



City of Noblesville

Midland Trace Trail

Gray Road to Willowview Road

Public Hearing

August 7, 2014



AMERICAN
STRUCTUREPOINT
INC.

Project Team

» City of Noblesville

- John Beery, City Engineer
- Jim Hellman, Project Manager, Engineering Department

» American Structurepoint

- Mike Maurovich, Project Manager
- Briana Hope, Environmental Specialist
- Paul Johnson, Environmental Services Manager

Public Hearing Purpose

- » **Presentation of proposed project**
 - Project description
 - Right-of-way impacts
 - Anticipated project costs and schedule
 - Land acquisition process

- » **Present Environmental Document**
 - Impacts to Natural and Human Environment

- » **Individual Comment Period**

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

- » Public notice of hearing was advertised in the **Noblesville Times** and the **Indianapolis Star** on **July 23rd** and **30th, 2014**
- » A copy of the Legal Notice was mailed to as many affected property owners as possible
- » Mailing list sign-in sheet

Documents Available for Review

» Environmental Document

- Viewing locations:

Hamilton East Public Library

1 Library Plaza

Noblesville, Indiana 46060

City of Noblesville Engineering Department

16 South 10th Street

Noblesville, Indiana 46060

American Structurepoint

7260 Shadeland Station

Indianapolis, Indiana 46256

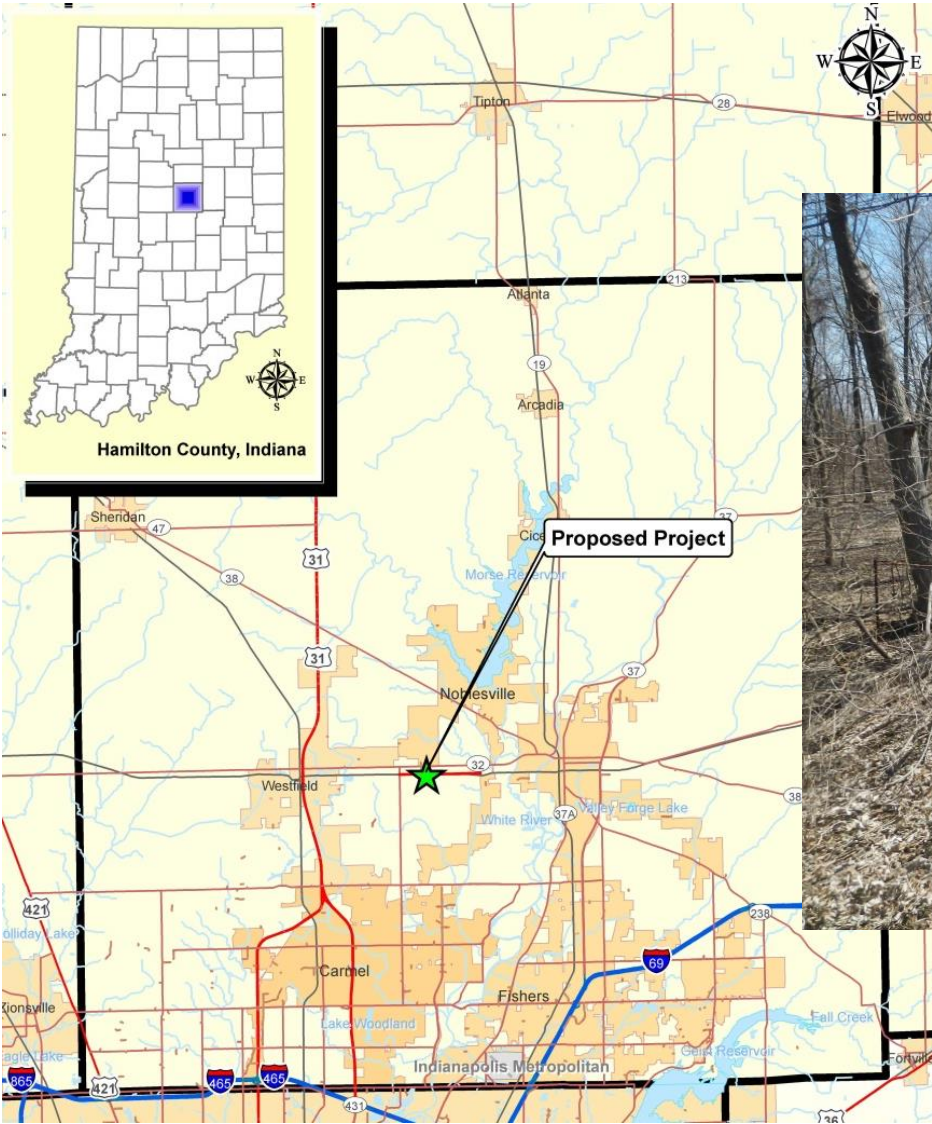
Public Comment Process

- » **Formal public statements - tonight**
 - Speaker Sign-In Sheet
- » **Comment sheet in information packet**
 - Mail comments to American Structurepoint
 - Comment deadline – **August 21, 2014**
- » **Comment to project representatives after formal hearing is complete**
- » **All comments will be addressed in writing**

Formal Public Statements

- » Will be recorded and transcribed for public record
- » Public Statements/Comments will not be addressed tonight as part of this hearing but will be addressed in writing as part of the environmental process
- » Public Notice will advertise availability of responses to public comments
- » Talk with project team after formal hearing

Location Map



Purpose and Need for Improvements

» Purpose

- Increase availability and connectivity of recreational trails for citizens

» Need

- Trail Availability
 - City of Noblesville Comprehensive Master Plan envisions Noblesville as a city composed of many separate neighborhoods connected to each other and the existing greenway system by hiking and biking trails
- Trail Connectivity
 - One section of larger Midland Trace Trail Project
 - Link with Hazel Dell/Little Chicago Trail
 - Connection between Noblesville, Westfield, Zionsville, and Monon Trail System

Alternatives Studied

» **Alternative 2 - Do-Nothing Alternative**

- Do-nothing alternative does not meet the purpose and need

» **Alternative 3 – Corridor to Follow School Property Line**

- Greater separation between trail users and students
- Would not utilize existing trail on school property

» **Alternative 4 – Railway Corridor Only**

- No diversion on school property
- Would bring trail users very close to school
- Would require crossing the drive leading to the parking lot at the baseball fields

» **Alternative 5 – Wetland Avoidance**

- Would eliminate impacts to delineated wetlands
- Greater impact to residential property owners
- Would not utilize existing railway corridor

Alternative 1 – Preferred Alternative

» Multi-Use Path Generally Following Railway Corridor and Utilizing Existing Trail

- Addresses the Purpose and Need
 - Connects to Hazel Dell/Little Chicago Trail
 - Connects residential areas with Hazel Dell Elementary School and baseball fields
- Reduces Safety Concerns at School
- Utilizes Existing Infrastructure
- Minimizes Land Acquisition



Alternative 1 – Preferred Alternative

- » **Generally a 40 foot wide corridor**
 - 12-foot wide paved path
 - Earthen shoulders
- » **Utilizes railway corridor and existing drainage structures when possible**
- » **Tree clearing minimized to provide forested trail corridor**

Project Costs and Schedule

» Project Costs

- Construction costs unknown at this point
- Right-of-way acquisition cost estimated at \$750,000
- Both federal and local funding

» Project Schedule

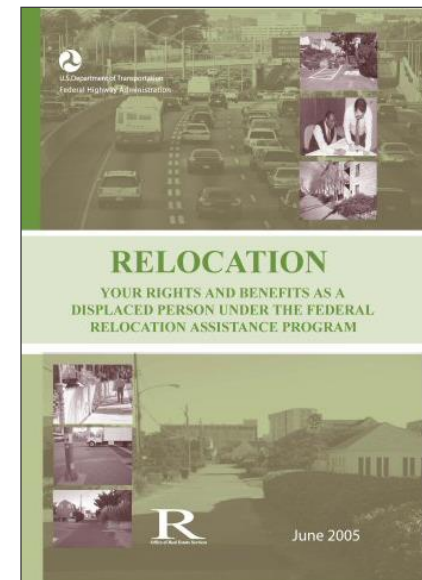
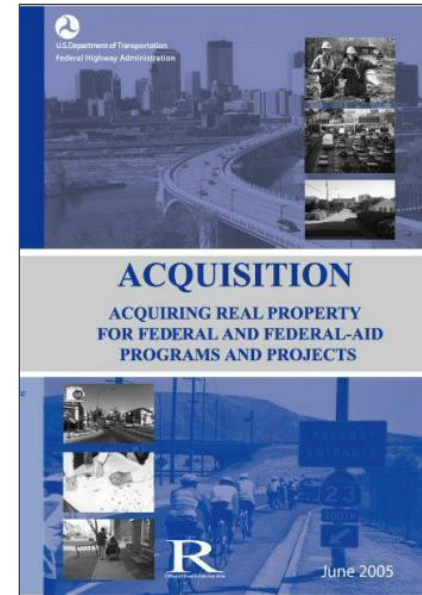
- Right-of-way acquisition anticipated to start in late summer/fall of 2014

New Right-of-Way Requirements

- » **Approximately 12.2 acres required for 40-foot wide corridor**
- » **Land Use**
 - Residential
 - Approximately 8.5 acres
 - School
 - Approximately 3.7 acres
- » **Relocations**
 - None

Land Acquisition Process

- » How land is purchased by local agencies
 - Explains the process of buying property needed for highway improvements
- » Land Acquisition Process must follow the Uniform Act of 1970



Land Acquisition Process

» “Uniform Act” of 1970

- All federal, state, and local governments must comply
- Requires just compensation

» Acquisition process

- Appraisals
- Review appraisals
- Negotiations

Land Acquisition Process

- » Amount of compensation cannot be less than fair market value
- » Partial acquisition
 - Agency will state amount to be paid of the part of the land to be acquired.
 - Separate amount will be stated for damages to the portion retained.
 - If remainder has little or no value, agency will consider purchasing remainder.

Land Acquisition Process

» Agreement

- When agreement is reached, owner will be asked to sign an option to buy, purchase agreement, easement, or deed.

» No Agreement

- Mediation
- Condemnation

Categorical Exclusion, Level 3

- » **A Categorical Exclusion (CE) is prepared for actions that do not have a significant effect on the environment**
 - 4 CE levels based on the extent of impacts
- » **The CE examines potential social, economic, and environmental factors**
 - CE reviewed by INDOT and approved the release for public involvement on July 18, 2014
 - No areas of significant impact identified

Environmental Impacts

Scope of Environmental Study

» Evaluate impacts to natural and human environment

- Waterways, wetlands, and endangered species
- Historic properties
- Social and economic factors

Environmental Impacts

Coordination and Community Involvement

- » 19 federal, state, and local agencies asked to provide input
- » Information Meeting (November 7, 2012)
- » Public Hearing (August 7, 2014)
 - CE reviewed by INDOT, approved, and released for public involvement on July 18, 2014

Environmental Impacts

» Historic Properties

- Archaeological reconnaissance conducted
 - No archaeological resources identified
 - No properties currently listed or individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Project meets Category B-8 of the Section 106 Minor Projects Programmatic Agreement
- No impact to historic properties

Environmental Impacts

“Waters of the US”

» Wetland delineation complete

- Six wetlands
- One stream



Environmental Requirements

Permits Expected to be Required

- » Section 404 Regional General Permit – US Army Corps of Engineers
- » Section 401 Water Quality Certification – Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)
- » Rule 5 Erosion Control – IDEM

Public Comments

American Structurepoint, Inc.

- » 7260 Shadeland Station
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
Attn: Briana Hope

Email

- » bhope@structurepoint.com

Respectfully request comments postmarked by

- » August 14, 2014

All substantial comments will be reviewed, evaluated, and given full consideration during the decision-making process.

Public Comments

Comment for Public Record

- » Come up to podium
- » State your name
- » State your comment
- » Speak clearly into microphone for ease of transcribing
- » Responses will be answered in subsequent project documentation

Please limit your comments to 2-3 minutes so all persons have an opportunity to speak and to be respectful of other people's time