



Star File Photo (2006)

**RUSH-HOUR JOB:** Major Moves money has been dedicated to projects to relieve congestion on I-69, shown here near the 96th Street bridge.

## Keep Major Moves for roads but expand transit options

As the voice of the Central Indiana business community, the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce has long advocated for an integrated transportation system, complete with an adequately funded bus system to enhance economic development, work-force mobility, crime prevention and environmental efforts. The Major Moves legislation passed in 2006 was an innovative and pragmatic approach to addressing the needs of Indiana's highway infrastructure. With an uncertain future of federal support for transportation infrastructure, it is the firm belief of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber that the Major Moves funds should remain with the intended purpose — highways and roads, contrary to The Star's July 30 editorial.

However, there is little doubt that Central Indiana lacks an adequate mass transportation system. High fuel costs have highlighted our few transportation options. We have continually failed to properly fund a bus system. Many see this in-

action as a debate between road funding and transit funding. This approach has resulted in advocates on both sides failing to acknowledge that what is most needed is a strategic, comprehensive approach to funding an integrated transportation system of transit, roads, sidewalks and bike paths.

Though the General Assembly has taken steps in recent years to address public transportation, much work remains. This is why the Indianapolis Chamber is working to promote a strategic solution to our transportation needs that does not position road funding against transit objectives, but addresses the comprehensive transportation needs. This requires the support of the community to urge our elected officials to finally give residents and workers transportation options. It is our hope that the General Assembly will agree that now is the time to invest in mass transportation for Central Indiana.

**Roland M. Dorson**

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