

LETTER REPORT
TOWN OF CHESTERTON SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT,
TOWN OF CHESTERTON, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

AUTHORIZATION

The study is authorized under Section 219(f)(12) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, Public Law (P.L.) 102-580; as amended by Section 502(b) of the WRDA of 1999, Public Law 106-53; Section 145 of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2004, Public Law 108-137; Section 5057 of the WRDA of 2007, Public Law 110-114; Section 1157 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016, Public Law 114-322. These amended authorities allow USACE to provide planning, design, and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects.

PROJECT NAME

Town of Chesterton Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project, Town of Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR

The project's non-federal sponsor (hereinafter referred to as the sponsor) is the Town of Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana.

CONGRESSIONAL INTERESTS

1st Congressional District in Indiana represented by Frank J. Mrvan
United States Senator from Indiana, Todd Young
United States Senator from Indiana, James E. Banks

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed improvements will be constructed in the Town of Chesterton, Indiana along North 8th Street and League Lane, between the Chesterton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Chesterton Middle School on West Morgan Avenue.



Figure 1: Town of Chesterton Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project area location.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The proposed project would rehabilitate sanitary sewer infrastructure within the Town of Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana. A 2020 survey of the 48-inch sanitary sewer interceptor pipe on North 8th Street and League Lane, which conveys sewage from downtown Chesterton to the Chesterton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), identified substantial solids and debris accumulation, excessive infiltration from loose joints and structural cracks, mineral deposit growth, and concrete deterioration. The pipe is 97 years old and is at the end of estimated design lifespan of 70 to 100 years. To address these conditions, the proposed project would slipline the existing 48-inch concrete pipe to allow for continued sanitary sewer service to the project area.

USACE is evaluating its decision to support the sponsor's improvements to its sanitary sewer infrastructure by providing planning and construction assistance for the proposed project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project would rehabilitate approximately 3,300 linear feet (LF) of sanitary sewer interceptor pipe with deficiencies at the end of its design lifespan through trenchless methods.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

There are three alternatives under consideration to rehabilitate the sanitary sewer infrastructure in the Town of Chesterton. The alternatives include:

- **No Action Alternative** – Under this alternative, sanitary sewer rehabilitation would not occur. The existing infrastructure would continue to degrade for the current service area and emergency repairs and eventual replacement would be necessary.
- **Alternative 1** – Under this alternative, the 48-inch sanitary sewer line would be rehabilitated through cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining. CIPP lining would occur on the 48-inch sanitary sewer line from 8th Street & Morgan Avenue to the Chesterton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), approximately 3,300 linear feet (LF). CIPP lining is a trenchless rehabilitation method including sewer line cleaning, root removal, removal of protruding taps, CIPP lining and reinstatement of lateral connections. The CIPP process creates a resin-impregnated flexible tube which is tightly formed inside the original pipe. The resin is cured using either hot water under hydrostatic pressure or steam pressure within the tube. Lateral connections are reinstated without excavation utilizing a remote-controlled cutting device. CIPP lining has numerous benefits including affordability, installation flexibility, restoration of structural integrity to the damaged sewer pipes, and reduction of infiltration into the sewer through cracks, fractures, and offset joints. A launch pit

and a receiving pit would be excavated on either side of the railroad rights of way. Although the cross-sectional area of the pipe is slightly reduced, the smoother interior with no joints typically increases flow rate capacity. For the CIPP to successfully adhere to the existing pipe, bypass pumping would need to be performed along the length of the interceptor.

- **Alternative 2** – Under this alternative, the 48-inch sanitary sewer line would be rehabilitated through segmented sliplining. Segmented sliplining would occur on the 48-inch sanitary sewer line from 8th Street & Morgan Avenue to the Chesterton WWTP, approximately 3,300 LF. Insertion pits would be excavated and the carrier pipe is pushed or pulled through the host pipe. Segmented sliplining entails the use of rigid pipe bell and spigot type pipes made of rigid material such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP), glass reinforced plastic (GRP), or Vylon. The segments of pipe would be lowered into insertion pits and pushed together via hydraulic press forming a chain. Segmented sliplining would significantly reduce or eliminate the need for bypass pumping since the existing flow can be maintained during the installation process.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

The recommended plan is Alternative 2 as shown in Figure 1. Alternative 2 would include segmented sliplining of 3,300 LF of sanitary sewer between 8th Street & Morgan Avenue to the Chesterton WWTP. Two 12-foot by 25-foot, temporary insertion pits would be excavated on 8th Street (just south of Broadway Avenue and just south of Woodlawn Avenue). Alternative 2 would also reduce the impact to local residents as less traffic control would be required to construct the project. Work is scheduled to begin in summer 2026 with construction lasting approximately one to two months. The recommended plan would effectively rehabilitate the degrading sanitary sewer line in this part of Chesterton.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF SPONSOR

The 25% financial match will be provided by the sponsor. The sponsor demonstrated financial capability by providing:

- Letter of Intent (LOI) to participate in this cost-sharing project
- Self-certification of Financial Capability

PROJECT COST INFORMATION

Section 219 Cost Share Breakdown Town of Chesterton, IN Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project	Estimated Cost
Initiate Letter Report and PCA Negotiations (USACE)	\$15,000
Initiate NEPA (USACE)	\$5,000
Project Management (USACE)	\$5,000
Initiation Subtotal*	\$25,000
Developing Plans & Specs (Non-Federal Sponsor)	\$0
Project Management (PM)/Plans & Specs Review (USACE)	\$90,000
Developing Cost Estimate (USACE)	\$25,000
Design Subtotal	\$115,000
Total USACE Initiation and Design Activities	\$140,000
Construction Contract	\$1,310,000
Contingency	\$50,000
Construction Contract Subtotal	\$1,360,000
Supervision and Administration	\$130,000
Engineering and Design During Construction	\$20,000
Contract Award Admin	\$20,000
USACE Construction Administration Activities Subtotal	\$170,000
Total Construction	\$1,530,000
Total Project Cost	\$1,670,000
**Total Federal Cost (100% Federal Cost)	\$25,000
**Total Federal Cost Share (75% of Cost Share)	\$975,000
Total Non-Federal Cost (25% of Cost Share)	\$325,000
Additional Non-Federal Cost (100% Non-Federal Cost)	\$345,000

*100% Federal Funds (**NOT COST SHARED**)

**The total federal expenditure is fixed at \$1,000,000 for this project. The scope of the project will be modified to meet these budget restraints, if necessary.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The project would rehabilitate the sponsor's sanitary sewer infrastructure. All work for the project would take place on public right-of-way owned by the Town of Chesterton. No issues are expected with the implementation of this project.

STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The Project Delivery Team, in coordination with the sponsor, developed the Environmental Assessment (EA). A scoping letter was sent out on May 20, 2024 and the Draft EA was released for public review from May 16, 2025 through June 15, 2025. Any necessary permits will be obtained.

The proposed action is in full compliance with appropriate statutes, executive orders and regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Clean Air Act of 1963, as amended, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), and the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended.

A Phase I Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was completed for the project area in accordance with ASTM Practice E 1527-21 and USACE Engineer Regulation 1165-2-132. The investigation relied on user provided information, site reconnaissance, and a review of reasonably ascertainable environmental records to determine the likelihood that the project area contains a recognized environmental condition (REC), or HTRW. The Phase I ESA was conducted in accordance with ASTM Standard Practice E-1527-21 and constitutes “all appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and uses of the property consistent with good commercial or customary practice,” as defined at 42 USC §9601(35) (B). The Phase I ESA several RECs within or immediately adjacent to the project area. However, excavation in the recommended plan would be limited to the two insertion pits, which are not anticipated to be impacted by the identified RECs.

In accordance with ER 1165-2-132, Hazardous Toxic, and Radioactive Waste for USACE Civil Works projects, construction of civil works projects in HTRW contaminated areas will be avoided where practicable. Where HTRW contaminated areas or impacts cannot be avoided, response actions, including excavation and disposal of contaminated soils, would be implemented in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency and applicable state regulatory agency requirements. All HTRW response actions, including off-site disposal of materials containing elevated concentrations of contaminants, is 100% non-federal project sponsor responsibility. Excess soil management and/or waste disposal would be conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DESCRIPTIONS OF KNOWN POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

There are no known potential environmental issues.

REAL ESTATE CONSIDERATIONS

All lands required for this project to include work, staging and storage are within sponsor owned land. The sponsor will certify that it holds the temporary work area easements and permanent utility easements required for the project. No additional real estate acquisition is required. Real Estate costs are reflected as \$0 as the sponsor has waived Lands, Easement, Right of Way, Relocation, and Disposal (LERRD) credit on this project.

SCHEDULE

The Project Delivery Team, in coordination with the sponsor, is developing a construction schedule with anticipated construction contract award in summer 2025. Construction is likely to begin in fall 2025 and conclude by summer 2026.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

Real estate and all necessary permits will be obtained by the sponsor before contract award.

APPROVAL

I approve the Town of Chesterton Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Letter Report. This approval provides for the construction of the Town of Chesterton Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project under the authority of Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended.

Date _____

Kenneth P. Rockwell
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding