

Hello my Friends and fellow residents, your Mayor here with another Update:

On this week's agenda I have an important announcement on the wheel tax. I also have updates on several meetings I've had with our lawmakers at the State Capital and here in Portage with our United States Senator Todd Young. I'll share with you details of a few local businesses I toured last week.

So let's get started!

I kicked the week off with a field trip looking at city projects. To list a few.. I saw progress on ditch cleanups, creek erosion repair, retention and detention pond cleaning, and several paving and resurfacing projects.

Willowcreek Road has a handful of useful upgrades that I am excited to reveal in the upcoming weeks. Some of these are important and long overdue ADA compliance upgrades.

As a result to ensure timely progress, through slow traffic and multiple traffic light rotations I have been traveling Willowcreek Road every single day.

As your Mayor, you can rest assure I am monitoring the timely progress of city projects including Willowcreek Road, and speaking up when necessary.

On the subject of tours and field trips...

I recently visited and toured two businesses here in Portage.

The first one is a large business located within the Port of Indiana called Feralloy. While there, I was made aware of their future plans here in Portage. Details are not yet public, BUT great things are happening at Feralloy.

The other business I toured is located along 80/94 called TLG Great Lakes Peterbilt, with new ownership, comes new impressive expansion.

With this expansion will also come new good-paying, career-oriented jobs.

Great things are on the horizon for many Portage Businesses such as Federalloy and TLG Peterbilt.

Speaking of things that are impressive.

Last week I testified for over a 40 minutes at our State Capital in the Senate Chambers.

Summer Inter Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The subject? Beach erosion.

We are asking for money to be included in the next budget for a long term plan. But in the short term I asked for and will continue to ask for an immediate Replenishment of Sand on our Lakefront Beach.

And on that subject...

I invited to our Lakefront park, US Senator Todd Young. He had a chance to see first hand the steady erosion of our beach.

The National parks and city engineers were on site to answer questions.

He is committed to helping the Portage community find a short and long term solution to beach sand replenishment.

Also on Tuesday of last week was Police National Night Out. This is a nationwide event where officers meet residents and provide services such as finger printing. I was able to attend the event and greet officers, offer them a job well done.

Now let's move onto an announcement on the Wheel tax. I speak with hundreds of residents per week and I am listening.

As a result, I am looking into a plan which will reduce the cost of the wheel tax for seniors, Veterans, the disabled, and owners of classic cars.

Speaking of Veterans, I am reviving the Mayors Veterans Commissions. Their duties will include advising the Mayor on Veteran returning home looking for work, Transportation needs, and other duties as requested.

One of the other duties I have in mind is for the Commission to inform Veterans new to Portage on the many groups and activity they can be a part of, such as our American Legion Post 260, our VFW, and our many places of worship.

The Commission will also look into the subject if Veterans preference for job opportunities for businesses within Portage. Veteran's preference is a long held practice within many local and

State Government's but also within many local governments such as right here in the City of Portage.

Any Veteran interested in joining the Mayor's Veterans Commission Please contact My office at 2197625425.

Lastly, I am calling for a review of Impervious Storm water Surface fee. Make it more transparent, more understandable, and totally fair.

As your Mayor, part of my job is to retain existing businesses and foster an environment that attracts new businesses. And for the record, this includes businesses of all sizes... From home based business to a large retail or industrial business...

As your Mayor, my personal goal is anyone operating a business in the City of Portage... Can do business safely, efficiently and effectively.

To achieve this goal, City Government at all levels must hold their own feet to the fire. We must do our absolute best to reduce the cost of doing business for any and all businesses while providing services and opportunities.

On the topic of government spending, I'd like to end today's city address with a simple quote from Marcus Tullius Cicero, a Roman statesman, lawyer and philosopher.

"Frugality includes all the other virtues".

Our City is posed to be more and do more, I would not want it any other way. Until next time, God Bless and See you soon.