

SILHAVY ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

VALPARAISO, PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA
DES. NO. 1702150

PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET



AMERICAN
STRUCTUREPOINT
INC.

Contact: Alyssa Kern, American Structurepoint, Inc.
(317) 547-5580 or akern@structurepoint.com

December 12, 2024

Welcome Local Resident, Interested Citizen, and Elected / Local Public Official:

Welcome to the public hearing regarding the Silhavy Roadway Improvement Project (Des. No. 1702150) located in Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana.

The purpose of this public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current design plans and the environmental document for this project. There are several ways your comments may be submitted, outlined below:

1. **Complete** a comment form and return it to a project team representative. Comment forms are available at the sign-in table and also included in this information packet
2. **Participate** as a speaker during the comment session following tonight's presentation
3. **Visit** www.structurepointpublic.com/silhavy to learn more about this project and submit comments online
4. **Mail** comments to Alyssa Kern of American Structurepoint, Inc. at 9025 River Road, Suite, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240
5. **E-mail** comments to Alyssa Kern, American Structurepoint, Inc. at akern@structurepoint.com
6. **Fax** comments to Alyssa Kern of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 543-0270
7. Submit comments (or have comments postmarked by) **December 31, 2024**. Comment will be reviewed and considered as part of the decision making process

Preliminary design plans along with the Categorical Exclusion (CE) document and other project documents are available for review at the following locations:

1. In-Person at:
Clerk Treasurer's Office, City Hall, 166 W Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383
Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St, Valparaiso, IN 46383
2. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. Website:
www.structurepointpublic.com/silhavy

The Silhavy Roadway Improvement Project Team thanks you for your participation in this project.

Public Hearing Agenda

Meeting Called to Order
Formal Presentation
Public Comment Session
Project Open House

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

The project team will be available in the display area to explain project details and address questions prior to and following the public hearing.

The Categorical Exclusion (CE) is available for public review and inspection at the following locations:

1. In-person at the hearing
2. Project Website: www.structurepointpublic.com/silhavy
3. Clerk Treasurer's Office, City Hall, 166 W Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383
4. Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Thank you for attending tonight's public hearing.

Environmental Documentation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federally funded projects to evaluate how the proposed project could impact the surrounding environment, including both the natural environment, like waterways, wetlands, and endangered species, and the social environment, like historic resources and social and economic factors. These evaluations go into the environmental document that is prepared for the project.

At this point in the process, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) has been completed that evaluated a wide variety of impacts including things like right-of-way, water resources, and historic resources. We also coordinated with local, state, and federal agencies that may have jurisdiction or special expertise. As a reminder, the CE document is available for review online at the project website, and in-person at the locations discussed earlier.

The CE was reviewed and released for public involvement by INDOT and FHWA on November 6, 2024. The information below is a summary of the project and impacts as described in the CE.

Project Description

The project (Des. No. 1702150) is located along Silhavy Road from approximately 0.70 mile west of Strongbow Center Drive to 0.37 mile east of Strongbow Center Drive in Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana.

The need for the project is evidenced by the traffic congestion that occurs at the intersection of Strongbow Center Drive, Silhavy Road, and US 30 Frontage Road onto US 30. Due to the nearness of both intersections, the storage length at the approach of the US 30 and Strongbow Center Drive intersection only allows a few vehicles to queue before additional vehicles back up onto Silhavy Road. These backed-up vehicles along Silhavy Road are then delayed from moving into the signal queue and/or through the signal due to being stop-controlled and waiting for an appropriate gap in the free flow traffic coming from the signal.

LOS is a scale (A through F) which classifies operating conditions of roads. In general, the operating conditions of intersections are considered acceptable if found to operate as LOS D or better. The 95th percentile queue length encapsulates the traffic conditions occurring 95 percent of the time and removes the 5 percent of occurrences that are considered rare. Under existing conditions, the southbound approach of Strongbow Center Drive operates at a level of service (LOS) D in the AM and PM peak hours. However, the 95th percentile queue length is approximately 96 feet during the AM peak hour and 142 feet in the PM peak hour, which both exceed the existing available storage length of 55 feet. This queuing blocks through traffic on Silhavy Road/US 30 Frontage Road and results in vehicles queuing in the westbound lane of Silhavy Road and the eastbound lane of US 30 Frontage Road.

Additionally, due to the configuration of the intersection and the backup of queued vehicles, drivers can experience confusion regarding which vehicles have the right-of-way for travel, which increases the potential for accidents. From 2022-2024, there were a total of 46 accidents that occurred at the intersection with five of the accidents resulting in injury and 41 resulting in property damage.

The purpose of the project is to improve the LOS of the southbound approach of the Strongbow Center Drive and US 30 intersection to an acceptable LOS (LOS D or better) and improve available vehicle storage length to prevent vehicles from blocking access to Silhavy Road/US 30 Frontage Road.

The project will reconstruct and realign Silhavy Road within the project area. From the intersection of Silhavy Road and US 30, Silhavy Road will extend north approximately 600 feet to a newly constructed roundabout, and then extend approximately 1200 feet to the southeast connecting to the existing Silhavy Road. The typical roadway along this section of Silhavy Road will consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction). The newly constructed single-lane roundabout will include a 62-foot-wide raised center island, an 18-foot-wide truck apron, and an 18-foot-wide travel lane bordered by curb and gutter. The roundabout will have single entry and exit lanes for all approaches. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks and curb ramps will be added at each approach of the roundabout. A 10-foot-wide multi-use path will be constructed on the north side of the roundabout and Silhavy Road, and a five-foot-wide sidewalk will be constructed on the south side of the roundabout and Silhavy Road. The US 30 Frontage Road will be reconstructed and realigned

northeast of its current location. Portions of Silhavy Road pavement, the US 30 Frontage Road pavement, and the former hotel concrete foundation will be removed.

Maintenance of Traffic

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) for the project will be phased construction maintaining traffic on Silhavy Road for a portion of construction, and a full closure of Silhavy Road with a posted detour for a portion of construction. Phase 1 of construction will construct the new roundabout and new alignments of Silhavy Road and the US 30 Frontage Road while still maintaining traffic on the existing alignment of Silhavy Road and the US 30 Frontage Road. Phase 2 of construction will require a full closure of Silhavy Road and the US 30 Frontage Road with a posted detour to tie in the newly constructed roadway into the existing roadways and remove roadway pavement. The posted detour will utilize US 30, SR 49, and SR 2 and will be approximately 2.23 miles long.

Right-of-Way and Relocations

The project will require the acquisition of right-of-way. Acquisition information can also be viewed at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/. A total of approximately 6.01 acres of permanent right-of-way will be required, which consists of 3.81 acres from commercial properties, 0.72 acre of forested land, and 1.48 acres from Valparaiso University. One business, a former hotel, was acquired and demolished as a part of this project.

The land acquisition process must follow the Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. The Uniform Act of 1970's goal is to ensure fair compensation and assistance for those whose property is acquired for public use. Brochures that describe this process can be found on the project website and at the hearing information stations. Anyone with property specific questions are invited to reach out by phone, email, or comment form.

Project Schedule and Estimated Cost

Milestone	Expected Dates
CE Released for Public Involvement	November 6, 2024
Public Comment Opportunity	December 2024
Anticipated CE Approval	Early 2026
Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins	Early 2026
Construction Begins	Spring 2026

The estimated cost for this project is \$4,212,350 which includes design, right-of-way, and construction costs. Both federal and local funding will be used. The project is included in the 2024-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Water Resources

A Wetland Delineation Report and Waters Report was completed by American Structurepoint, Inc. on March 30, 2023. It was determined that three streams (UNT 1 to Salt Creek, UNT 2 to Salt Creek, and UNT 3 to Salt Creek) were identified within the investigated area. It is anticipated that UNT 3 to Salt Creek will be permanently impacted for a total of 15 linear feet due to replacing the storm water pipe and placing riprap.

It was determined that four wetlands (Wetlands A, B, C-1, and C-2) were identified within the investigated area. It is anticipated Wetland A will be permanently impacted for a total of 0.012 acre due to reconstructing and realigning the US 30 Frontage Road.

It is anticipated that the impacts to the stream and wetland described above will require an IDEM Section 401 Nationwide Permit (NWP) and a USACE Section 404 NWP will be required for impacts to streams and wetlands. Mitigation is not anticipated but will be determined during permitting.

In addition, an IDEM Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP) will be required for the project due to ground disturbance over one acre.

Terrestrial Habitat

The project will impact approximately 2.82 acres of terrestrial habitat, consisting of approximately 2.72 acres of bushes, shrubs, and grass, and approximately 0.55 acre of trees due to the construction.

Noise

A noise analysis was completed for the project. The analysis identified two receptors within the project area. No receptors identified will be impacted. Noise abatement was determined to be not feasible or reasonable at any location. Additional details concerning the noise analysis can be found in the CE. A reevaluation of the noise analysis will occur during final design. If during final design it has been determined that conditions have changed such that noise abatement is feasible and reasonable, the abatement measures will be provided. The final decision on the installation of any abatement measures will be made after completion of the project's final design and the public involvement process.

For more information regarding the project plans and potential impacts of the project, please refer to the CE document, which is available at the following locations:

1. In-person at the hearing
2. Project Website: www.structurepointpublic.com/silhavy
3. Clerk Treasurer's Office, City Hall, 166 W Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383
4. Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson St, Valparaiso, IN 46383

