

ASCE INDIANA YOUNGER MEMBER CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

# TAYLOR WILLIAMS, PE



Taylor has contributed to the advancement of the civil engineering profession through her development of creative, innovative, and cost-effective design solutions for many roadway improvement projects throughout Indiana for INDOT and local communities.

Taylor Williams is a talented professional, strategic thinker, and rising star in the engineering field committed to improving the quality of life for her clients and communities. Taylor graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She chose transportation engineering as her profession because she wanted to contribute to projects making a difference in daily life. She finds fulfillment in tackling the complexities of road design and the challenge of finding alternative and better ways to design roadways to improve safety and efficiency for the traveling public.

She began her career as a transportation engineer at Burgess and Niple in June 2018, working on multiple INDOT projects. She joined American Structurepoint in July 2021 as a staff engineer. Taylor finds fulfillment in tackling the complexities of road design. She enjoys the challenge of finding alternative ways to design roadways within budget to improve safety and efficiency for the traveling public. Each time she develops a design approach, she always remembers a lesson learned as an engineering intern. A mentor told her to weigh the “big three” components of any project: time, cost, and doing it right. Taylor is driven to do the right thing for her clients while also striving to provide innovative yet practical design alternatives that are achievable within the given budget in a timely manner.

Taylor has made an impression at American Structurepoint for her skills in roadway design, drainage design, and erosion control in her 21 months with the firm. She has a true passion for making transformational development possible that delivers benefits for future generations. One of those projects is the multi-phased Reimagine Pleasant Street in Noblesville. Reimagine Pleasant Street is a project addressing critical future mobility and growth in Noblesville by building a new east-west roadway and trail corridor connecting SR 32 and SR 37. More than just a road project, Reimagine Pleasant Street will create a safe, vibrant corridor for residents to drive, walk, or bike downtown. The first phase, designed by American Structurepoint engineers and now under construction, is the most critical to providing congestion relief for SR 32. Phase 1 creates the connection over the White River to 10th Street. Our engineers also are responsible for the Phase 3 design connecting Pleasant Street from River Road to SR 32 at the Hague Road intersection.

Taylor worked on drainage for both phases and helped with special provisions of the overall design. This project gave Taylor many opportunities to meet with the client, listen to client feedback, and incorporate their wants and needs into the final design plans. Noblesville officials want to ensure the corridor is multimodal and aesthetically pleasing with landscaping and a pedestrian tunnel to ensure safety. Taylor has risen to the challenge of providing design solutions that achieve the goals of Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and city Engineer Alison Krupski.

Taylor is contributing her engineering expertise to the multi-phased Dan Jones Road project in Avon. Dan Jones Road is one of the most congested north-south roads in Hendricks County. American Structurepoint is responsible for preliminary engineering and roadway design to widen the road from 2 lanes to 4 lanes. The project includes a 10-foot multi-use path along the east side of Dan Jones Road and a 6-foot sidewalk on Dan Jones' west side. These roadway enhancements will relieve traffic congestion in this growing community and improve safety for Hendricks County residents and pass-through traffic. As a roadway engineer on the team, Taylor is responsible for the INDOT submittal documents, storm sewer calculations, underdrain design, and maintenance-of-traffic planning including detours, construction phasing, and traffic management plan.

Taylor served as lead engineer for the Third Avenue project in Carmel, responsible for horizontal and vertical alignment and storm sewer design. The project involves reconstructing 0.4 miles of Third Avenue and a new single-lane roundabout at Walnut Street and Third Avenue. Taylor needed to meet an aggressive two-month timeline from design to taking the project to bid. The City of Carmel needed to award the job quickly to receive \$1 million in Community Crossing funding from the Indiana Department of Transportation. Taylor succeeded in meeting the client's deadline and the city received the Community Crossing funding.

Taylor also is dedicated to lifelong learning and continuous improvement to further herself. She studied for her licensing exam and obtained her professional engineering license in Indiana in December 2022. She also participated in the firm's Dale Carnegie professional development training program, graduating from an eight-session Skills For Success Course in February 2023.

Taylor's technical acumen is just one part of what sets her apart as a rising engineering star at American Structurepoint. She is dedicated to mentoring and advancing women in the transportation industry. She joined the WTS Indianapolis chapter in 2018 to take full advantage of its professional development programs and networking opportunities. She connected well with the chapter's goals to grow and engage women from all facets of transportation and took on a chapter leadership role as secretary in 2019. She has moved up the ranks of chapter leadership, serving as treasurer, vice president, and now chapter president in January 2023. Since Taylor became involved in chapter leadership, the chapter has grown from 40 members to 125 members.

Chapter growth is just one of several goals Taylor has as president. Her strategic goals include recruiting more public sector members; establishing a mentor-mentee program for members; launching a diversity, equity, and inclusion committee; adopting a chapter mission statement; and encouraging the next generation of women in transportation via a revamped Transportation You program. The program interacts with middle school- and high school-aged children to learn more about the transportation industry and STEM-related (science, technology, engineering, and math) career choices.

Revamping the Transportation You program at the local chapter level goes hand in hand with Taylor's desire to mentor young people and entry-level professionals, particularly women, to build successful careers in all facets of the transportation industry. She is looking forward to serving as lead engineer on more American Structurepoint projects and the opportunities that role brings to coach and mentor newer engineering staff looking for professional guidance.

***“Achieving my professional engineer license allows me to take more responsibility for design plans and make more decisions. I take great pride in being able to sign, stamp, and seal plans and helping improve the quality of life for the communities we serve.” – Taylor Williams, PE***