



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3.11 Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	2
3.11.1 Introduction	2
3.11.2 Methodology.....	2
3.11.3 Analysis	2
3.11.4 Mitigation.....	4
3.11.5 Summary.....	4

FIGURES

Figure 3.11-1: Lost River at Orangeville Rise	3
---	---

TABLES

Table 3.11-1: Impacts to Navigable Waterways.....	4
Table 3.11-2: Summary of Impacts	5



3.11 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

3.11.1 Introduction

The rivers of the United States have scenic, recreational, geological, ecological, historic, and cultural value. Many rivers are protected by federal and state laws. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System includes the nation's premiere rivers. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) was created by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and is a register of rivers that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The NRI offers federal protection to certain rivers. Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act section 5(d)(1) and related guidance, all federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would adversely affect NRI river segments. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Waters Designated for Special Protection and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Natural and Scenic River Segments also offer state protection to rivers. Some rivers may be included in multiple listings.

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created in 1968 by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This act states that it is "the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." (16 USC 1271) The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System list is maintained by the National Park Service (NPS).

The NPS compiles and maintains the NRI. The intent of the NRI is to provide information to assist in making balanced decisions regarding use of the nation's river resources.

Rivers considered to have special importance by the State of Indiana and which merit special protection also were reviewed. These are listed in IDEM's Waters Designated for Special Protection, IDNR's Natural, Scenic and Recreational River System and/or the Indiana Natural Resources Commission (INRC) list of Navigable Waterways.

3.11.2 Methodology

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data layer, "Streams_Rivers," was used to determine if the proposed routes crossed rivers listed on the NRI, the IDEM Waters Designated for Special Protection, the INRC list of Navigable Waterways and the IDNR Natural and Scenic River Segments. For a more detailed explanation on how the GIS was used to determine potential impacts, please refer to Section 3.1, in this document.

This Section analyzes only the impacts of alternatives such as Alternative B, Alternative C, etc. It does not distinguish among facility types which are expressway and Super-2 versions of the same alternative. All alternatives for a given route will share a common centerline and cross all rivers and streams at the same location.

3.11.3 Analysis

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as a federal agency, seeks to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers identified in the NRI as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. As part of this process, federal agencies are required to consult with the NPS prior to taking actions that impact wild, scenic or recreational status for rivers on the inventory. An Early Coordination letter was sent to the NPS on August 5, 2019. The NPS provided no response to the Early Coordination letter.



There are no rivers listed in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in the Mid-States Corridor Study Area. Therefore, the proposed Mid-States Corridor project will not impact these resources.

There is an 88-mile segment of the Lost River listed in the NRI within the Mid-States Corridor Study Area. It is included because of its outstanding geologic and historic value. The river is an internationally known example of karst topography. Water enters the system through literally thousands of sinkholes. In addition, the surface river loses water into a system of swallow holes draining portions of the surface river. About 22 miles is then dry except during periods of flooding. Route O and Local Improvement 18 cross the Lost River for a total of one crossing of NRI-listed rivers (see **Figure 3.11-1**). The Lost River is also listed on the IDEM Waters Designated for Special Protection listing. There are no other rivers on the IDEM Waters Designated for Special Protection that are crossed by any of the alternatives.

The East Fork of the White River is within the Mid-States Corridor Study Area and is listed in the NRI. The NPS describes the river as, “A fairly large river tributary of the White River flowing through very scenic south central portion of state in a 1-2 mile wide valley bordered by hills. Fairly well wooded banks and some heavily wooded areas along corridor. Recommended by the state for inclusion in State Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System. Good recreation potential. Rare blue ordovician limestone outcroppings. Segments pass through Hoosier National Forest near Beaver Bluff and McBrides Bluffs. An outstanding canoe route. Excellent fishing.”¹

The East Fork of White River segments included in the NRI are from the confluence with the West Fork of the White River to east of Hudsonville and from New Elizabethtown to Columbus. Alternative B would cross the East Fork of the White River west of Dogwood Lake, southeast of Hudsonville, which is a segment listed on the NRI. Alternative B would have an impact on the NRI listed segment. Alternatives C, M and P cross the East Fork of the White River once each, north of Haysville and will have no impacts on the segments listed in the NRI.

There are no IDNR Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers within the Mid-States Corridor Study Area. Therefore, the proposed Mid-States Corridor project will not impact these resources.

There are multiple rivers listed on the INRC list of Navigable Waterways that are within the Mid-States Corridor Study Area. **Table 3.11-1** lists navigable rivers crossed by Mid-States Routes.

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/rivers/indiana.htm>.

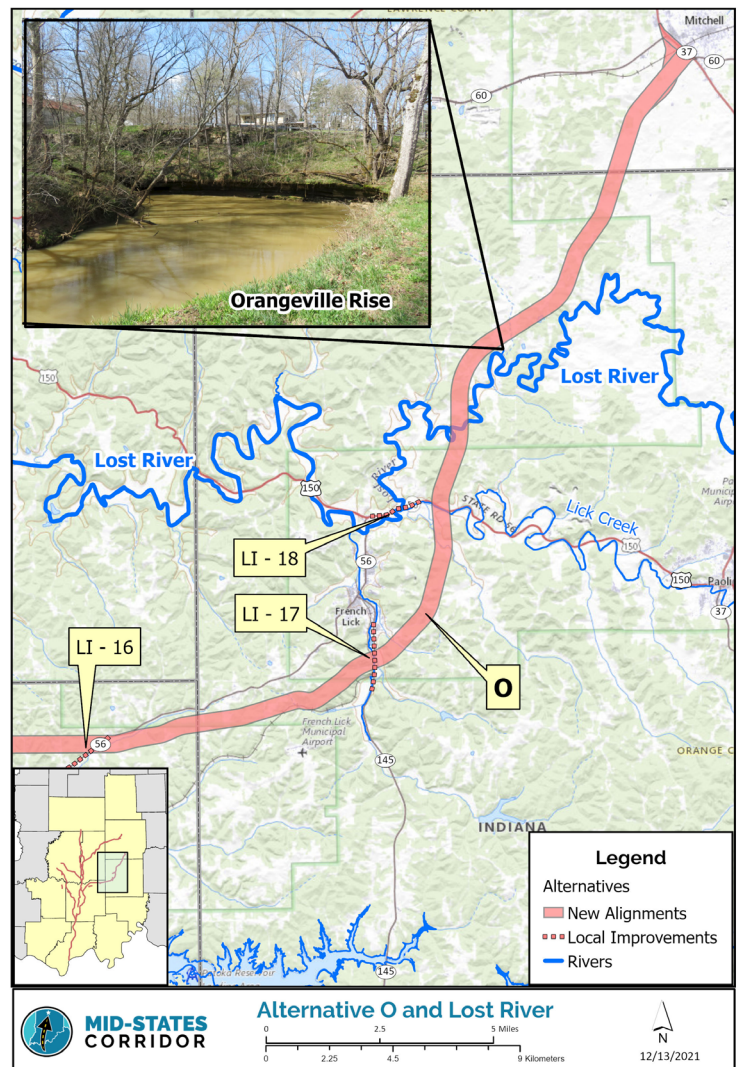


Figure 3.11-1: Lost River at Orangeville Rise



Indiana Natural Resources Commission list of Navigable Waterways within the Mid-States Study Area			
Alternative *		River Name	Reach of Navigability
Alt. B	B	East Fork White River	Columbus to confluence with West Fork
		Patoka River	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
Alt. C	C	East Fork White River	Columbus to confluence with West Fork
		Patoka River	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
Alt. M	M	East Fork White River	Columbus to confluence with West Fork
		Patoka River	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
Alt. O	O	Patoka River	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
		Lost River	Potato Road to confluence with East Fork White River
Alt. P	P _{east}	East Fork White River	Columbus to confluence with West Fork
		Patoka River	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
	P _{west}	East Fork White River	Columbus to confluence with West Fork
		Patoka River	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River

* Impacts are the same for all facility types. Alternatives include the main route and local improvements.

Table 3.11-1: Impacts to Navigable Waterways

All alternatives cross rivers listed in the INRC list of Navigable Waterways.

The No-Build Alternative has no impacts on any of the listed river resources.

3.11.4 Mitigation

No Wild and Scenic Rivers are present in the proposed Mid-States Corridor Study Area. However, Alternative O crosses the Lost River, which is listed on the NPS NRI, and Alternative B crosses a segment of the East Fork of the White River that is included in the NRI.

For all river crossings, best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction to minimize water quality impacts, and design features to reduce pollutant introduction and reduce visual impacts will be evaluated.

3.11.5 Summary

There are no National Wild and Scenic Rivers present within the Mid-States Corridor Study Area. Therefore, the proposed project will have no adverse impacts to those resources. The Lost River is listed as an IDEM Water Designated for Special Protection, is listed on the INRC for Navigable Waterways and is on the NRI for its high quality historic and geologic value. Alternative O crosses Lost River once. Alternative B crosses a segment of the East Fork of the White River that is included in the NRI. The other alternatives that cross the East Fork of the White River do so at non-NRI listed segments. The No-Build Alternative and Alternatives C, M and the preferred Alternative P will have no impact on any resources discussed in this section.



Indiana Natural Resources Comission list of Navigable Waterways within the Mid-States Study Area					
Alternative		River Name	IDEM Water Designation for Special Protection	National River Inventory	Wild Scenic Rivers
Alt. B	B	East Fork White River	N/A	Yes	N/A
		Patoka River	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alt. C	C	East Fork White River	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Patoka River	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alt. M	M	East Fork White River	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Patoka River	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alt. O	O	Patoka River	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Lost River	Yes	Yes	N/A
Alt. P	P _{east}	East Fork White River	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Patoka River	N/A	N/A	N/A
	P _{west}	East Fork White River	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Patoka River	N/A	N/A	N/A
* Impacts are the same for all facility types. Alternatives include the main route and local improvements.					

Table 3.11-2: Summary of Impacts

