

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATORS MAKE SUBSTANTIAL
CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION
FORMULA**

WHEREAS, taxpayers in the City of Fort Wayne ("City") pay gas taxes to the State and those taxes are uniform throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, those taxes fund the State's Community Crossing Matching Grant Program which has awarded \$739 million dollars in State funds to municipalities since 2016; and

WHEREAS, Fort Wayne comprises approximately 4% of the State population but has only received approximately 0.4% of the program's funding (\$4.5 million dollars of \$739 million dollars); and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2020-1 awards, \$126.5 million dollars was distributed with Fort Wayne receiving the maximum award of \$1 million dollars and received nothing as part of the 2020-2 awards, meaning Fort Wayne continued to receive approximately 0.4% of total allocated funds; and

WHEREAS, any municipality is eligible for the same funding level of a maximum of \$1 million dollars regardless of its size and smaller communities contribute a 25% match while Fort Wayne contributes a 50% match; and

WHEREAS, because these criteria primarily benefit small municipalities and rural areas where the majority of their road repair funds now is derived from this program while Fort Wayne only receives approximately 4.5% of its road repair funds from this program; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Fort Wayne and most larger municipalities to have a more equitable distribution of these funds re-evaluated by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Wayne City Council appreciates the continued leadership shown by the members of the Indiana General Assembly to work with municipal leaders to maximize benefits for all residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FORT WAYNE, INDIANA:**

SECTION 1. That the Common Council formally requests that State Legislators who represent Fort Wayne taxpayers introduce legislation, bill addenda, or policy changes that will provide more road funding to the City of Fort Wayne, specifically a retooling of the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program into a more equitable program.

SECTION 2. That if the program is discontinued, a program which replaces it should more equitably distribute the funds.

SECTION 3. That if the program continues substantially intact, a reasonable outcome for the next two years' State Budget is Second Class Cities such as Fort Wayne will be eligible for at least three times the funding from the program as Third Class Cities.

Russ Jehl, Council Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Joseph G. Bonahoom, Attorney for City Council