US 231 AND 113TH AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

CROWN POINT, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

DES. NO. 1901948

PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET

Contact: Preeti Samra, American Structurepoint, Inc.

(317) 547-5580 or **psamra@structurepoint.com**

October 20, 2025

Dear Concerned Citizens, Local Residents, and Elected/Local Public Officials:

The purpose of this Project Information Packet is to explain the proposed United States (US) 231 and 113th Avenue Intersection Improvement project (Des. No. 1901948) and to receive your comments, concerns, suggestions, and/or request for a public hearing. There are several ways your comments may be submitted, as outlined below:

1. **Complete a comment form** and return it to American Structurepoint, Inc. (see below). Comment forms are included in your information packet. Comment forms are also available at the project website at https://www.structurepointpublic.com/us231and113th
2. **E-mail comments** to Preeti Samra of American Structurepoint, Inc. at psamra@structurepoint.com.
3. **Mail comments** to Preeti Samra of American Structurepoint, Inc. at 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.
4. **Fax comments** to Preeti Samra of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 547-2070.

Please submit comments by (or have comments postmarked by) **October 29, 2025.** 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 Preeti Samra of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 547-5580 or psamra@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. Crown Point Community Library, 122 N Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307
2. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. Website – https://www.structurepointpublic.com/us231and113th

The US 231 and 113th Avenue Improvement Project Team thanks you for your participation in this project.

Project Description

The City of Crown Point, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administrative oversight from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is developing plans for the proposed US 231 and 113th Avenue Improvement project (Des. No. 1901948) located on US 231 at the intersection of 113th Avenue in Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana.

The need for this project is evidenced by the existing roadway and drainage deficiencies, the resulting car crash history, the lack of pedestrian accessibility, and the existing Level of Service (LOS) at the US 231 and 113th Avenue intersection.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the intersection of the US 231 and 113th Avenue to reduce the likelihood of crashes and address the current roadway and drainage deficiencies. Additionally, the purpose of the project is to improve pedestrian accessibility as well as the existing LOS to D ("acceptable") or better in the design year of 2047.

As proposed, the project will reconfigure the existing intersection into a single-lane, three-legged roundabout along with construction of a new sidewalk, new lighting, and curb and gutter. The typical section along US 231 and 113th Avenue will consist of two 12-foot wide travel lanes with curb and gutter. The travel lane will widen approaching the roundabout to an 18-foot wide single-lane. Raised concrete islands will separate the travel lanes approaching the roundabout on all legs. The roundabout design will include an 80-foot wide diameter center island, a 12-foot wide truck apron, and curb and gutter. The roundabout will be shifted approximately 30 feet north of the existing intersection in order to further decrease speed when approaching the intersection. Additionally, an 8-foot wide sidewalk will be constructed around the new roundabout. The new sidewalk constructed as part of this undertaking will include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant cross walks on all three legs of the roundabout which will improve access to and between the existing sidewalks along both sides of 113th Avenue, the Veterans Memorial Trail, and other recreational parks within the City of Crown Point, including the Crown Point Sportsplex.

Project Schedule

Milestone	Completed/Expected Dates
Environmental Document Release for Public Involvement	September 29, 2025
Public Comment Opportunity	October 29, 2025
Right-of-Way Appraising Begins	Spring 2026
Anticipated Construction Start	Fall 2027

Description of Right-of-Way

The project will require the acquisition of right-of-way (ROW). Acquisition information can also be viewed at the project website at https://www.structurepointpublic.com/us231and113th or https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/-real_estate/uniform_act/acquisition/. The project requires the acquisition of approximately 2.010 acres of permanent ROW and 0.616 acre of temporary ROW throughout the project area. An additional 0.29 acre will be the reacquisition of apparent existing right-of-way along US 231 and 113th Avenue. The proposed project will result in the relocation of one commercial business located at 1010 East Joliet Street.

Estimated Project Cost

The estimated cost for this project is $2,764,810 which includes design, right-of-way, and construction costs. Both federal and local funding will be used. The project is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2030 Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Transportation Improvement Program (NIRPC TIP) which has been directly incorporated into the FY 2026-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Maintenances of Traffic (MOT)

The MOT plan for the project will consist of road closures that will include a detour of both US 231 and 113th Avenue. US 231 and 113th Avenue will be closed to thru traffic and local access will be provided. The detour route for motorists will direct traffic along Interstate 65 (I-65) to US 30 and then to State Road (SR) 55. This detour will be approximately 9.5 miles in length. The Veterans Memorial Trail will be temporarily closed at the intersection of North Street and Indiana Ave south to the US 231 and 113th Avenue intersection. A detour to maintain pedestrian traffic through the use of temporary pavement markings will be utilized through the construction zone. The detour will use existing pedestrian facilities and direct pedestrians along North Street to Bulldog Boulevard, and then to 113th Avenue. The pedestrian detour will be approximately 0.90 mile in length. Access to all properties, both residential and commercial, will be maintained during construction. The MOT is scheduled to be in place for approximately six months. The proposed start of construction is Fall 2027.

Environmental Documentation

The FHWA and INDOT have reviewed the Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 3 environmental document prepared by American Structurepoint, Inc. for this project and released the document for public involvement on September 29, 2025. The CE evaluates the impact of the US 231 and 113th Avenue Improvement Project on the natural and human environment. No area of potentially significant impacts have been identified.

Water Resources

A wetland delineation was completed on August 30, 2021, that identified any water resources within the project area. It was determined that one stream (Unnamed Tributary [UNT] to Main Beaver Dam Ditch) was identified within the project area. This feature appears to have jurisdictional connection to Burns Ditch, a Traditionally Navigable Waterway (TNW). Therefore, these features are anticipated to be jurisdictional waters of the US. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) makes all final determinations regarding jurisdiction.

UNT to Main Beaver Dam Ditch enters the project area along the northeast shoulder of US 231. The ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of Main Beaver Dam Ditch is 3.7 feet wide by 0.4 feet deep. It is anticipated that approximately 193 linear feet of permanent impacts will occur to Main Beaver Dam Ditch due to the relocation of the stream and new encapsulation along US 231 and 113th Avenue. It is anticipated that approximately 8 linear feet of temporary impacts will occur to UNT to Main Beaver Dam Ditch due to dewatering activities. Mitigation for stream impacts will likely be required.

It is anticipated that an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 401 Individual Permit (IP) and a USACE 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) are anticipated due to stream impacts occurring below the OHWM and the new encapsulation of UNT to Main Beaver Dam Ditch.

Terrestrial Habitat

Approximately 1.054 acres of terrestrial habitat will be impacted as a result of the project. Approximately 0.28 acre of tree removal will occur as a result of the project. All tree removal will occur during the bat inactive season (October 1 to March 31). Impacts to terrestrial habitat, including tree removal, cannot be avoided due to their location adjacent to roadways.

Protected Species

Project information was submitted through the USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) portal, and an official species list was generated. The project is within range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally endangered northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Other species were generated in the IPaC species list along with the Indiana bat and NLEB. Refer to paragraph below.

The project qualifies for the *Rangewide Programmatic Informal Consultation for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat (NLEB),* dated May 2016 (revised February 2018), between FHWA, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). An effect determination key was completed on November 26, 2024, and based on the responses provided, the project was found to "Not Effect – Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the Indiana bat

and/or the NLEB. INDOT reviewed and concurred with the effect finding on November 26, 2024, and requested USFWS review of the finding. No response was received within the 14-day review period; therefore, it was concluded that they concur with the finding.

The project is within range of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which is listed as a candidate Endangered, Threatened, and Rare (ETR) species; the western regal fritillary (*Argynnis idalia occidentalis*), which is listed as a proposed endangered species, and mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), which is listed as a threatened species. Although the mead's milkweed is listed as a threatened species, no critical habitat has been designated. Additionally, INDOT, on behalf of FHWA, has determined this project will have "No Effect" on the mead's milkweed. Further coordination with USFWS is not required and no impacts to the monarch butterfly, western regal fritillary, or mead's milkweed are expected.

This precludes the need for further consultation on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. If new information on endangered species at the site becomes available, or if project plans are changed, USFWS will be contacted for consultation.

Cultural Resources

The Sauerman Farmstead, a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible and Section 4(f) property is located in the southern quadrant of the intersection of US 231 and 113th Avenue at 1155 East Joliet Street.

FHWA has determined a finding of “No Adverse Effect” is appropriate for this project. Specifically, the project will have “No Adverse Effect” because the project will not diminish the integrity of the characteristics that qualify the historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for inclusion in the NRHP.

To meet the public involvement requirements of Section 106, a legal notice of the FHWA’s finding of “No Adverse Effect” was published in the *Northwest Indiana Times* on March 14, 2025, offering the public an opportunity to submit comment pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e), and 800.6(a)(4). The public comment period closed 30 days later on April 14, 2025. No comments were received within the allotted timeframe.

No further consultation is required. This completes the Section 106 process and the responsibilities of the FHWA under Section 106 have been fulfilled.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 prohibits the use of certain public and historic lands for federally funded transportation facilities unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. The law applies to significantly publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife/waterfowl

refuges, and NRHP eligible or listed historic properties regardless of ownership. Lands subject to this law are considered Section 4(f) resources.

There are five Section 4(f) resources located within or adjacent to the project area. The five Section 4(f) resources are the existing portion of the Veterans Memorial Trail, the Crown Point Sportsplex, the Sauerman Woods Park, the planned Veterans Memorial Parkway Trail as part of the Lake County Parks Multi-Use Trail project (Des. No. 1902675), and the Sauerman Farmstead, an NRHP eligible and Section 4(f) property. Please note the planned Veterans Memorial Parkway Trail (Des. No. 1902675) is outside the scope of this project and will be addressed at a later date with separate environmental documentation.

The Veterans Memorial Trail exists in the northern quadrant of the intersection of US 231 and 113th Avenue and serves as a recreational resource to the public. Additionally, the project may affect access to the Crown Point Sportsplex that exists in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of US 231 and 113th Avenue and serves as a recreational resource to the public. The existing Veterans Memorial Trail and Sportsplex are owned and managed by the City of Crown Point and are both considered Section 4(f) resources under the US Department of Transportation Act.

In order to provide connectivity, the southern portion of the existing Veterans Memorial Trail will be temporarily impacted in order to tie in the existing trail segment and sidewalks with the new sidewalk. The existing trail currently ends east of the intersection at the existing sidewalk on 113th Avenue. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will improve accessibility to the adjacent recreational facilities as well as enhancing the overall recreational value.

Sauerman Woods Park, an existing publicly owned park is located west of the US 231 and 113th Avenue intersection, serves as a general resource to the public and is considered a Section 4(f) resource under the US Department of Transportation Act. In addition, Sauerman Woods Park is undergoing significant redevelopment which will modernize the recreational property. These efforts will include the Lake County World Wars I and II Veterans and Holocaust Memorial located within the park. The project will not acquire permanent or temporary ROW from the Sauerman Woods Park. The project will not use this resource by taking permanent ROW and will not indirectly use the resource in such a way that the protected activities, features, or attributes that qualify a resource for protection under Section 4(f) are substantially impaired. Additionally, access to Sauerman Woods Park is through East South Street and will not be impacted by the proposed undertaking. Based on coordination with the City, East South Street may be extended in the future to connect to the US 231 and 113th Avenue intersection, to improve access to the park. The US 231 and 113th Avenue intersection improvement project (Des. No. 1901948) will not impact the future development at Sauerman Woods Park or the extension of East South Street. Any future improvements in this park or public roadway are outside the scope of the current undertaking documented in this environmental document and will be addressed under separate environmental documentation if required. Therefore, no Section 4(f) use is expected.

The Lake County Parks Multi-Use Trail Project (Des. No. 1902675) includes a planned trail (Veterans Memorial Parkway Trail) to extend south from the intersection of 113th Avenue along the northern shoulder of US 231. The planned Veterans Memorial Parkway Trail will be a public trail system located on public land and therefore is anticipated to be considered a Section 4(f) resource under the US Department of Transportation Act. Lake County has no preliminary concerns and noted that they desired to tie to the sidewalk being constructed in the southeastern quadrant of the US 231 and 113th Street project. The US 231 and 113th Avenue project will not restrict the County's planned trail project. Coordination has been initiated and will continue through construction. Therefore, no Section 4(f) use is expected.

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. Crown Point Community Library, 122 N Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307
2. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. website – https://www.structurepointpublic.com/us231and113th

Comment Sheet

Please provide your comments, concerns and/or suggestions regarding the proposed US 231 and 113th Avenue Improvement Project (Des. No. 1901948) located in Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana. Your comments are important to us, and we sincerely appreciate your time and participation. Please submit comments by **October 29, 2025**. **Comments may be mailed, faxed, emailed, or submitted online:**

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Email:
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Fax:
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Online:
https://www.structurepointpublic.com/us231and113th

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

COMMENT: _____