



Town of Munster and Highland Pedestrian Bridges project, commonly referred to 'Bridges over Ditches'

10/15/2025

Construction has begun on the long-awaited 'bridges over ditches' project to connect Munster and Highland. This pedestrian pathway will extend the Fisher Street pathway which begins at the Pennsy Greenway near the Illinois/Indiana state line east into Highland through the NIPSCO hi-tension wire/multiple pipeline corridor. It will include two bridges to cross over Hart Ditch and Cady-Marsh Ditch to connect the Fisher Street pathway to Brantwood Park in Highland. As part of the project, a new paved pathway will run from between the two ditches south to Martha Street providing better access for those areas of Highland and Munster.

The existing Fisher Street pathway, east of White Oak Ave. shown in red above, will be closed for the duration of construction until the project is complete in the summer of 2026. This project will not impact the use of the pathway west of White Oak Ave. Pathway users are asked to keep out of the construction zone which is everything east of White Oak Ave. in that utility corridor.

The added section of pathway, including the two bridges and a pathway running south to Martha Street is shown in yellow in the above sketch.

The Indiana Department of Transportation awarded the project in May 2025 to Gariup Construction Company Inc. from Gary, Indiana at a cost of just under \$1.8 million. The project is being funded thanks to a Transportation Enhancement award from the State of Indiana which is covering 80% of the project leaving the Towns of Highland and Munster to equally split the 20% local match for the project.

Special thanks to the many groups that are helping to make the project possible including Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, NIPSCO, Lake County Surveyor Bill Emerson Jr., Lake County Drainage Board, Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, the Town of Highland, and the Town of Munster. This project, which has been envisioned for 25+ years, will began this fall and is expected to be completed by summer 2026.