



The Council City of Indianapolis Marion County

CITY-COUNTY SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. 34, 2018

A **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** honoring the recent work of the *Rethink 65/70 Coalition* as an exciting example of citizen engagement.

WHEREAS, the North Split Interchange, a stretch of highway located in the northeast quadrant of downtown Indianapolis constructed between 1967-1976, and which includes Interstates 65 and 70 and 32 bridges, has come to the end of its life cycle and must be rebuilt in order to continue to safely accommodate the 133,000-166,000 vehicles that travel its route daily; and

WHEREAS, area residents became concerned about rebuilding the system as the initial construction of the downtown interstate system, which includes the North Split Interchange, had resulted in a division of historic neighborhoods and the connected street grid system (as originally conceived by Alexander Ralston in 1821), and displaced businesses and over 17,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) announced that it would submit their preferred alternative plan for reconstruction of this stretch of downtown interstate addressing the aging infrastructure and traffic operations issues to the Federal Highway Administration in September, 2018; and

WHEREAS, this prompted a group of local businesses, community organizations, business associations, historic urban neighborhood groups, residents, property owners, architects, urban designers, and transportation planners to form the Rethink 65/70 Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Rethink 65/70 Coalition seeks a solution to the crumbling infrastructure problem that will address the congestion and safety issues, while, at the same time, providing opportunities for re-integration of the affected neighborhoods and preservation of their historic fabric – a solution that will encourage urban connectivity again, provide potential economic development and revenue, and address the open-space needs of a vital, growing first-class city; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition and community stakeholders have, at their own expense, engaged nationally renowned transportation planning, design, engineering and economic development experts to assist in evaluating the transportation demands, economic development opportunities, and creative financing potential involved in the reconstruction of I-65 and I-70 in downtown Indianapolis, with the results of that study due in six weeks; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition and its partners have coalesced around the following Four Guiding Principles they wish to see in a final alternative plan:

- No above-grade walls along the north, east, and south legs of I-65, I-65/70, and I-70;
- No expansion of the existing number of above-grade through lanes along the north, east, and south legs of I-65, I-65/70, and I-70;
- Increased connectivity of neighborhoods and areas of commerce divided by the interstates;
- Increased opportunities for inclusive economic development along the path of the interstates; now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. The Indianapolis City-County Council proudly recognizes the work of the Rethink 65/70 Coalition in engaging the community in the process of planning a reconstruction project that will affect Indianapolis businesses and residents for years to come.

SECTION 2. The Council applauds the Rethink 65/70 Coalition for encouraging so many different individuals and organizations to give of their valuable time and money and become involved in the process of a local government making decisions that affect every citizen's quality of life in this City.

SECTION 3. The Council encourages consideration of the report from the nationally renowned transportation planning, design, and engineering firm commissioned by the Rethink 65/70 Coalition, expected in six weeks, prior to finalization of the design direction for reconstruction of the North Split.

SECTION 4. The Council encourages Rethink 65/70 Coalition to discuss their Four Guiding Principles during the deliberative process in the spirit of openness and understanding and, with a willingness to seek common ground solutions, encourages all parties to optimize opportunities for transformative change for the good of the highway motorists, the impacted neighborhoods, and the city of Indianapolis

SECTION 5. The Mayor is invited to join in this resolution by affixing his signature hereto.

SECTION 6. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with IC 36-3-4-14.

This Special Resolution was sponsored by Councillors Osil, Adamson and Kreider, and was passed by the City-County Council this 10th day of September, 2018.

ATTEST:



Vop Osili, President, City-County Council



SaRita Hughes, Clerk, City-County Council

Joseph H. Hogsett, Mayor

