



Oct. 23, 2008

Media Contacts:

Claire Belby, MIBOR, 317.956.5232; cell 317.523.7145

Corrie Bennett, GICC, 317.464.2241; cell 317.201.5725

SUPPORT FOR TRANSIT FUNDING TOPS 70 PERCENT
*New study finds solid support for additional central Indiana
transportation options and strong desire for measurable action*

INDIANAPOLIS — A new study reveals that more than 87 percent of central Indiana residents agree that additional transportation options are needed in the region. Additionally, more than 70 percent support dedicated public funding.

These were among the key findings of a study conducted by the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce (GICC) and the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR) released today at the Indiana History Center.

The study was conducted among 1,400 residents in the nine-county region.

Additional findings:

- Residents in all nine counties see a strong need for more transportation options. The strongest support is in Boone, Hamilton and Hendricks counties
- Nearly 80 percent of residents would like to see measurable action on the issue
- More than 60 percent feel current public funding is too low
- Current transportation concerns for residents include the cost of gasoline and congestion

"These results clearly show that central Indiana residents will give a green light to pursuit of a mass transit system," said Roland Dorson, president of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce. "We are extremely encouraged and are now taking the next step to share our findings with policy makers and community leaders. In this challenging

economic climate, our workforce deserves more cost efficient options along with quicker accessibility to all that central Indiana has to offer."

The Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority (CIRTA), which was created in 2004 to develop a comprehensive system of transportation alternatives, agrees that the study is a crucial step in the region's transportation future.

CIRTA Executive Director Ehren Bingaman stated, "Most encouraging to CIRTA is that support is strong throughout all nine counties in the region. Creating a truly regional system is critical to its success and sustainability."

Steve Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of MIBOR, was optimistic about the public's desire for action.

"I think the public 'gets it' that a more comprehensive system will add tremendously to our quality of life in central Indiana," Sullivan said. "Residents will have the primary benefit of more transit options for work and leisure and the secondary benefit of the vast economic development avenues that can result from this type of forward-thinking infrastructure."

For more information or to view the study results, visit www.indychamber.com or www.mibor.com/transitstudy.

###

Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce (GICC)

Founded in 1890 by Colonel Eli Lilly and a group of Indianapolis business leaders, the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the central Indiana business community. Today, with a membership of more than 4,200 businesses, the Indianapolis Chamber is still a voice of progress and improvement, bringing together businesses for a thriving community. For more information on the Chamber, visit indychamber.com.

Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® (MIBOR)

The Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of REALTORS® is the professional association representing central Indiana's REALTORS®. MIBOR serves the needs of more than 7,500 members in Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan and Shelby counties. MIBOR also supplies the BLC™ listing service to REALTORS® in Decatur, Madison and Putnam counties.

Strategic Marketing & Research, Inc. (SMARI)

SMARI is a full-service research company which has been conducting opinion polling for a wide variety of clients for 25 years. SMARI works with a variety of local, regional and national clients and has extensive experience in opinion polling and research in the industries of travel and tourism, utilities, arts and leisure, entertainment, retail, manufacturing and health care.