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# CR 26 OVER BAUGO CREEK BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

NEAR JAMESTOWN, ELKHART COUNTY, INDIANA  
DES. NO. 1902829

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## PROJECT INFORMATION PACKET



Contact: Hannah R. Walker, American Structurepoint, Inc.

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

February 28, 2023

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

The purpose of this Project Information Packet is to explain the proposed project and to receive your comments, concerns, and suggestions and/or request for a public hearing. There are several ways your comments may be submitted, as outline below:

1. **E-mail** comments to Hannah R. Walker of American Structurepoint, Inc. at [hwalker@structurepoint.com](mailto:hwalker@structurepoint.com).
2. **Mail** comments to Hannah R. Walker of American Structurepoint, Inc. at 9025 River Road, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240.
3. **Submit** comments online at [www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo)
4. **Fax** comments to Hannah R. Walker of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 547-2070.

Please submit comments by (or have comments postmarked by) **March 17, 2023**. 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 Hannah R. Walker of American Structurepoint, Inc. at (317) 547-5580 or [hwalker@structurepoint.com](mailto:hwalker@structurepoint.com).

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

1. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. Website – [www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo)
2. Elkhart Public Library – Pierre Moran Branch, 2400 Benham Ave, Elkhart, IN 46517
3. Elkhart County Highway Department – 610 Steury Avenue, Goshen, IN 46528

**The CR 26 over Baugo Creek Bridge Improvement Project Team thanks you for your participation in this project.**

## Project Description

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The Elkhart County Highway Department, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administrative oversight from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), is developing plans for the proposed CR 26 over Baugo County Bridge Improvement Project (Des. No. 1902829) located along CR 26 at Bridge No. 20-00145 approximately 0.20 mile west of CR 22, near Jamestown, in Baugo Township, Elkhart County, Indiana.

The need for the project is evidenced by the deteriorating condition of Bridge No. 20-00145 which includes a bridge inventory rating of 26 (36 is required); a substandard sufficiency rating of 40.9 (structurally deficient); and substandard geometry of the roadway. The sufficiency rating takes into account bridge condition, geometry, traffic and how well the waterway passes under the bridge. The purpose of this project is to improve the condition of Bridge No. 20-00145 by increasing the inventory load rating to 36; increasing the bridge sufficiency rating from 40.9 to at least an 80 out of 100; improving the bridge to meet the standard clear roadway width of 30 feet; and improving the bridge and roadway to meet standard horizontal and vertical sight distances.

The project proposes to replace the existing CR 26 over Baugo Creek bridge (Bridge 20-00145) and realign CR 26 to meet horizontal and vertical sight distance standards. The existing 71-foot long, single span, prestressed concrete box beam bridge will be replaced with a 97-foot, 6-inch composite prestressed concrete hybrid bulb-tree beam bridge. The out-to-out coping width of the new superstructure will be 35-feet with a clear roadway width of 32-feet. The bridge will have a 13-degree skew and the center of the bridge will be shifted approximately 16-feet south. The vertical alignment of the bridge and roadway will be raised by approximately 4-feet to meet vertical site distance standards and have a superelevation of 4%. The existing bridge abutments will be removed and replaced. Class I riprap over geotextile will be installed at the bridge abutments for scour protection and across the stream channel. Additionally, riprap drainage turnouts with sodding strips and riprap keyways will be installed for drainage.

The bridge typical section will consist of two 11-foot-wide travel lanes (one eastbound, one westbound) bordered by 5-foot-wide paved shoulders and 1-foot, 4-inch-wide concrete bridge rails. The existing approach slabs will be removed and replaced. The typical section of the new approach slabs east and west of the bridge will consist of two 11-foot-wide travel lanes (one eastbound, one westbound) bordered by 5-foot, 4-inch-wide paved shoulders. Guardrail will be replaced along both sides of the roadway approaching the bridge. The roadway will be realigned east and west of the bridge to meet horizontal site distance standards, which will shift the roadway a maximum of approximately 12-feet south. Adjacent drives will be reconstructed to tie-in to the realigned roadway. The roadway typical section will consist of two 11-foot-wide travel lanes (one eastbound, one west bound) bordered by 2-foot-wide paved shoulders.

The maintenance of traffic (MOT) plan will include a full road closure with a detour utilizing SR 19, CR 28, and CR 3. The detour will close CR 26 to through traffic between CR 22 and CR 3. The approximately 3-mile detour will be in place for approximately 8 months. Access to all properties within and adjacent to the project limits will be maintained at all times during project construction. School corporations and

emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction. The proposed start of construction is February 2025.

## Project Schedule

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Milestone	Completed/Expected Dates
Environmental Document Release for Public Involvement	February 27, 2023
Public Comment Opportunity	March 17, 2023
Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins	June 2023
Anticipated Construction Start	February 2025

## Description of Right-of-Way

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The project will require the acquisition of right-of-way. Acquisition information can also be viewed at the online at the project website [www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo) or on FHWA's website at [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real\\_estate/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/). The project requires approximately 2.19 acres of permanent ROW due to the construction of the new bridge, realignment of CR 26, and associated grading. Of the 2.19 acres of permanent ROW, 1.17 acres will be from residential properties, 0.92 acre will be from forested land, 0.002 acre will be from wetlands, and 0.09 acre will be from Baugo Creek. The project requires approximately 0.87 acre of temporary ROW due to grading. Of the 0.87 acre of temporary ROW, 0.29 acre will be from residential properties, 0.41 acre will be from forested lands, 0.68 acre will be from wetlands, and 0.07 acre will be from Baugo Creek. No relocations are required.

## Estimated Project Cost

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The estimated cost for this project is \$2,848,841 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.

## Maintenances of Traffic (MOT)

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The MOT plan for the project includes a full road closure with a detour utilizing SR 19, CR 28, and CR 3. The detour will close CR 26 to through traffic between CR 22 and CR 3. The approximately 3-mile detour will be in place for approximately 8 months. Access to all properties within and adjacent to the project limits will be maintained at all times during project construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified of closures prior to construction.

## 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 February 27, 2023. The CE evaluates the impact of the CR 26 over Baugo Creek Bridge Improvement Project on the natural and human environment. No area of potentially significant impacts has been identified.

## Water Resources

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The project area was examined for the presence of wetlands and “waters of the U.S.” One wetland (Wetland A) and two streams (Baugo Creek and an unnamed tributary to Baugo Creek) were identified within the project area as potentially regulated resources.

The preferred alternative is anticipated to permanently impact approximately 0.07 acre of wetland and approximately 65 linear-feet of streams. It is anticipated that the impacts to the wetland and streams will require the issuance of an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 401 Regional General Permit (RGP), a USACE 404 RGP. Additionally, an Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Navigable Waterways Permit will be required for work below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of Baugo Creek. No mitigation is anticipated but will be determined during permitting.

Additionally, the project occurs within the 100-year floodplain of Baugo Creek, therefore a formal application for a Construction in a Floodway (CIF) permit from the IDNR is required pursuant to the Flood Control Act (IC-14-28-1).

## Terrestrial Habitat

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The project will impact a total of approximately 1.91 acres of terrestrial habitat due to the construction of the new bridge, realigning CR 26, associated grading, and placement of Class I riprap. Of the approximately 1.91 acres of terrestrial habitat impact, approximately 0.91 acre is residential lawns and approximately 1.00 acre is trees. Tree removal will occur during bat inactive season (between October 1st and March 31st). Mitigation for tree clearing is not necessary as tree clearing will occur within 100 feet from the existing roadway.

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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. Online at the American Structurepoint, Inc. Website – [www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo](http://www.structurepointpublic.com/cr26overbaugo)
2. Elkhart Public Library – Pierre Moran Branch, 2400 Benham Ave, Elkhart, IN 46517
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