HUNDREDS OF BICYCLIST S PARTICIPATE IN 3RD ANNUAL MAYOR’S BIKE RIDE

Route Highlights City’s Newest On-Street Bike Lanes along Lafayette Road

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard was joined by more than 500 bicyclists today for the 3rd Annual Mayor’s Bike Ride. The ride started at Fishback Creek Public Academy, headed south on Lafayette Road through Eagle Creek Park to 62nd Street and traveled back to the school. Participants chose between an eight-mile loop or a shorter, family-friendly 1.5-mile loop.

“Today’s event celebrates Indianapolis’ growing connectivity through our addition of new bike lanes,” said Mayor Ballard. “The City is working to encourage a community that is healthier and more sustainable, and together we are transforming commuting in Indianapolis. This bike ride offers residents a chance to explore our newest on-street bike lanes and educates both motorists and cyclists on the importance of bicycle safety.”

In April, Mayor Ballard detailed the city’s 2011 plan for bike lanes. By the end of the year, the Department of Public Works will have added 34 miles of bike lanes, bringing the city’s total bike lane miles to 63. This summer, Mayor Ballard will join in the ribbon-cutting of the Indy Bike Hub YMCA, the City’s first downtown bicycle commuter facility offering secure bicycle storage, showers, lockers, and a fitness center, all operated by the YMCA. The Indy Bike Hub YMCA is scheduled to open in early August.

“Through his expansion of dedicated bike lanes, to our city parks and participating in events like this bike ride, Mayor Ballard has worked to improve the overall health of our community,” said Dr. Virginia A. Caine, director of the Marion County Health Department, who participated in today’s ride. “Bicycling provides many physical fitness benefits, and riding bikes instead of driving cars helps our environment, too.”

For more information about the city’s plans for bike lanes and the Indy Bike Hub YMCA, please visit www.indy.gov/sustainindy and www.indybikehubymca.org.

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