

Mayor Ballard Accepts 2011 ASCE Indiana Civil Engineering Project of the Year Award for Project Open Market

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today accepted the 2011 American Society of Civil Engineers Indiana Civil Engineering Project of the Year Award for Project Open Market. The city initiative was developed to spur investment and create economic opportunity by removing the old I-65/I-70 ramps on the Near-Eastside and building a new interchange along Washington Street for smoother traffic flow and to improve pedestrian access.

“The unique nature of Project Open Market allowed for continuous open dialogue and coordination among all partners, which facilitated efficient progress and helped to find savings and reduce expenses along the way,” said Mayor Ballard. “On behalf of all of the City’s partners in this project, we are honored to accept this award and are excited about the improvements already made in this area as well as what is sure to be a bright future as we work to promote continued development along the Project Open Market Corridor.”

Extensive community input drove the project’s design and construction thanks to an aggressive outreach effort that included a series of public meetings. The project would not have been possible without the work of the Congressional delegation of Senators Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar and the late Rep. Julia Carson, along with former Mayor Bart Peterson.

Highlights of the work include:

- The construction of a new interstate exchange along Washington Street, with a new southbound entrance ramp to I-65/I-70 and a new northbound exit ramp from I-65/I-70
- The removal of the old I-65/I-70 ramps: the Market Street entrance ramp (also known locally as the “Ski Ramp”) to southbound I-65/I-70; the Market Street exit ramp from northbound I-65/I-70; the Ohio Street entrance ramp to southbound I-65/I-70
- The widening of Washington Street
- The realignment of Southeastern Avenue at Washington Street
- The improved appearance of the CSX Railroad overpass/underpass on Market Street with painting, lighting and a decorative screening
- The separation of the sanitary and storm water sewers under Southeastern Avenue and Shelby, Washington and Market streets
- The improvement or installation of new landscaping, sidewalks, crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps and street lighting on Market and Washington streets

The project cost totaled \$22 million (\$17 million federal and \$5 million local). Work on the project began in March 2008, and the entire project was completed on Nov. 30, 2009. American Structurepoint, Inc., led the design team of firms including Rundell, Ernstberger Associates; VS Engineering; Parsons, Cunningham, & Shartle Engineers; CMID; TBE Group; Hetrick Communications; and Associated Right-of Way Services. Walsh Construction led the construction team with specialty subcontractors. United Consulting Engineers led the inspection team. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Partnering Program enabled members of all project-related entities to resolve issues quickly and safeguard the project’s success. The team included City of Indianapolis, INDOT’s Greenfield District, Federal Highway Administration, consultants, contractors, subcontractors, utility companies, police and fire, and CSX Railroad and suppliers.

The award was announced today at the annual meeting for the Indiana Section of American Society of Civil Engineers at the Fountains Banquet & Conference Center in Carmel.