The City of Hammond, located in Lake County, Indiana, is developing a federal-aid project to reconstruct and widen Chicago Street (formerly known as State Route (SR) 312) through Hammond from South Brainard Avenue, on the Indiana border with Illinois, to White Oak Avenue, at the eastern limits of the city of Hammond. The entire length of the proposed project is approximately 2.1 miles. SR 312 coincides with three separate streets as it traverses the project study area, including Gostlin Street, Sheffield Avenue, and Chicago Street.

The proposed improvements to the roadway include new pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalks, storm sewers, roadway lighting, and new traffic signals. The proposed project would widen Gostlin Street from two lanes to four lanes between the project’s western terminus at Brainard Avenue and the intersection of Gostlin Street and Sheffield Avenue. In order to meet the city’s access management strategy goal of having a gateway into Hammond, a center median would also be included along Gostlin Street. The preferred alignment currently is the shifting of Gostlin Street to the south on new alignment, in order to correct the curve at the state line and the intersection of Sheffield Avenue. Sheffield Avenue would be widened with one travel lane in each direction with a continuous center left-turn lane. Finally, from its intersection with Hohman Avenue to its intersection with Baltimore Avenue, Chicago Street would be widened from two lanes to four lanes. Roundabouts are anticipated at the intersection of Gostlin Street and Sheffield Avenue, as well as Chicago Street and Hohman Avenue. Chicago Street will also be widened at the intersections with Johnson Avenue and Dearborn Avenue to accommodate designated left-turn lanes. Intersection improvements are also proposed at Pine Avenue and Columbia Avenue.

The proposed action does not affect properties or items listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has issued a No Historic Properties Affected finding for the project. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the views of the public are being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(4), the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(d) is available for inspection in the Engineering Department, City of Hammond, 5925 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, Indiana 46320; at the Hammond Public Library located at 564 State Street, Hammond, Indiana 46320; and on-line at GoChicagoStreet.com. This documentation serves as the basis for the FHWA’s No Historic Properties Affected finding. The views of the public on this finding are being sought. Please reply to the contact listed below.

SECTION 4(F) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
This undertaking will not convert property from any Section 4(f) historic property to a transportation use. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), acting on behalf
of FHWA, has determined the appropriate Section 106 finding is “No Historic Properties Affected”; therefore, no Section 4(f) evaluation is required for historic properties.

This undertaking will convert approximately 0.001 acres of land from Irving Park to a transportation use for reconstruction of the sidewalk along Irving Park Drive and Chicago Street. No adverse impacts to the recreational facilities within the park are anticipated. FHWA intends to issue a *de minimis* Section 4(f) finding for this acquisition.

The views of the public on the undertaking are being sought. Comments must be received no later than August 30, 2013. Please direct any comments or questions to:

Ms. Christine Meador  
Environmental Scientist  
American Structurepoint, Inc.  
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46256  
(317) 547-5580  
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Email: cmeador@structurepoint.com or GoChicagoStreet@structurepoint.com

For additional information or to submit comments, visit GoChicagoStreet.com.