Along US 30	Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission
Koehlinger-Yoder Park	Minnich and Moeller Rd, New Haven	New Haven-Adams Township Parks & Recreation
Jury Park	1702 Glencoe Blvd, New Haven	New Haven-Adams Township Parks & Recreation/DNR
State Road 101 Trail	Along SR 101	Fort Wayne Trails, Inc.

The park and recreation properties identified in Table 3-11 above are considered potential Section 4(f) resources for the purposes of this PEL study. Section 4(f) use determination and coordination will be completed during NEPA for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

At this time, all potential Section 4(f) resources are recommended for avoidance from any PEL study alternatives.

3.3.2. POTENTIAL SECTION 4(F) HISTORIC RESOURCES

Section 4(f) provides protection for public or privately owned historic sites of national, state, or local significance, specifically those that are on or eligible for the NRHP. Section 4(f) requires the consideration of how federal US DOT actions use historic sites of national, state, or local significance in private or public ownership, regardless of if they are open to the public. (23 USC § 138(a) and 49 USC § 303(a)). Historic resources, also known as cultural resources (see Section 3.3), include aboveground/architectural resources as well as below-ground/archaeological resources.

As stated in Section 3.3, the PEL study's review of known historic resources is a planning tool to help inform INDOT, the study team, the public, and stakeholders of known cultural resources within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. The historic resources review for the PEL study does not constitute a Section 106 review, and will not identify any previously unidentified resources eligible for the NHRP. The data collected for the ProPEL US 30 East study will identify properties currently listed in the NRHP and those that have the potential to be eligible for listing based on previous surveys.

Several assumptions were made for the purposes of identifying potential Section 4(f) historic resources in the PEL study:

- Previously identified aboveground or archaeological resources on or eligible for the NHRP were considered to be potential Section 4(f) resources for the purposes of the PEL study.
- The previously identified aboveground or archaeological sites data found for the PEL study include a number of sites with unknown NRHP eligibility. For the purposes of the PEL study, all sites with unknown NRHP eligibility were considered to be potential Section 4(f) resources. Future cultural resource surveys and Section 106 processes will be completed during the NEPA process for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas, and those future studies and processes will find if these sites are NRHP-eligible.
- Archaeological sites are not Section 4(f) resources if the sites are important chiefly for the information they contain that can be retrieved through data recovery, if the property has minimal value for preservation in place, and if the Official with Jurisdiction does not object. Future cultural resource surveys and Section 106 processes will be completed during the NEPA process for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas, and those future studies and processes will find if archaeological sites have important information fully retrievable through data recovery and have minimal value for preservation in place. For the purposes of the PEL study, all archaeological sites on, eligible for, or with unknown eligibility for the NRHP were assumed to be potential Section 4(f) resources.
- All potential Section 4(f) resources are recommended for avoidance from any PEL study alternatives. Section 4(f) resources will be refined after the conclusion of the PEL study, in NEPA, based on NRHP eligibility, proposed use of the resource, and OWJ coordination.

As listed in Section 3.3.1, research identified 240 previously recorded architectural resources within the ProPEL US 30 East study area, five of which are listed on the NRHP. The archaeological sites listed in Section 3.3.2 included two (2) potentially NRHP eligible sites and eighty (80) sites of undetermined eligibility within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. There are no archaeological sites currently listed in the NRHP in the study area. These historic resources are considered potential 4(f) resources for the purposes of this PEL study.

At this time, all potential Section 4(f) resources are recommended for avoidance from any PEL study alternatives.

3.4. SECTION 6(F)

3.4.1. METHODOLOGY

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act (LWCA) requires that the conversion of lands or facilities purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) be coordinated with the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of the LWCA is to help preserve, develop, and provide accessibility to outdoor recreation resources. It stipulates that any land acquired or developed with LWCF cannot be converted to another use other than public outdoor recreation unless replacement land of at least equal fair market value and reasonably equivalent usefulness is provided.

All Section 6(f) resources were identified within a one-mile buffer of the US 30 corridor, centered on the US 30 centerline (ProPEL US 30 East study area). Refer to the Environmental Constraints Report Map series (Appendix A) for locations of Section 6(f) resources in the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

3.4.2. STUDY AREA SECTION 6(F) RESOURCES

Based on a review of the INDOT LWCF County Property List for Indiana there are two Section 6(f) properties in the study area: Jury Park and Morsches Park (see Table 3-11 above, and Appendix A). These Section 6(f) properties are recommended to be avoided by PEL study alternatives.

3.5. MINERAL RESOURCES/PETROLEUM WELLS

3.5.1. METHODOLOGY

Mineral Resource and Petroleum Well sites were located utilizing database information accessed through INDOT’s Site Assessment and Management website, via the Red Flag Investigation MXD and database. Hazardous materials were identified within a half-mile of the existing US 30 corridor (ProPEL US 30 East study area) (see Appendix A, Environmental Constraints Map). See Table 3-13.

Table 3-13. Mineral Resources and Petroleum Wells

Type	Number
Petroleum Wells	38
Petroleum Fields	0
Surface Mines	1
Underground Mines	0

Source: INDOT Site Assessment and Management, RFI Investigation

3.5.2. STUDY AREA MINERAL RESOURCES AND PETROLEUM WELLS

There are thirty-eight (38) petroleum wells located within the study area. All wells are reported as plugged consistent with applicable plugging requirements. Evaluation of petroleum well properties will be conducted for the ProPEL US 30 East study alternatives, and for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

There is one mapped surface mine within the study area (see Appendix A, Environmental Constraints Map). The surface mine in the study area is owned and operated by G and G Hauling and Excavating, Inc., located in Warsaw. G and G Hauling and Excavating produces sand and gravel for construction.

Evaluation of mine properties will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

3.6. AIR QUALITY

The Clean Air Act (42 USC § 7401), as amended, protects public health and welfare by monitoring and controlling air pollution and to support state and local governments with their air pollution prevention programs. The Clean Air Act requires the USEPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants, called criteria pollutants. Within the study area, Allen County was found in

nonattainment of the 8-hour ozone standards (one of the criteria pollutants) in 2004, but was reclassified in 2017 as in attainment with a maintenance plan (IDEM, 2022). The maintenance plan was approved in 2019. Kosciusko, Marshall, and Whitley counties are in attainment of the NAAQS (IDEM, 2022; USEPA, 2022).

To improve public health and protect the environment, in January 2021 the Biden administration established Executive Order 13990 Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis (Office of the President). The executive order directs all executive departments and agencies to immediately review and take action to address the climate crisis. The US EPA's Inventory of

US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (1990-2019) finds that transportation is the largest single category of greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters in the United States (US EPA). In 2020, transportation compromised approximately 26% of the nation's GHG emissions. Roadway vehicles comprise approximately 83% of transportation GHG emissions.

Greenhouse Gases, or GHG, trap heat in the atmosphere and include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride, and sulfur hexafluoride (US EPA).

Directed by *EO 13990*, the Council on Environmental Quality issued a notice of interim guidance, *Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change*, in January 2023 (Council on Environmental Quality). The guidance assists federal agencies in considering the effects of GHG emissions and climate change when evaluating major federal actions. The guidance states that agencies should consider the potential effects of a proposed action on climate change as well as the effects of climate on a proposed action and its environmental impacts.

As the ProPEL US 30 East study progresses, consideration will be given to integrating GHG factors into the study. This decision will be made in coordination with the FHWA.

3.7. NOISE

A *Noise-Sensitive Areas Identification Memorandum* was prepared for the ProPEL US 30 East study. The noise memo identifies potentially noise-sensitive land uses in the study area, including those with sufficient density such that noise abatement could be reasonable and feasible per INDOT's 2022 Traffic Noise Analysis Procedure.

The *Noise-Sensitive Areas Identification Memorandum* identified twenty-four (24) noise-sensitive areas, with over 1,000 (one thousand) individual receptors... There are three noise-sensitive areas within the study area where the density of noise-sensitive receptors is low and noise abatement would be less likely. These three areas are not included in the "Areas for Further Investigation" shown in Environmental Constraints Maps in Appendix A.

The analysis conducted as part of the ProPEL US 30 East study is not to be used to determine noise impact or noise abatement locations in accordance with 23 CFR 772. Those activities would occur as part of the subsequent NEPA analysis associated with any future Type I projects in the ProPEL US 30 East study area.

3.8. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

There are approximately 300 hazardous material sites located within the ProPEL US 30 East study area. Table 3-13 provides database information accessed through INDOT's Site Assessment and Management website, via the Red Flag Investigation MXD and database. Hazardous materials were identified within a half-mile buffer of the existing US 30 centerline (ProPEL US 30 East study area). Hazardous materials sites are discussed below and shown in Environmental Constraints Mapping (Appendix A):

Table 3-14. Identified Hazardous Materials Concerns

Type	Number	Type	Number
Brownfield Sites	5	Restricted Waste Sites	N/A
Corrective Action Sites (RCRA)	N/A	Septage Waste Sites	N/A
Confined Feeding Operations	N/A	Solid Waste Landfills	N/A
Construction Demolition Waste	N/A	State Cleanup Sites	4
Industrial Waste Sites (RCRA Generators)	18	Open Dump Sites	N/A
Infectious/Medical Waste Sites	N/A	Underground Storage Tanks	47
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs)	50	Voluntary Remediation Program	6
Manufactured Gas Plant Sites	N/A	Superfund	N/A
Institutional Controls Sites	14	Notice of Contamination	N/A

Source: INDOT Site Assessment and Management, Red Flag Investigation Databas

Brownfields

There are five brownfield sites located within the study area. Further evaluation of these brownfield sites will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

- SR 13 & Market Gas Station (Market St & SR 13, Pierceton, IN):** This site was originally a gas station. Soil contamination was discovered, and a clean-up was performed including pre and post testing of soils. A Senior Center has been constructed on the property. It is unclear why a No Further Action (NFA) letter was never issued and/or why construction was allowed to proceed. No Environmentally Restrictive Covenant exists on the property.
- Drudge Screw Products (332 E Bell Dr, Warsaw, IN):** Complaint of machine oil being dumped on the property 5/3/1995. A state investigation was completed and the company confirmed the machine oil had been properly absorbed and disposed of off-site. A request for assistance was filed in 2000 before sale of Drudge Screw Company. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was completed on 10/31/2000. The client was made aware that leaks had been recorded from fuel tanks next door from the Ryder Truck Rental Company, and that no contamination was found on this property.
- Warsaw Chemical Company Inc (390 Argonne Rd, Warsaw, IN):** A Brownfield Assistance Request was filed to assist with groundwater contamination clean-up 12/27/2017. The following chemicals were found to be present: chlorinated VOCs – tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1,1 trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA), cis-1,2-dichloroethene (cDCE), trans-1,2 dichloroethene (tDCE), 1,1 dichloroethene (1,1-DCE) and vinyl chloride (VC). In addition, aromatic and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (Petroleum Compounds) are also present in site groundwater. The aromatic hydrocarbons include trimethylbenzenes, xylene isomers, toluene, propyl- and butyl- benzenes; naphthalene appears to be the primary polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) in groundwater. These compounds are the Site’s Constituents of Concern (CoCs). A Brownfield Remediation Work Plan was filed on 10/26/2021. Ongoing remediation underway on the property as of 11/30/2022.

- **Fort Wayne Foundry (2300 E Cardinal Dr, Columbia City, IN):** Brownfield Application/Request: The facility is a conditionally exempt small quality generator (CESQG) as of 2/12/2017. It was formerly a large quantity generator (LQG). The facility is listed as Advanced Material Development LLC in TEMPO. Previous inspection performed in 2012. No violations noted after the facility received its Brownfield designation on 4/26/2018.
- **Dana Coupled Products Division (2651 S CR 600 E, Columbia City, IN):** Groundwater and well monitoring and air sampling report completed in 2022. Final determinations and course of action are still under review as of November 2022.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs)

There are 50 LUST facilities within the study area.. Nearby LUST facilities have the potential to negatively impact soil, groundwater, and/or utilities. Further evaluation of these LUST sites will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA, .

State Cleanup Sites

There are four State Cleanup sites within the study area. Further evaluation of these state cleanup sites will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

- **Viking Incorporated (2749 E Business 30, Columbia, IN):** Two 20,000 gallon tanks were removed during UST closures. During the closure process soil contamination in soil was detected due to equipment failure. An on-site land treatment cell remediation plan was approved and implemented. The most recent correspondence indicates that soil contamination still above the IDEM cleanup goals for TPH in soil. Available documentation suggests on-site remediation is still active.
- **Warsaw Deli (3589 Commerce Dr, Warsaw, IN):** Documentation suggests USTs were removed but site contamination and closure status is unknown.
- **Lewis Oil Incorporated (714 North Detroit St, Warsaw, IN):** Soil and groundwater contamination from petroleum release from bulk oil storage facility. Recent documentation suggests the site remains in cleanup status.
- **Iron Cross Trucking, (Columbia City, IN):** Approximately 300 gallons of waste oil released in 2004. Documentation in 2007 indicates not all cleanup requirements have been met. No additional information is provided after January 2007.

Industrial Waste Sites (RCRA Generators)

There are eighteen (18) hazardous waste generators within the study area. VFC records for these facilities were searched and none of these facilities appear to be in Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action. Further evaluation of these properties may be warranted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

There are forty-seven (47) registered UST sites within the study area. Further evaluation of these UST sites will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP)

There are six VRP sites within the study area.. Further evaluation of these VRP sites will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

Institutional Control (IC) Sites

There are fourteen (14) IC properties within the study area. Nearby IC properties have the potential to negatively impact soil, groundwater, and/or utilities. Eleven of the 14 sites have NFA or Closure

documentation. The three remaining sites did not have No Further Action letters granted and are identified below. All IC sites are shown in the Environmental Constraints Map (Appendix A). Further evaluation of these IC sites will be conducted for a range of reasonable alternatives and any resulting project areas will occur during NEPA.

- **Former Gatke Dump (Wooster Rd, Winona Lake, IN):** Metals contamination in the soils. IC control mechanisms include: Paved or Concrete Cap; Agricultural or Food Crop; Excavation Notice Required; Restricted Excavation Area.
- **Freedom Express 5 (409 Argonne Rd, Warsaw, IN):** Contaminants of concern include: PAH - Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons; VOCs - Volatile Organic Compounds. Affected media is groundwater and soil vapor. IC control includes ground water use restriction.

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