

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DES. NO. 1902832

The Town of Chesterton will host a public hearing on April 19, 2023 at 6pm CST at the Chesterton Middle School, 651 W. Morgan Avenue, Chesterton, IN 46304. Enter Chesterton Middle School by the Auditorium Entrance (door #2), and the public hearing will be held in the Auditorium. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for the Westchester-Liberty Trail (WLT) Phase 3 project (Des. No. 1902832) in Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to reduce potential conflicts between pedestrians/bicyclists and motor vehicles traveling between WLT 1 and WLT 2, and the sidewalks located along County Road (CR) 1100 North and North CR 100 East.

As proposed, the project would connect WLT 1 and WLT 2, and consists of the construction of 0.99-mile long, 8-foot wide, shared-use paths over three connected segments. The first segment (Segment 1) begins at the intersection of CR 1100 North and CR 50 East and extends approximately 0.45 mile east along the north side of CR 1100 North before ending where an existing sidewalk begins. This segment includes modification to two existing roadway stream crossings. The second segment (Segment 2) exists between CR 1100 North and Laurel Creek Drive, beginning 0.21 mile west of the intersection of CR 1100 North and CR 100 East and extends south approximately 0.30 mile on a new alignment through a wooded area before connecting to Laurel Creek Drive within the Tamarack Subdivision Park. This segment would include construction of an 8-foot wide boardwalk through portions of the forested area and includes a new stream crossing. The third segment (Segment 3) begins where Segment 2 ends, along the north side of Laurel Creek Drive, and extends east 0.20 mile to the intersection of CR 100 East and Laurel Creek Drive. The existing sidewalk along Laurel Creek Drive will be removed and replaced with the shared-use path. Segment 3 then extends south approximately 0.05 mile along the west side of CR 100 East to the intersection with Rail Road where it will end. ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalks will be constructed as needed.

The proposed construction of this project will require 1.60 acres of new permanent right-of-way, and the reacquisition of 0.86 acre of right-of-way. No relocations are anticipated. The cost associated with this project is approximately \$1,942,000.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan will include temporary lane closures while curb ramps are being constructed adjacent to roadways. There will also be temporary sidewalk and trail closures throughout the project area. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. Construction is anticipated to occur in Spring 2024.

Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and INDOT have agreed this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 3 environmental document. Preliminary design plans along with the CE document and other project documents are available for review at the following locations:

1. In-Person at:
Chesterton Municipal Complex, 1490 Broadway Ave Chesterton, IN 46304
Westchester Public Library, 200 W Indiana Ave Chesterton, IN 46304
2. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. Website:
<https://www.structurepointpublic.com/wlt>

Project information, including the hearing presentation, will be available on-line via the American Structurepoint, Inc. website (<https://www.structurepointpublic.com/wlt>). Public statements for the records

will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during, and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered, and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to: Meghan Hinkle, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-mail: mhinkle@structurepoint.com. **The Town of Chesterton respectfully request comments be submitted by May 5, 2023.**

With advance notice, Town of Chesterton will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regards to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process, including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired, and other services as needed. In addition, Town of Chesterton will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids, including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact Meghan Hinkle, American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46240. E-mail: mhinkle@structurepoint.com.

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 Project Development Public Involvement Procedures* approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.