



June 7, 2018

Kia Gillette, Environmental Project Manager
HNTB Corporation
111 Monument Circle, Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: I-65/I-70 North Split Project, system-level analysis

Dear Ms. Gillette:

I appreciate INDOT's willingness to listen to community concerns and conduct a system-level analysis of the Downtown Indianapolis interstate system. The seven concepts studied give us a sense of what's possible, based on traffic performance, cost, visual and connectivity impacts, and construction timeline.

While the analysis doesn't make any recommendations for a system-wide solution, it is clear there are innovative concepts that improve traffic performance, enhance driver safety, improve visual and/or connectivity impacts, and can be delivered on a reasonable construction timeline. Obviously, cost is a factor that needs to be considered—but the system-level analysis, by INDOT's own admission, didn't study public financing mechanisms or potential economic impacts (positive or negative) of any of the concepts.

With the broader analysis completed, INDOT has been quite clear of its intention to resume focus on a project, "aimed at rehabilitating the I-65/I-70 North Split interchange to improve safety and address deteriorating bridge and pavement conditions in the project area." Indeed, concrete falling from bridges overhead presents an immediate ongoing hazard to motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians on city streets below the interstate.

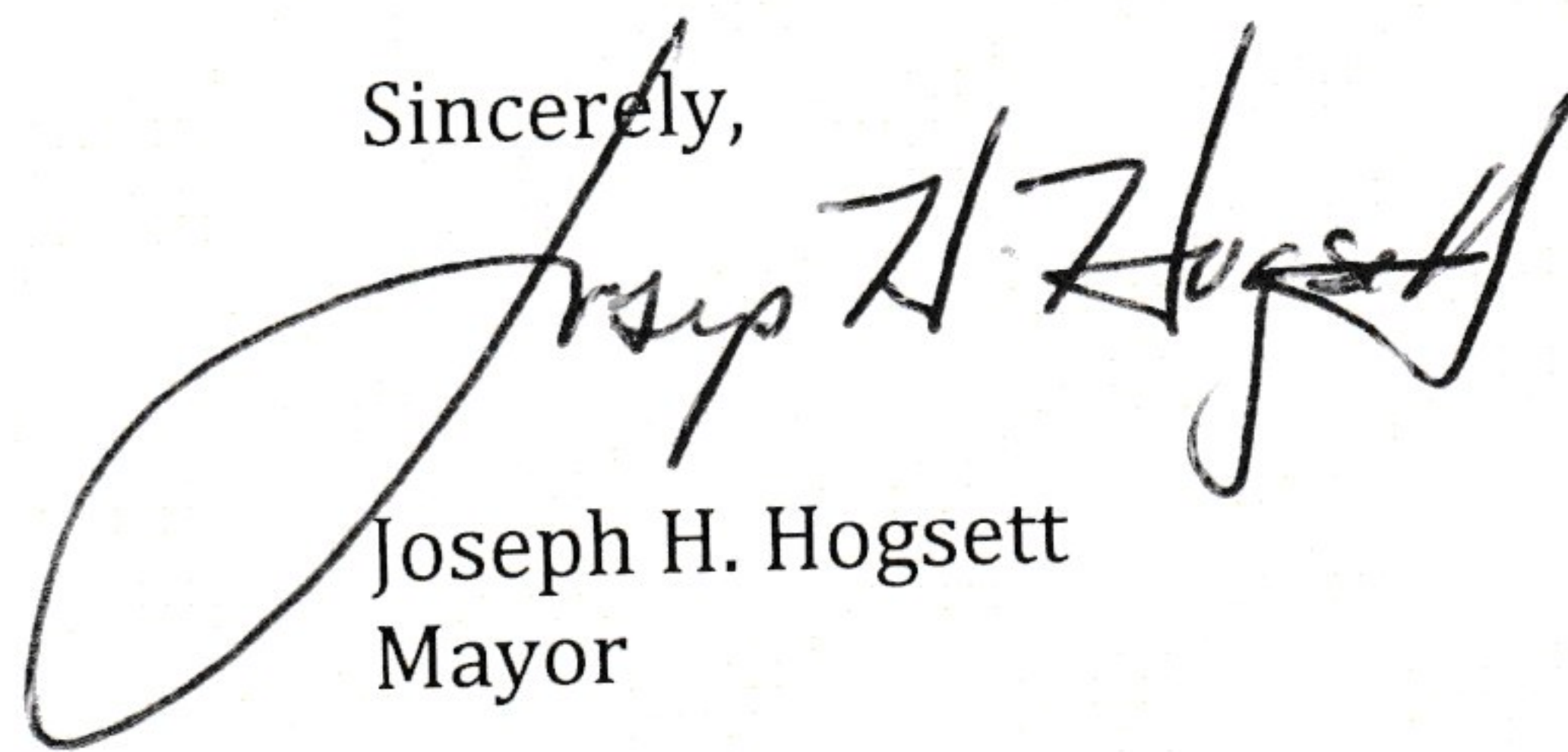
INDOT's system-level analysis has fueled a community-wide conversation about the future of the interstate system, a system whose construction over a half-century ago forever changed the character of downtown Indianapolis. Downtown neighborhoods recovered slowly—over four decades—to become some of the most valuable residential real estate in Marion County, if not the entire state. Over that same time, our downtown employers have come to rely on those suburban commuters who disproportionately use the interstates at peak times during the work week.

Office of the Mayor
2501 City County Building
200 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
www.indy.gov

With the focus now shifting back to a North Split project, I urge INDOT to minimize harm to downtown neighborhoods while striving, "to maintain the existing interchange in a safe, functioning condition." As the design process unfolds over the next several months, I will ask INDOT to keep the interstate within the existing road bed; make necessary bridge repairs to address valid safety concerns; make short-term repairs to allow further exploration of the long-term system-wide concepts; and build a project that does not preclude future construction of those concepts.

Above all, I will stress that the state must continue to seek public input for a project that must strike an appropriate balance between the needs of downtown residents and suburban commuters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph H. Hogsett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail.

Joseph H. Hogsett
Mayor