

NOTICE OF PROJECT ADVANCEMENT

DES. NO. 1902832

The Town of Chesterton held a public hearing on April 19, 2023 regarding the proposed Westchester-Liberty Trail (WLT) Phase 3 project (Des. No. 1902832) in Chesterton, Porter County, Indiana. The public hearing was held as part of the environmental analysis phase and per federal requirements outlined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). 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.

The preferred alternative proposes to 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 purpose of this notice is to communicate the status of this project to community members. As part of the Town of Chesterton's commitment to public involvement, it is important to keep the community informed of project developments. This is also an opportunity to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental analysis phase and transition to the next phase of development.

Subsequent to reviewing and considering all comments and materials received as a result of the public hearing held at the Chesterton Middle School on April 19, 2023, the Town of Chesterton will advance this project to the next phase of development with construction anticipated to take place in 2024. Environmental analysis documentation, including written responses to public comments submitted as part of the public involvement process, will be available for review until September 4, 2023 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>

Should you have questions regarding this notice please contact Matt Gavelek, PE, Town of Chesterton Asst. Town Engineer at mgavelek@chestertonin.org.