

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DES. NO. 1702150

The City of Valparaiso will host a public hearing on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at the City Hall Council Chambers located at 166 W Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383. The hearing will begin at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans for the Silhavy Roadway Improvement Project (Des. No. 1702150) in Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana. The purpose of the project is to improve the Level of Service (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.

As proposed, the project will reconstruct and realign Silhavy Road. From the intersection of Silhavy Road and United States Route (US) 30, Silhavy Road will extend north approximately 600 feet to a newly constructed roundabout, and then extend approximately 1,200 feet to the southeast connecting to the existing Silhavy Road. The roadway will consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes (one in each direction). 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. New roadway lighting will be added throughout the project area, and traffic signal improvements will also be made at the intersection of Silhavy Road and US 30. The existing storm sewers and outlets will be replaced with curb and gutter, inlets and an enclosed storm sewer.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project will include 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. Each of the two phases of the MOT will last approximately four months. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. The project will require 2.26 acres of new permanent right-of-way. One relocation, a former commercial hotel property, occurred for the project.

Federal and local funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document has been prepared for the project. This document and project information can be mailed upon request. The environmental documentation and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

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

Project information, including the hearing presentation, will be available on-line on the project website (www.structurepointpublic.com/silhavy).

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: Alyssa Kern, at American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240. E-mail: akern@structurepoint.com. **The City of Valparaiso respectfully requests comments be submitted by December 31, 2024.**

With advance notice, the City of Valparaiso 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, the City of Valparaiso 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 Alyssa Kern, American Structurepoint, Inc., 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46240. E-mail: akern@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.