

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TOWNS, COUNTY BREAK GROUND ON RONALD REAGAN PARKWAY EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENTS**

**BROWNSBURG** (June 29, 2015) – Officials from the Town of Brownsburg, Town of Avon, and Hendricks County held a groundbreaking ceremony today for the extension of Ronald Reagan Parkway from US 136 to County Road 300N and the project to widen the parkway from County Road 300N to US 36.

The Town of Brownsburg partnered with Hendricks County to obtain \$8 million in federal funds from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO). The entities will share the remainder of the costs to build the roadway connecting CR 300N to the existing Ronald Reagan Parkway interchange at Interstate 74. Brownsburg will contribute \$6.4 million and Hendricks County will fund \$1.9 million of the costs.

The 1.7-mile section is the last leg designed for the county's major north-south connector, which officials would like to see eventually connect to I-65 in Boone County. Planning of the 12-mile Ronald Reagan Parkway started in the mid-1980s to connect Interstate 70 on the south to Interstate 74 and beyond on the north. Construction of the first mile, from US 36 to CR 100 N, was completed in 1996.

The towns and county have an agreement to jointly fund the estimated \$10.8 million cost for widening the parkway from County Road 300N to US 36 to four lanes with a multi-use trail on each side. The entities will each share a cost percentage of the 3.22-mile project: Town of Avon, 67.94 percent; Town of Brownsburg, 8.8 percent; and Hendricks County, 23.26 percent.

Brownsburg Town Council President Don Spencer said, "The Town of Brownsburg annexed Ronald Reagan Parkway in 2011 knowing how important it is to the future of our community. We are pleased to partner with Hendricks County and the Town of Avon on these critical projects to open up the east side of Hendricks County with improved transportation and opportunities for development."

Avon Town Council President Marcus Turner added, "This project is the culmination of efforts of many people from our towns and the county over many years. It shows how persistence and cooperation allow us to achieve great things for our communities."

The start of construction of both projects is expected to coincide starting as early as July. Completion of the projects will not only ease traffic congestion and accommodate future transportation demands, but is expected to spur significant commercial development.

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