



South Bend Public Transportation Corporation

February 27, 2009

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

Dear Senator Lugar:

I write to you, on behalf of the South Bend Public Transportation Corporation (TRANSPO), to respectfully submit for your consideration requests for federal appropriations to complete the construction of the TRANSPO Bus Operations Center in South Bend, Indiana, and for two hybrid/alternative fueled 35' buses.

TRANSPO seeks your support of an appropriation of \$2.72 million through the fiscal year 2010 Transportation and HUD Appropriations bill to complete the construction of a new LEED-certified bus maintenance and administration facility in South Bend, Indiana. The site is currently being prepared for construction, a project design has been chosen, and construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

As you know, TRANSPO is a growing transit agency that operates from a maintenance and administrative facility that has been in continuous use since the 1880's, and is in need of replacement. The maintenance repair area of the current facility cannot sufficiently meet the service demands of TRANSPO's growing bus fleet. The aging facility is rapidly deteriorating and has significant structural damage. In addition, the current building was not designed with enough space to service TRANSPO's new buses, which are much larger than its previous generation of vehicles. The site for the new facility is in the heart of South Bend's Studebaker Corridor—now known as Ignition Park—and will serve as a catalyst for economic development in an area targeted by the City for revitalization. Further, TRANSPO is committed to constructing the first LEED-Platinum building in Indiana, and the first LEED-Platinum transit facility in the country.

As part of TRANSPO's transition to providing more energy efficient transit, we are also seeking an appropriation of \$1.1 million, also through the fiscal year 2010 Transportation and HUD Appropriations bill, to procure two hybrid/alternative fueled 35' buses. As you are aware, in 2003 St. Joseph County was designated as a non-attainment area by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). TRANSPO believes that the purchase of these vehicles is a start for TRANSPO to reduce our carbon footprint in our county.

Congressman, we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support of TRANSPO, and especially your most recent leadership in securing \$1 million for the Bus Operations Facility for fiscal year 2009, and I look forward to working with you and your staff on these important initiatives 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Lewis III".

Thomas F. (Chip) Lewis III  
Chairman, Board of Directors