PRESS RELEASE
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Mayor Ballard Announces City’s First On-Street Bike Lanes
Bike lanes on New York and Michigan to be complete in November

INDIANAPOLIS – (October 15, 2008) Mayor Greg Ballard announced today the City’s intention to become a “bicycle friendly city” with the initiation of the New York St. and Michigan St. bike lanes.

“Indianapolis has long been known as the Crossroads of America. Now those roads are going to include bike lanes, and we are going to embrace alternative modes of transportation,” said Mayor Ballard.

With gasoline prices at an all-time high and obesity concerns on the rise, mobility options for residents of Indianapolis have become a priority for the City.

“We are working to achieve the designation of “bicycle friendly city” from the League of American Bicyclists and want to provide improved accessibility to jobs, schools and other destinations,” said Director of Public Works David Sherman. “When you consider the linkages made possible through the greenways system, the planned bike lanes, the Cultural Trail and the IndyGo bus system -- with every bus having a bicycle rack -- the opportunities for greater mobility are significantly increased.”

Construction of the bike lanes on New York and Michigan Streets will begin immediately. The project extends from Arlington Ave. on the east to White River Pkwy on the west. The work is expected to take about 6 – 8 weeks to complete and will include the addition of signage, lane markings that denote the bike lanes, the addition of bike lane symbols on the pavement and re-striping of traffic lanes on New York St. and Michigan St.

The bike lanes project illustrates the City’s commitment to green infrastructure and the promotion of alternative modes of transportation. These facilities offer the citizens of Indianapolis additional transportation choices, which contribute to an enhanced quality of life. Becoming a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community is an economic development investment and another way to make the City more attractive and competitive.

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