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# COLLEGE AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

GOSHEN, ELKHART COUNTY, INDIANA  
DES. NO. 1900739

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## PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET



AMERICAN  
**STRUCTUREPOINT**  
INC.

Contact: Leigh Stevenson, American Structurepoint, Inc.

(317) 547-5580 or [l Stevenson@structurepoint.com](mailto:l Stevenson@structurepoint.com)

December 6, 2022

**Welcome Concerned Citizens, Local Residents, and Elected/Local Public Officials to the City of Goshen's public hearing regarding the proposed College Avenue Improvement Project (Des. No 1900739).**

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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 presented this evening and following tonight's public hearing. You may submit comments in the following manner:

1. **Complete a comment form** and return it to American Structurepoint, Inc. (see below). Comment forms are available at the sign-in table and also included in your information packet. Comment forms are also available at the project website at [www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue).
2. **Participate as a speaker** during the comment session following tonight's presentation.
3. **Complete the digital comment box** on the project website at [www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue).
4. **E-mail comments** to Leigh Stevenson of American Structurepoint, Inc. at [l Stevenson@structurepoint.com](mailto:l Stevenson@structurepoint.com).
5. **Mail comments** to Leigh Stevenson of American Structurepoint, Inc. at 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.
6. **Fax comments** to Leigh Stevenson of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 547-2070.

Please submit comments by (or have comments postmarked by) **December 23, 2022**. Comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the decision making process. If you have any questions concerning the proposed project or submitting comments, please contact Leigh Stevenson of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 547-5580 or [l Stevenson@structurepoint.com](mailto:l Stevenson@structurepoint.com).

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

1. In-person at:
  - a. Information stations around the room at the hearing
  - b. Goshen Public Library, 601 S 5th St, Goshen, Indiana 46526
2. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. Website - [www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue)

## Public Hearing Agenda

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1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Formal Presentation
3. Public Comment Session
4. Project Open House

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

**The project team will be available at the information stations around the room to explain project details and address questions prior to and following the public hearing.**

After the hearing, anyone may view the presented information (formal presentation, environmental document with preliminary project plans, project exhibits, etc.) at the project website:

[www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue).

**Thank you for attending the public hearing for the College Avenue Roadway Improvement Project (Des. No. 1900739)**

## Project Description

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The City of Goshen, with administrative oversight from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing plans for the proposed College Avenue Roadway Improvement Project (Des. No. 1900739) located in Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana. The project is located on College Avenue, beginning at US 33 and extending 0.82 mile east before ending approximately 450 feet east of Century Drive near the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing.

The need for this project is evidenced by the backup of vehicles along the two-lane corridor, a result of vehicles stopping while attempting to turn left across the roadway, and the lack of pedestrian facilities. Existing College Avenue is a two-lane roadway (one lane in each direction) with only one dedicated turn lane located at the intersection of US 33. Currently, the only stop-control through the project area between US 33 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad are stop signs for vehicular traffic entering from side streets. Due to this, traffic flows freely between US 33 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad and requires left turn movements to be dependent on the amount and frequency of gaps occurring in traffic flow. These attempted turns create stopped traffic conditions due to the wait time for a gap to occur in the traffic flow and additional vehicles waiting behind the turning vehicle. The vehicles attempting left turns and the subsequent backup of vehicles along College Avenue results in increased risk of rear-end accidents.

Currently, the only sidewalk present within the project corridor is a paved multi-use path located along the north side of College Avenue at the western termini of the project area. However, the multi-use path currently terminates approximately 350 feet east of US 33. Due to the lack of sidewalks within the remainder of the project corridor, there is no pedestrian access from the residential and commercial properties along this portion of College Avenue to the existing multi-use path. Therefore, access to existing pedestrian facilities would require pedestrians to utilize the roadway or an area immediately adjacent to the roadway, thus creating an increased potential for vehicle and pedestrian conflict.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion and potential for rear end crashes caused by left turning vehicles, improve access to existing pedestrian facilities along College Avenue, and reduce potential conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians traveling along the College Avenue corridor.

As proposed, the project will include the widening of College Avenue to accommodate a center two-way-left turn (TWLT) lane throughout the project corridor. The roadway typical section will consist of two 11-foot wide travel lanes (one eastbound, one westbound) separated by a 14-foot wide center TWLT lane, bordered by 2-foot, 7-inch wide combined curb and gutter along both sides of the roadway. The typical section will also include a new, 10-foot wide paved multi-use path along the north side of College Avenue. A new pedestrian bridge will be constructed to convey the multi-use path over Horn Ditch. The project will also replace the initial 25 to 50 feet of residential and business driveways in order to tie in these access

points with the reconstructed roadway, and install a new storm sewer system throughout the project corridor.

## Project Schedule

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Milestone	Completed/Expected Dates
Environmental Document Release for Public Involvement	September 27, 2022
Public Comment Opportunity	November 21 – December 23, 2022
Right-of-Way Appraising Begins	Spring 2023
Anticipated Construction Start	Summer 2024

## Description of Right-of-Way

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The project will require the acquisition of right-of-way. Acquisition information can be viewed at the project website at [www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue) or <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real-estate/>. The project will require approximately 4.33 acre of new permanent right-of-way and approximately 0.52 acre of temporary right-of-way from commercial and residential properties along both sides of College Avenue. The project will also include the reacquisition of approximately 1.26 acre of apparent existing right-of-way. No relocations will occur as a result of this project.

## Estimated Project Cost

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The estimated cost for this project is \$4,777,242 which includes design, right-of-way, and construction costs. Both federal and local funding will be used. The project is included in the 2022-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and the 2022-2026 Michiana Council of Governments (MACOG) Transportation Improvement Plan.

## Maintenances of Traffic (MOT)

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The MOT plan for the project involves a segmental closure of College Avenue, whereby the roadway will be closed in short segments during construction. Through traffic will be detoured around construction using US 33, Kercher Road, and County Road (CR) 36. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. The City of Goshen will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized as much as possible.

## Environmental Documentation

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The FHWA and INDOT have reviewed the Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document prepared by American Structurepoint, Inc. for this project and released the document for public involvement on September 27, 2022. The CE evaluates the impact of the College Avenue Roadway

Improvement Project on the natural and human environment. No area of potentially significant impacts have been identified.

## Water Resources

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A wetland delineation was completed on April 27, 2021 to identify any water resources within the project area. It was determined that one stream, Horn Ditch, was located within the project area. Horn Ditch would likely be considered a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) makes all final determinations regarding jurisdiction.

Horn Ditch is located approximately 0.25 mile west of Century Drive and flows north under College Avenue via the CR 36 Bridge. The Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Horn Ditch is 17 feet wide by 1.6 feet deep. Approximately 22 linear feet of permanent stream impacts are anticipated to Horn Ditch for installation of revetment riprap for scour protection along the bridge piers of the new pedestrian bridge. Due to the placement of fill below the OHWM of Horn Ditch, a Section 401 Regional General Permit (RGP) from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and a Section 404 RGP from the USACE are anticipated for impacts to waters of the U.S. Complete avoidance of the stream was not practical due to the installation of a new pedestrian crossing for the multi-use path along the north side of College Avenue. Mitigation for stream impacts is not anticipated, but will be determined during permitting.

The project is also located within the regulated floodway of Horn Ditch. Due to the installation of the new pedestrian bridge, it is anticipated that a Construction in a Floodway (CIF) permit from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will also be required for this project.

## Cultural Resources

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This project falls within the guidelines of Category B, Types 1, 3, and 8 under the Minor Projects Programmatic Agreement (MPPA). A Phase 1a Archaeological Records Check and Field Reconnaissance was prepared for the project. The records check of the Indiana State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD) identified no previously recorded sites within the survey area. No sites were recommended as eligible for listing in the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures (IRHSS) or the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, no further consultation regarding cultural resources was required and the responsibilities of the FHWA under Section 106 have been fulfilled.

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

1. In-person at:
  - a. Information stations around the room at the hearing
  - b. Goshen Public Library, Goshen Public Library, 601 S 5th St, Goshen, Indiana 46526
2. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. website –  
[www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/collegeavenue)

