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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOHNSON COUNTY

February 28, 2008

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: FY'09 Federal Appropriations Process

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the residents of Johnson County, Indiana, please accept this letter as a formal request to be considered for funding in the **FY'09 federal appropriations process**. As always, we look forward to working with you and members of your staff throughout this appropriations cycle. We have identified several large-scale projects which directly affect and benefit the health, welfare, safety, and economy of the County and the surrounding communities. Set forth below is a general description of the projects for which we are requesting your help in acquiring federal funding:

I-65/County Road 700 North Interchange— Presently, individuals traveling east-west in the northern portion of the County, which is part of the Indianapolis metropolitan area, are forced to use primarily two-lane, rural County roads that were never designed to handle the traffic volumes which they must endure on a daily basis. In conjunction with other local communities, such as the City of Greenwood, Shelby County and the City of Shelbyville, Johnson County is undertaking the construction of the East-West Transportation Enhancement Project. This Project involves the construction of an east-west arterial route that will serve the northern portion of Johnson County, beginning at S.R. 37 on the County's western edge, continuing east across S.R. 135, U.S. 31, and I-65, and ending at the County's eastern border with Shelby County, Indiana. This Project will connect with County Road 400 North in Shelby County, which links directly to I-74. Shelby County is already widening and improving this portion of County Road 400 North in Shelby County. In addition to providing greater east-west access for County residents, upon completion, this Project will also create a viable link between I-65 and I-74 (other than *via* I-465).

The first key step in completing this Project is the construction of a new interchange along I-65 at the point of intersection with County Road 700 North. The Indiana Department of Transportation ("INDOT") has already completed an interchange justification for the interchange. The total cost of designing, engineering, and constructing this interchange is estimated to be $30 million. Although the County, the City of Greenwood, and INDOT are all willing to fund a portion of this project, it is anticipated at this time that all of these entities combined are only able to contribute $10 million toward the completion of the interchange. ***Accordingly, the County respectfully requests $10 million in FY'09 federal appropriations to assist in the design, engineering and construction of this new interchange.***

Public Safety Communications System Equipment— In 2000, Johnson County was the first county in the State to go on-line with the "Hoosier Project Safe-T." In short, Hoosier Project SAFE-T is a statewide, interoperable wireless public safety communications system for local, state, and federal first responders/public safety officials, that is being coordinated by the Integrated Public Safety Commission. The SAFE-T network operates on an 800 MHz voice and data communication system, supporting both analog and digital radios and providing 95% mobile radio coverage statewide using 126 communications sites connected by T-1 lines and microwave radio.

Although the State initially sought to assist all counties with the costs of implementing the system throughout the State, it has fallen short of its goal. Presently, the County has 3 towers which comprise the backbone of our public safety communications system. However, the topography of the County changes significantly from the northern to southern end, which sometimes leaves holes in our coverage area. In order to provide coverage to the entire County, we need to construct a fourth radio tower most likely in the southern portion of the County. In addition, our current 800MHz radio system is unable to communicate simultaneously due to outdated equipment. In order to allow public safety officials throughout the County to communicate concurrently, we need to upgrade to simulcast technology. ***The County respectfully requests $900,000 in FY'09 federal appropriations to assist in the construction of an additional radio tower and for equipment upgrades to our public safety communications system.***

Thank you for your consideration and assistance with these important local and regional transportation projects. If you have any questions or would like any additional information on any of these projects or the County itself, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

JOHNSON COUNTY, INDIANA

Tom Kite

Tom Kite, President,
Board of Commissioners