

**LEGAL NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE CHICAGO STREET WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) DETERMINATION**

The City of Hammond held a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, in regards to the proposed Chicago Street Widening and Reconstruction Project (DES. 1297017) in Hammond, Lake County. The City of Hammond would like to thank the community for participating in the public involvement process. All substantive comments and concerns submitted to project representatives for inclusion into the official public hearing transcript have been reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration.

The purpose of this notice is twofold. First, this is an opportunity for the City of Hammond to formally provide notification that written responses have been made for those substantive comments submitted during the April 22, 2015 public hearing and through the 15-day comment period that followed. Secondly, this is an opportunity for the City of Hammond to announce the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) determination which was issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Indiana Division on July 27, 2015.

An Environmental Assessment was approved by the FHWA on March 16, 2015. The Chicago Street Widening and Reconstruction Project (DES. 1297017) provides for the reconstruction and widening of three streets within the Chicago Street corridor: Gostlin Street (from the Illinois state line to Sheffield Avenue), Sheffield Avenue (from Gostlin Street to Chicago Street), and Chicago Street (from Sheffield Avenue to White Oak Avenue). The project will improve safety, reduce congestion, enhance mobility, address deteriorating infrastructure, and create a unified east-west corridor along the Chicago Street corridor (former SR 312) from the Indiana/Illinois state line to White Oak Avenue, the eastern Hammond city limits.

The Section 106 Area of Potential Effect (APE) Determination (36 CFR 800.4(a)(1)), and the Finding of No Historic Properties Affected (36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), was approved by INDOT, on behalf of FHWA, on July 15, 2013 and concurred with by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on August 20, 2013.

The FHWA has determined that the project, as identified in the Environmental Assessment, will have no significant impact on the natural and human environment. The FHWA has issued a Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding on the Irving Park property. The FONSI is based on the Environmental Assessment and public hearing transcript that have been independently evaluated by the FHWA and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the environmental issues and impacts of the proposed project. These documents provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The FHWA takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope and content of these documents.

All materials developed in support of the undertaking, including the Environmental Assessment document, the resolution to substantive public hearing comments, and other project related materials will remain available for public inspection during normal office hours at the following locations:

- GoChicagoStreet.com
- Hammond Public Library (564 State Street, Hammond, Indiana)

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 Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on August 16, 2012.

Please direct any questions or comments concerning this project to:

Briana M. Hope
American Structurepoint, Inc.
7260 Shadeland Station
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256
Tel: (317) 547-5580
email: GoChicagoStreet@structurepoint.com