

# **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Midland Trace Trail  
Gray Road to Willowview Road  
Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana**

**Designation No. 1383168**

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## **INFORMATION PACKET**

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AMERICAN  
**STRUCTUREPOINT**  
INC.



**Thursday, August 7, 2014  
Formal Presentation: 6:00 p.m.**

**Hazel Dell Elementary School Cafeteria  
3025 Westfield Road  
Noblesville, Indiana**

Prepared By:

American Structurepoint, Inc.  
7260 Shadeland Station  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256  
(317) 547-5580



August 7, 2014

Dear Concerned Citizens, Local Residents, and Elected Public Officials:

Welcome to the City of Noblesville's public hearing regarding the proposed Midland Trace Trail Project from Gray Road to Willowview Road.

The purpose of the public hearing is to explain the proposed project and receive comments, concerns, and suggestions. We appreciate the opportunity to be here this evening and look forward to listening to the concerns and issues that are important to this community. Comments can be presented in several ways.

1. You may verbally express your comments here tonight during the public statement session held after the formal presentation. You may do this by signing the Speaker's Schedule located at the table with the handout materials. **All statements will be recorded and then transcribed in order to be included in the official public hearing transcript.**
2. You may complete one of the comment sheets (attached) and return utilizing one of the following methods below.
  - a. Hand deliver to one of the hearing representatives from American Structurepoint in attendance this evening
  - b. Mail to Briana Hope at American Structurepoint, Inc., 7260 Shadeland Station, Indianapolis, Indiana 46256
  - c. Fax to Briana Hope at (317) 543-0270
  - d. Email to [bhope@structurepoint.com](mailto:bhope@structurepoint.com)

You may mail your comments at any time during the next two weeks. **Should you choose to submit comments by mail, please have them postmarked by August 21, 2014.** All comments submitted will become part of the transcript and be addressed in subsequent project documentation, along with the verbal comments presented here tonight.

All substantial comments received will be evaluated and responded to in writing within subsequent project documentation. The documentation will address all concerns raised during the public hearing process and describe the final decisions reached following careful consideration of the views and concerns of the public.

The approved environmental document is available for public review and inspection at the following locations.

**Hamilton East Public Library  
1 Library Plaza  
Noblesville, Indiana 46060**

**City of Noblesville  
Engineering Department  
16 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Noblesville, Indiana 46060**

**American Structurepoint  
7260 Shadeland Station  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
46256**

This notice is published in compliance with Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.111(h) entitled "Early Coordination, Public Involvement and Project Development," and the Indiana Public Involvement/Public Hearing Procedures for Federal-Aid Project Development approved by the Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation on July 8, 1997.



## Hearing Agenda

American Structurepoint Staff will be available in the display area to explain proposed project details and environmental impacts before and after the official hearing.

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|---|---|
| 1. Meeting Called to Order  | Paul Johnson<br>American Structurepoint |
| 2. Explanation of the Hearing Purpose and Process   | Paul Johnson<br>American Structurepoint |
| 3. Project Description  | Briana Hope<br>American Structurepoint  |
| 4. Environmental Document Approval  | Briana Hope<br>American Structurepoint  |
| 5. Public Statement Session   | Paul Johnson<br>American Structurepoint |
| 6. Adjournment  | Paul Johnson<br>American Structurepoint |
| 7. Questions and Answers – Engineers and project representatives will be available in the display area to answer questions. |   |



## Project Description

The City of Noblesville is developing a Federal-aid project to provide increased trail availability and connectivity in Noblesville in accordance with the City of Noblesville Comprehensive Master Plan. The proposed trail project includes the development of plans for the proposed Midland Trace Trail project along the abandoned “Midland” Central Railway corridor (approximately 0.2 mile south of SR 32). The corridor extends from Gray Road east to the western property boundary of Hazel Dell Elementary. Instead of bisecting the school property, the corridor turns south then east along the property line, follows an existing trail section north along the eastern side of the baseball fields, and reconnects with the railroad corridor on the east side of the school property. The proposed trail then extends east to Willowview Road. The majority of the area currently exists as an abandoned railroad corridor. The railroad corridor between from Gray Road to Hazel Dell Road and from Mill Creek Road to Willowview Road is overgrown and unmaintained. The section between Hazel Dell Road and Mill Creek Road has been maintained as a gravel recreational path surrounded by trees.

The proposed project includes constructing a multi-use path along the corridor described above. The proposed path would be a 12-foot wide paved path with earthen shoulders. The existing trail on the Hazel Dell Elementary School property would not be widened to match the remainder of the proposed trail. The proposed trail construction would effectively address the purpose and need by providing a trail section near current and developing housing divisions, a school and a baseball park. Construction of this trail would create a connection with the proposed Hazel Dell/Little Chicago Trail. On a more broad scale, the proposed trail would provide a critical connection between existing and proposed trail sections which would connect Noblesville to Westfield, Zionsville, and the Monon Trail system.

## Description of Right-of-Way

The project will require the purchase of right-of-way. Refer to the pamphlets distributed at this meeting: ACQUISITION – “Acquiring Real Property for Federal and Federal-Aid Programs and Projects” and RELOCATION – “Your Rights and Benefits as a Displaced Person Under the Federal Relocation Assistance Program”. Acquisition and relocation information can also be viewed at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate).

Approximately 12.2 acres of permanent right-of-way would be acquired for the proposed project. No temporary right-of-way is necessary. The proposed right-of-way corridor width is 40 feet. Right-of-way would be acquired from residential and institutional (school) land uses. No total property acquisitions would be required for this project. The right-of-way to be acquired will be primarily residential. No relocations are anticipated as a result of this project.

## Project Schedule

Milestone	Expected Dates
Right-of-Way Appraising Begins	Late Summer/Fall 2014



## **Estimated Project Cost Summary**

Based on 2015 costs, the estimated right-of-way costs associated with the project is \$750,000. The proposed project was incorporated into the Indiana Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs on July 11, 2013. The right-of-way acquisition process is estimated to late this summer (2014).

## **Environmental Documentation**

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have reviewed the Categorical Exclusion Level 3 (CE3) prepared by American Structurepoint for this project, and released the report for public involvement on July 18, 2014. The CE3 evaluates the impact of the proposed trail project on the natural and human environment. No areas of potentially significant impacts have been identified.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of federal undertakings on historic properties. The Federal Highway Administration has determined that certain types of projects typically have no effect on historic properties. These projects may qualify for the Minor Projects Programmatic Agreement (PA), which streamlines the Section 106 process. On May 28, 2014, INDOT determined that the proposed project falls under the PA, Category B-8 (Recreational Trail Projects).

The US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 prohibits the use of certain public and historic lands for federally funded transportation facilities unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. The law applies to publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife/waterfowl refuges, and National Register eligible or listed historic properties. These properties are called Section 4(f) resources. The proposed project would require the acquisition of property from the Hazel Dell Elementary School. While the trail corridor is on school property near the baseball fields, none of the land which would be acquired is currently being used for recreation. Converting this land to a trail would not have an impact on the recreational features of the property. In addition, an existing trail on the Hazel Dell Elementary School property would also be acquired for the proposed Midland Trace Trail Project. The existing trail serves a transportation function, as opposed to a recreational function, because of its short length and the apparent purpose of connecting the school and the housing addition located to the south. Additionally, the existing trail is not a named trail included in Noblesville Parks and Recreation trail mapping. Noblesville Schools confirmed that the proposed project would not affect the recreational features of the school property which qualify it for protection under Section 4(f).

Minor impacts to wetland areas and an unnamed tributary to Emily Vestal Drain are potential as a result of the proposed project. Implementation of appropriate best management practices should limit impacts to ecological resources. It is expected the project may require a Section 404 permit issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers and a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for potential impacts to the unnamed tributary to Emily Vestal Drain and the identified wetlands. A Rule 5 Erosion Control Notice of Intent from IDEM will also be required.



**Comment Sheet**

Please provide your comments, concerns, and/or suggestions regarding the proposed Midland Trace Trail Project (Gray Road to Willowview Road). Your comments are important to us, and we sincerely appreciate your time and participation during the public involvement process. Please submit comments by **Thursday, August 21, 2014**. **Comments may be mailed, faxed, or submitted via email to the address/fax number below.**

Briana Hope  
American Structurepoint, Inc.  
7260 Shadeland Station  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256-3957  
Fax: (317) 543-0270  
Email: bhope@structurepoint.com

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, August 7, 2014  
**Project:** Midland Trace Trail Project (Gray Road to Willowview Road)

**Name:** (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_