

SHELBYVILLE



INDIANA

Office of the City Mayor

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SCOTT A. FURGESON

February 21, 2008

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: FY'09 Appropriations Process

Dear Senator Lugar:

In anticipation of the upcoming appropriations process, please accept this letter as a formal request to be considered for federal funding in the **FY'09 appropriations cycle**.

The City of Shelbyville had a very successful year in 2007. We began the construction of a new 186 acre park, Progress Parkway: Phases I and II, experienced an increase in housing, and completed construction on a much needed new fire station. For the most part, the City has kept up with its needs as we continue to grow. Unfortunately, we must look for other sources of funding to cover expenses relating to that growth as we strive to do what is best for our City and community. With your help, it is our hope that 2008 will be as prosperous as 2007.

In addition, set forth below is a general description of the projects for which we are requesting your help in acquiring federal funding:

I-74/Fairland Road (Exit 109) Interchange Study: The City is contemplating the construction of a new parkway along the western side of the City (the "Westside Parkway") that would transect the area surrounding the current I-74/Fairland Road interchange. Ultimately, the proposed Westside Parkway would provide a strong link from I-74 to State Road 9 along the northern portion of the City, as well as a key link from I-74 to State Road 44 along the western portion of the City. An evaluation of the Exit 109 interchange by an outside consulting firm, in conjunction with plans for the Westside Parkway, revealed the following deficiencies with the current Exit 109 interchange: (i) unsafe configuration and circulation patterns at the interchange with poor viewing angles and no night time lighting; (ii) CR 400N, a minor arterial road, has an

awkward angle with I-74, creating difficult turning radii issues; (iii) designed for rural traffic, not heavier traffic of industrial distribution and commercial activity which are currently using the interchange and which are projected to increase in the future; and (iv) confusing configuration and limited signage for travelers unfamiliar with the area. In addition, Shelby County is in the process of widening the existing County Road 400 North ("CR 400N"), which forms the east-west overpass of the existing Exit 109 configuration, from a point just west of the Exit 109 interchange to the Shelby County-Johnson County line.

In order to incorporate any potential modifications to the I-74/Fairland Road Interchange into the proposed Westside Parkway, the City would like to conduct a feasibility study of the redesign and/or relocation of the I-74/Fairland Road Interchange. ***Accordingly, we are requesting \$1,000,000 in federal funding to conduct a feasibility study of the redesign and/or relocation of this interchange.***

800 MHz Radios for Project Hoosier SAFE-T: The City is in the process of acquiring and constructing an 800 MHz radio system as part of the "Hoosier Project SAFE-T." In short, Hoosier Project SAFE-T is a statewide, interoperable wireless public safety communications system for local, state, and federal first responders/public safety officials, that is being coordinated by the Integrated Public Safety Commission. The SAFE-T network operates on an 800 MHz voice and data communication system, supporting both analog and digital radios and providing 95% mobile radio coverage statewide using 126 communications sites connected by T-1 lines and microwave radio.

An excellent example of the effectiveness of the SAFE-T Project is Johnson County, Indiana. In both 1996 and 2002, tornadoes hit nearby Johnson County. In 1996, there were 18 different police and fire communication systems, spread over three different bandwidths. First responders were hampered in their ability to respond either by being on disparate communications systems or, for those who could access a common radio system, by having only two radio frequencies, making tactical communication nearly non-existent. In contrast, by the time the 2002 tornado hit, all Johnson County public safety agencies had joined SAFE-T, which allowed nine fire departments and four police departments to interoperate, thereby coordinating their response and optimizing their resources. The results show that what took 24 hours in 1996, took only 7 hours in 2002, due in large part to the SAFE-T network supporting the responding agencies.

The 800MHz radio system is essential to the safety of the public and law enforcement officers in their pursuit of public safety. The system allows each department whether it is police, fire or EMS to communicate more freely and safely during emergency situations. Officers are also able to communicate more efficiently when inside a building or structure with the 800MHz system than we are currently. Although the State initially sought to assist all counties with the costs of implementing the system throughout the State, it has fallen short of its goal. Presently, Shelby County is the only county in the Indianapolis metropolitan area that is not connected to the SAFE-T network. In order to acquire the necessary equipment to implement the system within the City, it is projected that the cost to the City alone would be approximately \$8 million.

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However, the City and Shelby County have agreed to jointly implement Project Hoosier SAFE-T, thereby reducing the City's cost to approximately \$1 million. Thanks to your help, the City received approximately \$260,000 in FY'08 to complete its portion of the project. ***Accordingly, the City is requesting \$750,000 in continued funding to assist with the purchase of 800MHz radios and construction of radio towers in order to connect to the SAFE-T network.***

Thank you for your consideration and assistance with these important economic development and public safety projects. As always, we look forward to working with you and members of your staff throughout this appropriations process. If you have any questions or would like any additional information on any of these projects or the City itself, please contact me at (317) 398-6624, or via e-mail at sfurgeson@cityofshelbyvillein.com.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF SHELBYVILLE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Furgeson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Furgeson, Mayor