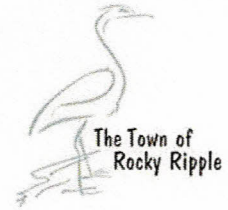


Town of Rocky Ripple
930 West 54th Street
Indianapolis, IN
46208



16-Feb-2016

The Honorable Joe Hogsett
Mayor of Indianapolis
2501 City-County Building
200 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mayor Hogsett,

On February 13, 2016, Rocky Ripple Town Board members became aware of a city sponsored meeting to be held on February 25, 2016 regarding the review of the Ballard Administration's eleventh hour decision to pursue the Westfield Alignment for completing Phase 3B of the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, an alignment the City had previously formally abandoned. We are happy that we have been invited to participate in the meeting and want you to know our position on this project, as our neighborhood is most affected by the proposed Westfield Alignment.

For more than 20 years Rocky Ripple has been requesting help from the City in maintaining and restoring the earthen levee that has protected the town since it was built by the WPA in the 1930s. We have received talk of assistance from the city, but nothing further to protect our riverfront community of 320 households. The Westfield Alignment project would not only leave our residents and town unprotected, should a major flood event occur, but our homes, neighborhood and lives would be placed in danger because flood waters would pool in our neighborhood, destroying homes and decimating our small town.

Placing a wall in front our neighborhood also sends the not so subtle message that Rocky Ripple is "on the other side of the tracks" and is not open for business. Our home values would be destroyed. The Environmental Protection Agency realized this during the review of the Corps' plans when it asked the Corps whether it had considered buying out all of the homeowners in Rocky Ripple. Thus, we must again express our adamant opposition to the Westfield Alignment.

We do, however, fully support full, fair and substantial construction of flood protection that would include the town of Rocky Ripple, in addition to the surrounding areas of Butler-Tarkington and Butler University. We have passed numerous resolutions supporting this position. Flood protection should not be established solely based upon feedback from a minority of residents who voice concern merely over rising flood insurance rates. There is much more at stake than this short term financial fix for some residents. Our lives, property and community are at risk, not to mention the destruction of one of Indianapolis' most cherished resources, the White River Canal.

We implore the City to take a more strategic view of flood protection, which would bring the greatest benefit to all affected northside neighborhoods, as well as the continued good health of the City of Indianapolis. We believe there are other, smarter ways to complete the project in relatively short order without creating the havoc associated with the Westfield Alignment. There are facts that were not considered by the City when decisions on the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project were made that should be revisited.

We appreciate the fact that your administration is a new set of eyes that can look at this issue and take the opportunity to work with the affected communities to implement a strategy for flood control that both the affected community leaders and the City can support. The Town Board of Rocky Ripple looks forward to open dialogue with the City on this topic to quickly develop a solution that does not immediately cause discord, as past initiatives have, when all options were not considered and agreed to with neighborhood stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Mandy Redmond

Town Councilor, Rocky Ripple

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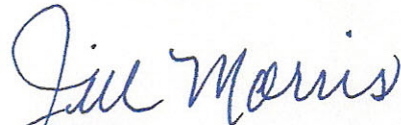


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