



## **TRAFFIC REVIEW: COMPASS PARK WOULD IMPROVE TRAFFIC ON MISSISSIPPI STREET DURING PEAK HOURS**

*Proposed bridge would funnel cars off Mississippi Street and improve flow for current, future workers*

**ELWOOD, Ill. (July 19, 2017)** – The proposed bridge over Route 53 as part of Compass Business Park would improve traffic flow by funneling cars off Mississippi Street, according to a traffic review performed by national traffic-engineering firm Kimley-Horn.

The bridge would be available to current employees at the existing intermodal facilities west of Route 53 as well as future employees of Compass Business Park, east of Route 53, in Elwood.

NorthPoint shared the findings on Tuesday with a group of neighbors whom were invited to discuss concerns about employee traffic on Mississippi Street. The meeting was the first in a series that NorthPoint plans to have to engage with neighbors, answer questions and discuss concerns regarding the business park proposal. Input from the meetings will help shape a final proposal that will be presented to the Village.

Kimley-Horn's review found that the bridge would be 20 percent faster than Mississippi Street to access Compass Business Park during the peak traffic hours of 5 a.m. – 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Those employees coming from the west off of I-55 would travel south on Elwood International Port Road (EIP) and then east on Walter Strawn Road over the bridge to the park.

The review also found the bridge would be 20-30 percent faster than Mississippi Street for existing employees of the intermodal facilities west of Route 53.

"All of our findings show the bridge to be a faster direct route to Compass Park or to the existing intermodal facilities," said Tim Sjogren, transportation engineer at Kimley-Horn. "A faster route means a faster commute, encouraging motorists to opt for the bridge and stay off Mississippi Street."

Patrick Robinson, the vice president of development at NorthPoint Development, said he is collecting feedback from residents, and the Compass Business Park plan could include additional measures to improve traffic flow on Mississippi Street.

"We're responding to the concerns of residents raised at our information open house last month," Robinson said. "Compass Business Park takes trucks off local roads via the bridge and closed loop system and funnels cars away from Mississippi Street to improve flow for residents and ease congestion on local streets. This plan makes the roads safer and more efficient for residents and commuters."



Existing traffic on Mississippi Street is high, with more than 500 cars using it between 5-6 a.m. and the same number in the evening between 5-6 p.m., the review showed. A small number of trucks also use Mississippi Street. The closure of Walter Strawn Road leaves few alternatives for existing intermodal employees to commute to work.

The bridge over Route 53 would be accessible to cars from the east and west, offering an alternative route for employees.

The bridge would also be the only truck entrance into or exit out of Compass Park. Once inside the park, trucks stay in a closed loop system that prevents them from exiting onto local roads. Once outside the park, they'll follow preferred routes to I-55 and I-80 that keep them off Route 53 and local roads.

In addition, the Compass Business Park plan would reduce the number of trucks in the area by cutting one-third of the trips it takes to deliver and pick up goods at local warehouses. On average, for every three containers entering the business park, two containers would leave.

NorthPoint is working with the community to develop and control employee access points to the business park. It also plans to educate drivers and create and install a comprehensive and intuitive signage system to help drivers navigate in and out of the business park without straying into residential areas.

# COMPASS

BUSINESS PARK



*The gateway bridge over Route 53 would funnel cars away from Mississippi Street and improve traffic for commuters to the existing intermodal facilities as well as Compass Business Park.*