BOARD of
COMMISSIONERS
of the County of Vanderburgh

TROY TORNATTA
STEPHEN MELCHER
LLOYD WINNECKE

February 26, 2009

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

Dear Senator Lugar,

On behalf of Vanderburgh County, I would like to sincerely thank you for your loyal service to residents of the County and your prior assistance in securing federal funding for several of our key public projects. Without your assistance and leadership, many of these important projects would be greatly delayed or never undertaken. In preparation for the FY'10 federal appropriations process, 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. Accordingly, please accept this letter as a formal request to be considered for federal funding in the **FY'10 federal appropriations process**. This letter is intended to provide you with a concise description of the important projects for which we are seeking federal assistance.

University Parkway Project— As you know, the University Parkway project consists of the construction of a new 4-lane divided roadway in western Vanderburgh County. It is a multi-million dollar investment that will promote additional economic development, provide for safer traffic flow in Vanderburgh County, and ultimately connect State Road 62 to Interstate 64. The County has already invested over $10 million in local funds and $8.2 million in federal funds on this project. This has resulted in the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Road 62 and University Parkway, and the completion of the first two miles of the road. Although this roadway will be constructed entirely in Vanderburgh County, the completion of this 15-mile road will ultimately provide regional benefits for the entire area. This road will provide better access to transportation infrastructure for the Southwind Maritime Center and for other industries, such as the proposed ethanol plants, that are currently in the planning stages in Posey County. The new road will also benefit Gibson County as a result of its connection to I-64 near the Gibson-Vanderburgh county line. Finally, this roadway will provide enhanced access to the rapidly growing University of Southern Indiana and will open the door for additional economic development opportunities that will directly benefit all of the counties in southwestern Indiana.

Vanderburgh County is currently pursuing the completion of the University Parkway between Marx Road and State Road 66. The construction of this segment will complete the first portion of the University Parkway project, providing a completed 4-lane divided high-speed roadway between State Road 62 and State Road 66. As evidenced by our progress thus far, the County is very committed to completing this important project. However, while we have received previous federal appropriations which have been instrumental in allowing us to continue the project, additional funding is still required due to the high costs of the infrastructure involved. ***Accordingly, the County***

305 ADMINISTRATION BLDG. • N.W. M. L. KING JR. BLVD. • CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX • EVANSVILLE IN 47708

PHONE: 812-435-5241 FAX: 812-435-5963

is requesting $3,000,000 in FY'10 federal appropriations for construction of University Parkway between Marx Road and State Road 66.

University Parkway – State Road 62 Interchange Project— As noted above, the County has previously constructed an interchange at the intersection of State Road 62 and the southern terminus of the University Parkway, which is located at the northern entrance to the University of Southern Indiana. This interchange is the gateway to the main entrance to the University. Due to the existing diamond configuration, all westbound traffic currently entering USI must exit State Road 62 and then make a left turn at the end of the ramp to continue south into the University. As the USI student population has continued to rapidly expand, so has the left turn volume on this ramp. This has led to delay problems for southbound traffic on University Parkway at its intersection with the westbound off-ramp. In order to correct this problem, the interchange needs to be re-configured to eliminate this left turn movement. Based on preliminary evaluations, it appears that this will require the construction of a loop ramp in the northwest quadrant of the interchange. The requested funds will be used to pay for the design and environmental studies for interchange modifications at the existing interchange, and if any funds remain after completion of the design and environmental work, such funds will be used for right-of-way acquisition. ***Accordingly, the County is requesting $1,000,000 in FY'10 federal appropriations for the study, design, engineering and/or construction of an interchange reconfiguration at the intersection of University Parkway and State Road 62.***

Interstate 164 – Millersburg Road Interchange Study— Over the past decade, the County has witnessed a tremendous amount of residential and commercial growth in the north and northwest portions of the County. As evidence of this growth pattern, the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation recently embarked on the process of constructing a brand new high school in this area of the County to accommodate this growth. Much of this growth is in close proximity to Interstate 164 which is located in the eastern portion of Vanderburgh County near the Warrick County – Vanderburgh County line. However, despite the recent growth and its ideal location to major transportation corridors, a significant amount of territory adjacent to Interstate 164 remains undeveloped. In large part, this is attributable to a lack of sufficient interstate access.

Millersburg Road is an east-west roadway located at approximately the midpoint between existing interchanges of Interstate 164 and Lynch Road and Interstate 164 and Boonville-New Harmony Road. With a new interchange between these existing interchanges, we believe this would open a significant amount of new area for land development in both Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. In addition, since Millersburg Road provides direct access to the Evansville Regional Airport, this interchange may lead to increased usage of the airport and its foreign trade zone. The increased development and the increased usage of the airport would both promote additional job growth for residents of both Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. ***Accordingly, the County is requesting $200,000 in FY'10 federal appropriations to prepare an interchange justification report, and, if viable, to use any remaining funds for the design, engineering and/or construction of a new interchange at the intersection of Interstate 164 and Millersburg Road.***

Civic Center Complex Security Improvement Project — The County's existing Civic Center Complex, which houses the County's courts and administrative office space, is equipped with little security screening features. At present, only visitors to the judicial center portion of the complex undergo any form of security screening. In addition, inmates transported to the Civic Center Complex are loaded and un-loaded from transport buses in an unsecured parking lot adjacent to the complex with minimal law enforcement personnel. As part of a comprehensive security

improvement project, the County seeks to upgrade the entire complex to provide certain minimal security screening features, and to design and construct a sally port addition to the Judicial center portion of the complex in order to more securely transport and detain inmates. ***Accordingly, the County is requesting $900,000 in FY'10 federal appropriations to install and upgrade security measures at the County's Civic Center Complex, and to design, engineer and construct a sally port addition to the Complex.***

On behalf of the County and all its residents, I would like to once again express my sincere appreciation for your past help in securing federal funds for key local projects. We look forward to working with you and your staff throughout this appropriations process. As always, we would greatly appreciate any support you can provide in helping to secure federal funding for the critical infrastructure projects identified above. If you require any additional information on any of these projects, please let me know.

Sincerely,

VANDERBURGH COUNTY, INDIANA

Troy Tornatta, President
Board of Commissioners

Stephen Melcher, Vice-President
Board of Commissioners

Lloyd Winnecke, Member
Board of Commissioners

305 ADMINISTRATION BLDG. • N.W. M. L. KING JR. BLVD. • CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX • EVANSVILLE IN 47708

PHONE: 812-435-5241 FAX: 812-435-5963