



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

THOMAS C. HENRY, MAYOR

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations process, on behalf of the City of Fort Wayne, I respectfully submit for your consideration the following three project requests. I am deeply grateful for your support of the City's initiatives last year, and look forward to working with you and your dedicated staff for the continued benefit of the citizens of Fort Wayne, Indiana. The project request for this year are as follows:

Clinton Street Improvements and Bridge Replacement

As the main gateway from the north, Clinton Street (Route 27) is a major one way southbound street as it enters downtown Fort Wayne. Each day, almost 27,000 cars drive along Clinton Street and cross over the St. Mary's River on a bridge built in 1964. While rehabilitated in 1985, the bridge is now obsolete with growing maintenance costs and with a sufficiency rating of 64.6 out of 100, which merits concern. Further, poor decisions during its initial construction have led to debris traps in front of the piers that support the structure, blocking water passage and limiting any possible recreational use of the river. The City has designed a unique structure to replace the current bridge, one that will enhance the Clinton Street gateway and provide a striking entrance to the City as commuters cross through Headwaters Park. The new bridge will comfortably handle the traffic volume requirements and cross the river without the need for any structures in the riverbed, improving river flow and eliminating the debris traps.

The City of Fort Wayne requests an appropriation of \$2,000,000 in the Federal Highway Administration's Surface Transportation Projects account in the Fiscal Year 2009 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for the Clinton Street Bridge Replacement project. These funds will be used for the replacement of the bridge over the St. Mary's River in downtown Fort Wayne.

Storm Sewer Separation Project

Today, in the City of Fort Wayne, hundreds of homes are threatened by the back up of sanitary sewage into their basements. This project would benefit over 850 homes in neighborhoods along the St. Joseph River. Most of the homes experience severe basement backup and flooding problems. The area is a major contributor to the combined sewer overflows of the St. Joseph's River. The proposed project will address two important issues: the reduction of the combined sewer overflow into the St. Joseph River; and the reduction of sewer basement backup and flooding problems experienced in the neighborhoods. The project will involve sewer separation through the construction of new storm sewers.

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The City of Fort Wayne is requesting \$1,170,000 from the State and Tribal Assistance Grants account with the Fiscal Year 2009 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for construction assistance for storm sewer separation projects in the neighborhoods along the St. Joseph River.

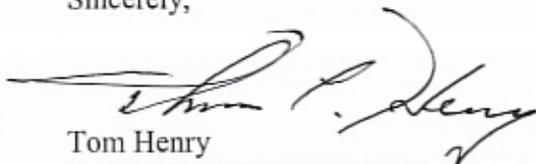
Fort Wayne Flood Control Project Study

In its continued agenda to revitalize the Downtown, the City of Fort Wayne is turning its attention to its most prominent natural feature: its three rivers—the St. Mary's River, the St. Joseph River, and their convergence into the Maumee River are near the heart of downtown Fort Wayne. Headwaters Park, at the north end of downtown, was the City's first step towards maximizing the benefits of the rivers, and has proven to be a successful draw for residents and tourists alike as venue for events and community gatherings. As a next step for expanding the success of Headwaters Park, the City is planning to redevelop brownfield space just north of the St. Mary's River. Improvements along the river could help meld this new initiative with the Downtown area and reinvigorate activity and community access along the river. The City is requesting an Army Corps of Engineers review of the St. Mary's River, which stems from the report of the Chief of Engineers of May 1, 1989 and its recommendations for the Fort Wayne flood control project. This review would determine if modifications are advisable in the interest of waterfront restoration, including environmental restoration, recreation, and other associated purposes. It would take into consideration changes in the City and along the river that have occurred since the report was completed 18 years ago to ensure continued flood control benefit while at the same time investigating how to improve access to the river.

The City of Fort Wayne requests an appropriation of \$295,000 in the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill through the Army Corps of Engineers. The funds will be used for a Section 216 review of the Fort Wayne flood control project (PL 101-640) in downtown Fort Wayne.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support of City of Fort Wayne, and I look forward to working with you and your dedicated staff this year. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Henry
Mayor, City of Fort Wayne