

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Hammond will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the auditorium of Washington Irving Middle School, located at 4727 Pine Avenue, Hammond, Indiana 46327 for the proposed Chicago Street Widening and Reconstruction Project (DES. 1297017) in Hammond, Lake County. An open house session will take place from 5:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., with the formal presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on the environmental document and preliminary design plans for the proposed transportation project.

The purpose of this proposed action is to improve safety, reduce congestion, enhance mobility, address deteriorating infrastructure, and create a unified east-west corridor along the Chicago Street corridor (former SR 312) from the Indiana/Illinois state line to White Oak Avenue, the eastern Hammond city limits. The need of this proposed action is a result of existing safety, congestion, and mobility concerns as well as a lack of an east-west corridor through the City of Hammond.

The Chicago Street corridor utilizes three streets: Gostlin Street (from the Illinois state line to Sheffield Avenue), Sheffield Avenue (from Gostlin Street to Chicago Street), and Chicago Street (from Sheffield Avenue to White Oak Avenue). The project would consist of approximately 2.1 miles of road reconstruction and widening. Gostlin Street near the Illinois state line would be realigned to the south in order to improve the safety of the curve in accordance with INDOT design standards. The existing Gostlin Street would be retained and improved. Clark Avenue, Grover Avenue, and Wabash Avenue would not connect to the realigned roadway. Traffic from these streets would use Dearborn Avenue to connect to the realigned roadway. Roundabouts would be constructed at the intersection of the realigned roadway and Sheffield Avenue, and at the intersection of Sheffield Avenue and Chicago Street. New concrete curb and gutter and enclosed storm sewer would be installed throughout the project corridor. Pedestrian facilities would be improved. The typical roadway section varies along the project corridor. Please see the Environmental Assessment at the locations listed below for a more detailed project description.

It is anticipated that the proposed project would require acquisition of 7.48 acres of new permanent right-of-way and 2.34 acres of temporary right-of-way. Total acquisition of 43 residences, 7 commercial properties, and 1 industrial property is anticipated. Based on 2013-2016 costs, the estimated cost for the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction is approximately \$21,602,323. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Indiana Department of Transportation have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of an Environmental Assessment (EA) document.

The Public Hearing will consist of an informal Q&A session with the project management team from 5:30 to 6:00, followed by a formal presentation at 6:00. Statements will be taken for the public record after the formal presentation. Individuals interested in participating in the public statement session may sign the speaker's schedule prior to the presentation. All comments collected before, during, and after the hearing will be evaluated and addressed in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) request document submitted to the FHWA. All comments must

be received by May 7, 2015 in order to be included in the FONSI request. Before and after the formal hearing, the environmental document and preliminary plans will be available for review. Anyone interested in talking to the engineers about the project may do so before or after the formal hearing. Conversations prior to or after the formal hearing will not be part of the official record.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment is available for viewing at the following locations.

1. GoChicagoStreet.com
2. Hammond Public Library (564 State Street, Hammond, Indiana)

In accordance with the “Americans with Disabilities Act”, if you have a disability for which the City of Hammond needs to provide accommodations, please call Briana Hope at American Structurepoint, Inc., at (317) 547-5580, by Friday, April 17, 2015.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1) stating, “Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program.”; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(ix) stating, “Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate.”; and 3) The INDOT *Public Involvement Policies and Procedures* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2012.

Please direct any questions or comments concerning this project to Briana Hope, American Structurepoint, Inc., 7260 Shadeland Station, Indianapolis, Indiana 46256, (317) 547-5580, GoChicagoStreet@structurepoint.com. Comments on the proposed project will be accepted until May 7, 2015. Comments or concerns brought forth by the public during this process will be evaluated and addressed in the FONSI request.