

June 22, 2007

Mr. Gilbert Viets  
Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
IGC-N 755  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Viets:

Recently I met with Mr. Runfa Shi and Mr. Pankaj Desai of INDOT to discuss INDOT's improvement plans for a segment of E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Bloomington from State Road 45/46 to Pete Ellis Drive. As I understand INDOT's plans, this segment of E.10<sup>th</sup> Street will be widened to 4-lanes with some other turning lane improvements.

I communicated to Mr. Shi and Mr. Desai that the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation (BPTC) would like to have several transit enhancements incorporated into the project to increase transit usage in this corridor. Mr. Shi explained at our meeting that plans are too far along to make the changes I suggested.

Currently, transit service in this segment alone carries about 1,150 passenger trips daily on a typical weekday during the Indiana University spring and fall academic year. Transit carries a significant number of trips in this corridor segment thus helping to reduce traffic volumes and congestion. There is potential to increase transit usage further in this corridor by adding several features to your project that would make transit a more attractive transportation choice. The following is a summary of transit improvements that BPTC desires to be added to the INDOT project:

- The addition of bus-only lanes in both directions through the intersections of E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Pete Ellis Drive and E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street and the 45/46 Bypass. Also, the addition of traffic signal pre-emption or cue-jumping technology at these intersections would be important so as to give transit first priority over other traffic in getting through these signalized intersections.
- The addition of a transit passenger boarding island at the intersections of E.10<sup>th</sup> Street and Pete Ellis Drive, and at the 45/46 Bypass and E.10<sup>th</sup> Street. These boarding islands would be sizeable and would serve hundreds of passengers using this stop on a daily basis. The islands would include shelter and lighting.

- Improved accommodation for bus loading and unloading at the other three bus stops in this segment (2 located just east of the 45/46 bypass and the other located just east of Pete Ellis Drive on the south side).
- Crosswalk improvements made at the E.10<sup>th</sup> Street/Pete Ellis Drive intersection and near the Scholars Quad Apartments so as to improve the safety of the hundreds of daily transit riders crossing the street at these locations.
- Sidewalks added along the full length of this corridor on both sides of the road. Every transit rider is a pedestrian, so it's important that pedestrians are provided with complete access on both sides of the improved road.
- A passenger shelter located at the bus stop just east of the State Road 45/46 Bypass on the north side of the road. This would provide a better place for transit riders to wait for the bus.

We recognize the transit enhancements described within will require a significant change in how INDOT normally plans and designs road corridor improvements. These transit enhancements are of paramount importance if we are to be successful in providing transportation infrastructure in Bloomington that moves all modes of travel and not just cars.

We respectfully request that INDOT work with BPTC to incorporate transit enhancements into your project so as to promote the use of public transportation instead of promoting the use of the automobile. Public transportation plays an important role in reducing traffic congestion, noise, and emissions of greenhouse gases that are contributing to global warming. Moreover, the use of transit reduces energy consumption and lessens our national dependency on foreign oil.

I would be glad to meet with you in person in Indianapolis or Bloomington to further discuss this matter. You can contact me at 812-332-5688.

Sincerely,

Lewis May  
General Manager

cc: Senator Vi Simpson, Senate District 40  
Representative Peggy Welch, House District 60  
Representative Matt Pierce, House District 61