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MAYOR ANNOUNCES REOPENING OF 82ND STREET BRIDGE OVER THE WHITE RIVER
All lanes of traffic are open and unrestricted; work done before holiday shopping season

INDIANAPOLIS – (October 8, 2008) Residents, business owners and shoppers on the north side of Indianapolis will now have an easier commute thanks to the reopening of the eastbound structure of the 82nd Street Bridge over the White River. After months of rehabilitation work on the bridge and the resulting traffic restrictions, all lanes of traffic are back open.

“82nd Street is a vital thoroughfare in this busy commercial area and we’re pleased to reopen the bridge and well in advance of the holiday shopping season,” said Mayor Ballard. Some of the biggest concerns over this project stemmed from whether construction would run into the holiday shopping season.

The 82nd Street bridge, also known as the David Wolf Bridge, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Wolf is a NASA Astronaut and a native Hoosier. Built in 1942, overall deterioration and collision damage on the eastbound lanes made it imperative that the city rehabilitate the bridge, bringing it to current INDOT load standards.

“I am extremely proud of this bridge and what the city of Indianapolis has done for me,” said Wolf. “Driving a car over our bridge in the great city of Indianapolis, makes me every bit as proud as flying a NASA spacecraft over our great planet Earth.” Wolf is in training for an upcoming mission and was not able to attend today’s event. His mother, Dottie Wolf of Indianapolis, sister, Anne Berggren of Carmel, and niece, Amanda Berggren of Carmel, were in attendance.

Work began on the eastbound bridge structure in the spring. Construction included the repair of the deteriorated concrete foundations under the bridge as well the overhead portion of the bridge damaged by traffic. The existing bridge deck was removed and a new concrete one was placed. Deteriorated steel under the deck, found in that process, was either strengthened or replaced. The bridge was also cleaned and painted. Other work done includes a new asphalt surface on each side of the bridge, along with new guardrails and sod. Over the next week and a half, incidental repairs under the bridge and general cleanup will wrap up.

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