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For More Information:

Aliya Wishner

[317-995-7645](tel:317-995-7645) |

aliya.wishner@indy.gov

Mayor Hogsett's proposed 2018 budget funds sustainability priorities

Funding allocated to drive down the community's carbon footprint and improve resilience to climate impacts

INDIANAPOLIS – On Monday, Mayor Joe Hogsett introduced the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget to a full meeting of the City-County Council. Included within the \$1.1 billion of proposed spending are significant steps towards a more sustainable city -- fiscally, with an introduced budget that is structurally balanced for the first time in a decade, as well as environmentally, with substantial funding dedicated to projects that will shape more resilient neighborhoods and drive down carbon emissions city-wide.

The proposed funding follows Mayor Hogsett's June signing of "We Are Still In," committing the City to take steps to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the increasing impacts of climate change in the spirit of the Paris Climate Agreement.

"By making significant investments in the sustainability of our city, we are ensuring that Indianapolis is the very best it can be – not only today, but tomorrow," said Mayor Hogsett. "With the passage of this budget, we will be able to make strategic investments in the long-term well-being of Indianapolis, while reinforcing our city's reputation as an ideal place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come."

Highlights from the submitted budget include:

- More money dedicated to breaking down longstanding barriers to connectivity and accessibility including transportation funds earmarked for sidewalk improvements, the addition of new sidewalks, and ADA-accessibility retrofits -- a nearly \$1.5 million increase from 2017.
- \$1.9 million dedicated to transportation studies, designed to address traffic flow and make traveling by car, bicycle, and on-foot safer and smoother. These improvements will increase fuel efficiency and workforce productivity through traffic flow enhancements and bolster Indianapolis' position as a pedestrian- and bike-friendly city. In addition, the Metropolitan Planning Office has dedicated \$200,000 of funding to update the city's bike plan and evaluate current need for bike-friendly mobile mapping across the community.
- Nearly \$6.5 million of transportation funding dedicated to adding and improving greenways and multi-modal paths. Coupled with \$2.25 million set

aside for greenway and trail development specifically in Indy Parks, these investments towards active transportation will total \$8.7 million in 2018. These holistic investments will mean not only an expansion of active transportation infrastructure such as new bike lanes on 56th Street, but also the addition of supportive infrastructure like bike racks in areas of the city that most need them.

- \$1 million for environmental remediation that will enable the redevelopment of Brownfield sites that have held back revitalization efforts in Indianapolis neighborhoods.
- Over \$288,000 in proposed investment in a Groundwater Protection Fund under the Department of Metropolitan Development, ensuring our city's wellfield is clean and uncontaminated.
- More than \$24 million in funding dedicated to stormwater infrastructure, including surface drainage projects that keep flooding away from houses, roads, trails, and sidewalks, improving quality of life for nearby residents. Stewardship projects will aim to protect and enhance local water quality as more than 100 homes across Indianapolis see significant drainage improvements, and neighborhood culverts will be rehabilitated to flow water away from roads and yards. As the climate continues to change and the region experiences increased incidences of heavy rain, these stormwater improvements are critical to the resilience of Indianapolis neighborhoods.
- In partnership with the Department of Public Works, Department of Metropolitan Development, and Business and Neighborhood Services, the Office of Sustainability will begin work to develop the city's first-ever Sustainability and Resilience Action Plan. This enterprise-wide initiative will focus resources and leverage civic capacity toward projects that minimize community vulnerabilities and ensure lasting economic, environmental, and neighborhood vitality.

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