

Office of Governor Eric Holcomb State House, Room 206 200 W Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

June 21, 2017

Dear Governor Holcomb,

Fulton County Commissioners

Bryan Lewis, President Rick Ranstead, Vice President Steve Metzger, Commissioner

> 125 E 9th Street Rochester, Indiana 46975

We are writing to ask for your help in expediting the remaining work on U.S. 31 to realize the vision of a limited access freeway connecting Indianapolis and South Bend.

U.S. 31 is the major and critical transportation corridor through our community. Our economic success depends on the continued improvement and development of this road to allow increased capacity and speed, thus bringing our community greater access to points north and south.

Further delays in this project will continue to cripple our economic development efforts as we struggle to attract new business and industry but are unable to provide these prospects with known points of access to the U.S. 31 corridor. This situation can only be resolved by completing the U.S. 31 project through Fulton County.

In addition to the major economic benefits that accompany the completed U.S. 31 freeway there are substantial improvements in safety for those traveling the route, making it a preferred corridor, thus enhancing traffic count numbers.

With the road funding legislation recently passed in the General Assembly we now have the means to complete the project. Now is the time to get started on the final phase of the U.S. 31 freeway.

We urge you to immediately begin the work to complete U.S. 31, between S.R. 38 in Hamilton County and U.S. 30 in Marshall County, as a stoplight-free, limited-access freeway.

Sincerely,

Fulton County Commissioners

Bryan Lewis

Rick Ranstead

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c: Joe McGuiness, INDOT Commissioner, 100 N Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204 1c: Laurie Maudlin, US 31 Coalition, One N. Capital, Suite 1050, Indianapolis 46204