

February 16, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**CITY OF
TERRE HAUTE
MAYOR'S OFFICE**

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DUKE A. BENNETT
Mayor

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations process, the City of Terre Haute respectfully submits for your consideration the Margaret Avenue Enhancements initiative designed to mitigate traffic congestion and allow for additional commercial and retail development along the thoroughfare, which is the most congested street in the city.

As you are aware, Margaret Avenue - running along the city's south side - is a very heavily traveled artery located in an expanding commercial/residential district. New developments at both ends of Margaret Avenue have caused a significant increase in traffic. To address the increase in congestion and create an area suitable to attract new business and economic growth, the city is undertaking improvements to Margaret Avenue. In fact, the city will break ground this summer on the first phase of Margaret Avenue, which will widen the existing roadway from a two lane road to a five lane road.

The requested Fiscal Year 2010 funds will be used for the next phase of the Margaret Avenue project. The subsequent phases - totaling about \$9 million - will employ approximately 30 people. Furthermore, enhancements to Margaret Avenue will ultimately bring additional businesses to the area, creating new jobs and sustainable growth.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. For your reference, I have enclosed a more detailed description of this project and your internal office form.

Sincerely,



Duke A. Bennett, Mayor