MAYOR BALLARD ANNOUNCES PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES FOR MONON TRAIL

INDIANAPOLIS – (October 7, 2008) Mayor Greg Ballard announced today several initiatives to ensure public safety along the Monon Trail.

Deputy Director of Public Safety Mark Renner and Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry joined Mayor Ballard in announcing the initiatives at Frank and Judy O’Bannon Soccer Field along the Monon Trail south of 17th Street.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will install surveillance cameras along the Monon Trail from 38th Street south to where it begins Downtown at 10th Street.

“This demonstrates our resolve to fight and deter any criminal activity along the Monon Trail,” Ballard said. “An important safety record has been challenged. When the Monon was built, there was a perception that it wouldn’t be safe, but it has been safe and will continue to be so.”

DPS will continue installing cameras north on the Monon in the coming months. The cameras will record continuously, can be turned in all directions and produce high-resolution images. They will be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Bike and vehicle patrols also will be stepped up along the Monon Trail, and DPS is planning to implement a horse patrol along the Monon. Additionally, the city is working on a plan to increase citizen involvement in monitoring the Monon Trail. This program will allow citizen volunteers to actively assist Indy Parks and the Greenways staff by closely monitoring the trails for safety, security and maintenance concerns.

Mayor Ballard administered the IMPD oath to the city’s Park Rangers after the press conference. The Rangers will report to Public Safety officials and will perform under the DPS structure and expertise.

“This move will provide the Park Rangers with the resources they need, with more opportunities for training and better equipment,” Ballard said.

###