



# Consolidated Courts project moves forward in Elkhart County

Three different design/build teams selected for next phase of process

**Elkhart County, Indiana** (December 16, 2020) – The Elkhart County Consolidated Courts project continued to move forward last week as eight design/build teams from across the nation were interviewed by the County’s Technical Review Committee (TRC). The TRC further narrowed the field of potential design/build teams to three finalists last week. The three finalists will be interviewed again on January 12, 2021 as the process to design and build a consolidated courts facility for Elkhart County continues to move forward.

“It was tough work to narrow down the teams,” commented Frank Lucchese, Vice President, Elkhart County Commissioners. “The participants were some of the best in the business.”

Last month on November 14, the Elkhart County Council approved a request from the Elkhart County Commissioners to purchase 32 acres of land along Reliance Road in Goshen. This location, which is central to every city and town in Elkhart County, is where the estimated \$80 million campus will be built.

“In our two days interviewing prospective design/build teams last week, some common themes emerged,” added Lucchese, “All eight teams reinforced that the Reliance Road property was well suited to serve every city and town in the county. And all teams made a commitment to involve and utilize local contractors.”

“I’m particularly excited to see the teams committed to working with local contractors and businesses,” said Suzie Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner. “Now that the TRC has narrowed the field to three solid candidates, we’ll move to the next phase of interviews on January 12, 2021. From there, we’ll select a finalist and move forward.”

Elkhart County Government is committed to keeping constituents informed as the project moves forward. A website with frequently asked questions, key facts and an evolving timeline has been created as part of the process. The address is [www.SmartCourtsProject.com](http://www.SmartCourtsProject.com).

#### **ABOUT THE TRC (TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE)**

Members of the Technical Review Committee include Frank Lucchese – Elkhart County Commissioner, David Hess – Elkhart County Council, Sean Holmes – Chief Deputy, Elkhart County Sheriff’s Department, William Shepler P.E., DBIA – CEO, PMSI consulting, Daniel Rawlins, RA, DBIA – Project Mgr., InterDesign.

#### **ABOUT THE ELKHART COUNTY SMART COURTS PROJECT**

The genesis of a consolidated Elkhart County Courthouse system goes back to 1992. The project has been discussed as a necessary improvement since that time.

Beginning in January 2018 and concluding in July of 2020, more than two dozen locations were studied by Elkhart County government as potential sites for the consolidated campus. The studies included sites in downtown Goshen and downtown Elkhart.

On September 12, 2020 an initial bond agreement was approved in the amount of \$35 million for the first phase in financing to purchase land, design and build the new courthouse.

On November 14, 2020, the Elkhart County Council unanimously approved the purchase of 32 acres of vacant property at 1905 Reliance Road in Goshen as the location for the new consolidated courts campus.

On December 9/10, 2020, the TRC interviewed 8 design/build teams. On December 15, 2020, the TRC narrowed the field of design/build teams down to three. The three finalists will be interviewed a second time on January 12, 2021.

#### **ABOUT ELKHART COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Elkhart County is governed by a board of three County Commissioners. The board of Commissioners constitutes the legislative body of the county for ordinance purposes and serves as the executive branch for Elkhart County government.

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#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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