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**MAYOR BREAKS GROUND ON $2 MILLION STREETSCAPE PROJECT ALONG DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. STREET**

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard along with community leaders and business stakeholders of a Northwestside neighborhood broke ground today on a $2 million streetscape project along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street. United North West Area Tax Increment Financing (UNWA TIF) will be used for the reconstruction of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street from Burdsell Parkway north to 30th Street.

The four-lane thoroughfare will be condensed to a two-lane boulevard with on-street parking and new transit bus shelters and will make the stretch a more pedestrian- and business-friendly corridor. Bump-outs for parking will be installed on both sides of the street. The MLK Business Revitalization Association’s marketing strategy for the area encourages businesses to pay tribute to civil rights leader Dr. King.

“This streetscape project is a result of a unique partnership among the City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works and Department of Metropolitan Development and local business leaders and residents,” said Mayor Ballard. “We salute and honor the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other African-Americans who have had a significant impact on the City of Indianapolis.”

Posters at the bus stops and banners along the street will highlight the accomplishments of influential African-American men and women with Indianapolis ties. Engraved steel plates at each bus stop will feature quotes from Dr. King’s speeches and writings. Students who attend school in the area will select the quotes.

UNWA TIF is bordered by I-65 and Meridian Street between 38th and 30th streets to the east; by 16th Street to the south; by White River to the west and by 38th Street to the north.

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