The recent shattering of transportation investment records is good news for Hoosier minority-owned businesses. With a projected $826 million in spending on roads, bridges, and highways in 2007 alone Hoosiers can expect to see a drop in unemployment and a rise in economic development. Indiana's updated transportation infrastructure will pave the way for accelerated business development and expansion.

"[Major Moves] will enable the state to complete more than 200 vital transportation projects, creating tens of thousands of new jobs and a modern road network that will enable Indiana to maintain its strategic position as the 'Crossroads of America,'" said Governor Daniels.

Tens of thousands of jobs will be created in Indiana through Major Moves projects, giving minority and women-owned businesses the opportunity to advance and continue to strengthen the State's economy.

With the help of Juana Watson, Governor Daniels' Senior Advisor of Latino Affairs, Northwest Indiana is forming its first Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"Most Latino business owners don't join the regular chamber of commerce because they don't feel that they belong there," said Watson.

A Hispanic Chamber in Northwest Indiana will enable officials to identify the needs of this growing population while providing access and information about Hispanic companies to area residents. With the help of Mary Jane Gonzalez, president of the Indiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce NWI has been able to make this idea a reality. Gilbert Velez will be acting as president of the NWI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The first fundraising dinner is scheduled for October 21, 2006.