



# County of Hamilton State of Indiana

February 24, 2009

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

Christine Altman  
Commissioner District 1  
Steven C. Dillinger  
Commissioner District 2  
Steven A. Holt  
Commissioner District 3

Dear Senator Lugar:

As the Congress begins consideration of the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills, we are writing to respectfully request your support for three critical projects which have been prioritized by the Hamilton County Commissioners.

(1) *\$7 million is requested for the 146th St. West Phase project*, which is the connection of existing 146th Street, a recently upgraded primary arterial running through the center of Hamilton County, to the Hamilton – Boone County line. This project will connect with an ongoing Boone County project that will complete the corridor from US 421 to I-69. This very important arterial will foster economic development and will tie citizens, industry and businesses to the I-69 corridor. This project would transform a narrow two lane county road to a modern four lane, partially limited access facility completing the upgrade of 146<sup>th</sup> from the Hamilton/Boone County Line to I-69. Segments of 146<sup>th</sup> St already are serving approximately 30,000 vehicles per day. This is a major, regionally significant road that is needed for both mobility across the county and also to provide an improved corridor to serve the major retail and commercial developments. Hamilton County is one of the fastest growing counties in the country and this is a vital corridor for access to the interstate system and for the growing economic development that is occurring along the corridor. Substantial funding in excess of \$65 million has already been committed by Hamilton County to completing other segments of the overall 146<sup>th</sup> Street corridor project.

(2) *\$2.1 million is requested for the Riverwalk Phase II Project in Noblesville*. This project will be the southern anchor of a three mile park and trail system that already includes local, state, and federal funding. Phase II includes the completion of the River Walk trail from an existing pedestrian bridge to Conner Street. The components include a concrete trail, concrete retaining wall along the trail, access stairs at the City parking lot, trailhead at the pedestrian bridge, Logan Street underpass, 8<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway, lighting, site furnishings, signage, and plantings. The Riverwalk Project will have a large impact on the community, providing a two block pedestrian walkway along the east side of the White River between Conner Street to the south and the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority railroad bridge to the north. It will serve as a functional connection between Noblesville's Forest Park and Downtown, create aesthetic amenities and public gathering space for the community, and allow safe passage for pedestrians by means of road underpasses at Conner and Logan Streets. The Riverwalk Project will also serve as a trail connection to the City and County parking lots.

(3) \$3 million is requested for the Monon Greenway Project. The Monon Trail, which carries about 1.2 million “passengers” a day on foot, skates and bicycles, is a regionally significant trail that runs along the abandoned Monon Railroad line through Indianapolis in Marion County north to Hamilton County. This is a multi-jurisdictional trail being constructed and maintained by Indianapolis, Carmel, Westfield, Washington Township, Hamilton County, and ultimately Sheridan. Indianapolis has completed its section, as has Carmel (not counting intersection upgrades). Sections are currently under construction in Westfield. Hamilton County has received state funding for land acquisition from 216<sup>th</sup> Street to Lamong Road at Sheridan. With land values rapidly escalating and rural settings disappearing, we feel it is urgent to take the immediate steps necessary to preserve and enhance this green public space which is utilized by local residents for both “commuting” to work and other destinations, as well as for family recreational purposes. Funding for the construction of the Monon is desperately needed to complete this important regional trail and to provide the connection to the Town of Sheridan.

In addition, the trail offers economic development benefits as all of the activity on the trail generates business for adjacent shops and restaurants. The trail has generated significant private investment along the trail, especially in the Carmel area.

We remain very appreciative of your past support for critical needs which have been identified by local officials in our rapidly growing area. We are also very proud of your leadership in the Congress on finding solutions to both local and national transportation challenges.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests and should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mr. Steven Holt

President

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners