



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION – INDIANA CHAPTER 2022 PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR SUBMISSION

CANDIDATE

Eric Horvath, PE

TITLE

Public Works Director

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION/COMPANY

City of South Bend Public Works Department, South Bend, Indiana

CATEGORY

Municipality



AMERICAN
STRUCTUREPOINT
INC.



PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Deadline: February 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EST
(only electronic submittals accepted)

In order for the nominee to be considered, both the Nomination Form and the Supporting Data Form must be completed by either the nominee or the group/individual making the nomination.

Please note below who is completing this form:

- Nominee
- Group/Individual Nominating

Eric Horvath, PE

Candidate's Name

Executive Director

Title

City of South Bend Public Works Department

Agency/Organization/Company

227 West Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 1300N

Address

South Bend	Indiana	46601
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City	State	Zip
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574.235.5923

Phone

ehorvath@southbendin.gov

Email

Cash Canfield, PE

Group/Individual Nominating

Chief Operating Officer/Partner

Title

American Structurepoint

Agency/Organization/Company

9025 River Road, Suite 200

Address

Indianapolis	Indiana	46240
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City	State	Zip
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317.547.5580

Phone

ccanfield@structurepoint.com

Email

PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD SUPPORTING DATA FORM

Deadline February 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EST
(only electronic submittals accepted)

Please complete the requirements listed below limiting submittal to 12 pages. In addition to the directions on this page, please read the criteria page.

Candidate:

Eric Horvath, PE

Title:

Executive Director

Agency/Organization/Company:

City of South Bend Department of Public Works

Please indicate the category under which the candidate's agency/organization/company falls:

- Municipality
- County/Special District
- State/Federal/Military
- Private Sector

Address the following areas in supporting documentation limiting submittal to 12 pages. Nominations must adhere to the sequence below:

Employment Record: Briefly list all employment positions, dates of each position and description of responsibilities. Begin with current employment and include consulting work.

Job-Related Technical and Managerial Accomplishments: Describe all major achievements and accomplishments. State specific role in each. Include innovations in technical and/or managerial fields. Describe your commitment to advancing other people in career and profession. NOTE: This section weighs most heavily in the judging process.

Initial and Lifelong Education: Include colleges and universities attended, dates of attendance, majors and degrees received. List attendance at professional institutes and on-the-job training.

Publications and/or Presentations: List any published articles and/or papers delivered at professional meetings.

Professional Involvement: List organizations, activities and offices held.

Community Service: List organizations, activities and offices held.

Awards: List educational, professional and civic awards. Include recognition for public service.

Directions

Nominations should be limited to no more than 12 pages. The 12 pages do not include a letter of introduction from the nominator or the nomination form and the supporting data form and any letters of recommendation, which should be limited to six.

If submission has a letter of introduction (maximum of 2 pages), it should be placed in front of the nomination. Submittal should address the areas outlined above in the sequence stated. Letters of recommendation will be accepted provided each letter cites specific examples of professional involvement with the nominee. Letters will not be accepted after the nomination deadline.

Any examples such as publication articles, newspaper clippings, photos of awards, etc. count toward the 12 page limit. Only the Nomination Form, Introduction Letter, Supporting Data Form and 6 letters of recommendation are not counted as part of the 12 page limitation.



February 27, 2023

Re: APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award
Letter of Introduction: Eric Horvath, PE,

Dear Review Committee:

I am writing this letter of introduction supporting Eric Horvath, PE, executive director of public works for the City of South Bend, as a very worthy candidate for the 2022 Public Works Leader of the Year Award. Eric has led the South Bend Public Works Department since December 2012, showing great dedication to moving many public works services and programs forward for the betterment of all.

I value Eric for his exceptional technical and leadership skills, and his integrity and passion for serving the public set him apart. American Structurepoint has partnered with Eric and the City of South Bend on multiple projects over the last decade. I can think of two great examples where Eric's knowledge and passion stood out. Eric was instrumental in working with American Structurepoint staff to develop and achieve EPA approval on an affordable revised South Bend CSO consent decree to reduce the number of bacteria in the St. Joseph River. His knowledge of the existing collection system significantly impacted critical decisions regarding the new long-term control plan receiving EPA approval. The amended consent decree improved public health and lowered the cost of compliance by over \$400 million for South Bend ratepayers.

Eric also played a significant role in the Smart Streets initiative to convert several downtown one-way streets to two-way streets. Drastically changing traffic patterns in a major city is a challenge, and Eric's guidance made the entire process run much more smoothly for the City and American Structurepoint's staff.

The examples given here are just a sampling of the many ways Eric delivers exemplary public service to the community. Eric Horvath is an outstanding professional in the public works arena with a demonstrated history of achievements. His enthusiasm for serving the City of South Bend is undeniable. He is passionate about improving the quality of life with efficiency and innovation for all South Bend citizens and stakeholders. I highly recommend Eric Horvath for the APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

Sincerely,
American Structurepoint, Inc.

Cash E. Canfield, PE
Chief Operating Officer/Partner



**AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION – INDIANA CHAPTER
2022 PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR SUBMISSION**

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

CITY OF SOUTH BEND - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

December 2012 to the present

Eric is responsible for the management and operations of the South Bend Public Works Department with over 270 employees, a \$100 million per year enterprise, and the implementation of a \$70 million to \$100 million per year capital improvement program. Public Works includes the following departments: engineering, traffic and lighting, street department, water works, wastewater utility, and other environmental services including municipal solid waste and organic resources recycling.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

January 2013 to the present

In this role, teaches the CE 40701 and CE 40702 Senior Design course. This capstone civil engineering course teaches students real-life design experience on integrated multidisciplinary civil and environmental engineering projects throughout the community. The students work as consultants in a two-semester course that culminates in final design plans and specifications for their specific engineering projects.

AMERICAN STRUCTUREPOINT NORTH REGIONAL SERVICES MANAGER

June 2006 – December 2012

Eric was responsible for managing the administration and operations of the northern regional office of American Structurepoint. His responsibilities included new business development, client relations, and leading a regional production staff of xxx people. During his tenure, Eric served as a principal-in-charge and project manager for extensive water, sewer, transportation, and environmental engineering projects. He also provided financial management and budgetary control for dozens of projects.

CITY OF ELKHART, INDIANA PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR

February 2000 - June 2006

Eric directed the Elkhart Public Works Department with a staff of 150 employees and an annual operating and capital budget of over \$34 million. He was accountable for the finances and administration of the Elkhart Municipal Airport, Elkhart Water Utility, Elkhart Wastewater Utility, and all City environmental and transportation engineering. He directed, supervised, and participated in the planning, design, specification writing, bidding, construction, quality control, and inspection of all capital improvement projects, including building renovations and large, complex sewer, water, and transportation infrastructure projects. Eric monitored construction and operation costs and implemented procedures to reduce budgets and improve overall performance. As head of the city water utility, Eric was responsible for delivering over ten million gallons of clean, safe drinking water each day to over 60,000 customers. As overseeing the Elkhart Wastewater Utility, Eric had responsibility for 270 miles of sewer mains and a 30 million GPD wastewater treatment plant that received an award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for being the best-advanced treatment plant in a six-state area.

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGER

February 1997 - February 2000

Eric managed, supervised, and evaluated a staff of 41 employees in engineering services, environmental services, and building maintenance areas. This role included providing budgetary management and financial control of engineering services, environmental services, and building maintenance areas

Eric also planned, designed, and managed construction and inspection of infrastructure development and public works projects. Projects included building rehabilitations, environmental remediations, urban beautifications, sanitary sewer, water main and storm sewer extensions, road and traffic signal improvements, and complete revitalization designs. Eric also administered environmental regulatory affairs for the City related to air, land, and water quality issues. He directed plan review and approval, record maintenance, and technology development. He also managed Elkhart's Groundwater Modeling Program and Geographic Information System.



**AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION – INDIANA CHAPTER
2022 PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR SUBMISSION**

**JOB-RELATED TECHNICAL
& ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

ERIC HORVATH

JOB-RELATED TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eric Horvath has played an extensive role in improving South Bend's civil infrastructure system since taking on the role of executive director of the Public Works Department at the request of then-Mayor Pete Buttigieg. In 2012, Eric returned to the public services sector where his career began in 1993 upon graduating from the University of Notre Dame. He has extensive experience overseeing public sector entities and in being a strong steward of taxpayer dollars while managing complex infrastructure and engineering projects in both the private and public sectors.

SOUTH BEND SMART STREETS INITIATIVE



Eric led this three-year initiative for safer, more efficient transportation in the downtown area to better accommodate motorists, transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Eight miles of two multi-lane one-way pair streets through downtown South Bend were converted to two-way urban "Complete Streets" that included new streetscape, traffic signals, three landscaped roundabouts, traffic-calming measures, and bike paths. The initiative's goals included making downtown streets safer and more appealing while also creating a more vibrant downtown with a stronger sense of place.

The revitalized street network implemented a road diet, reducing the number of lanes and adding additional on-street parking with wider sidewalks yet shorter crosswalks for pedestrians and slower vehicular speeds. Street trees, ornamental lighting, and public art were also included. The project also enhanced the overall quality of life by contributing to a more vibrant atmosphere attracting economic development. Over \$400 million of private development has been constructed or planned downtown since the start of this initiative, which is the greatest level of downtown development in the past 50 years. The Smart Streets project has received numerous state, regional, and national awards for engineering excellence and for its innovative use of complete street techniques.

SOUTH BEND COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN REEVALUATION

South Bend had an existing federal consent decree reached in 2012 mandating over \$700 million of capital improvements to the City's combined sewer system over the next 20 years. Eric estimated that after factoring in financing and other costs, the original plan would have cost the city on the order of \$1 billion. The resulting rate increases needed to pay for the plan would have imposed extreme financial hardship on those least able to afford it. Had South Bend not amended its consent decree, one in five households in the city would have been paying 10% of their income for water and wastewater services. Eric believed a better solution could be devised. He directed the effort to use the City's smart sewers and a cognitive hydraulic response neural network to use existing data on the sewer system to develop a smarter, greener, and more economical alternative. Eric negotiated with the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Justice proposing a new strategy and plan that has less sewage going to the river, improves water quality beyond the original plan, and saves the ratepayers over \$420 million.

REBUILDING OUR STREETS PROGRAM

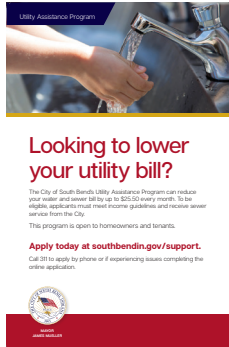


Improving the city's roads was a key priority for Mayor James Mueller upon assuming office in January 2021. Eric developed and implemented a 10-year plan known as Rebuilding Our Streets to improve South Bend's road infrastructure. The plan lays out both short-term and long-term goals to address all "failed" streets and

to continually improve the average Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating (PASER) score. This strategic road plan invested over \$25 million in the first three years to achieve an average citywide PASER rating of 7. A public dashboard was built showing street condition ratings and street repair plans, and alternative technologies were utilized to better analyze and track street conditions annually. Eric developed the strategy of investing more in upfront maintenance to reduce lifecycle costs and stretch the lifespan of the roads.

SOUTH BEND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Eric created a program to provide monthly assistance with water and sewer utility bills for income-qualified households. Low-income households receive up to a \$25.50 monthly discount on their utility bill. The program offers four different tiers of payment levels based on personal income and household size to help keep the basic human needs of water and sewer affordable for struggling households. Every residential sewer customer pays an additional \$1.89 per month to provide a credit for qualifying low-income residential customers enrolled in the program. The average water and utility sewer bill costs \$80 a month.



LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION

Eric conceived and initiated a strategy to convert 12,000 high-pressure sodium streetlights to energy-efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs), an energy-saving alternative to traditional streetlights. This move reduced the public works department's energy use by over 50%, which also helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The South Bend LEDs are dark sky compliant, provide less light trespass, and create better and safer street lighting. They also last three to four times longer than traditional streetlights and result in fewer lights out.



WATER AND SEWER CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Eric created master plans for sewer and water infrastructure improvements. This resulted in a five-year investment of over \$100 million to ensure clean, safe drinking water and high-quality wastewater treatment. Capital investments include collection and distribution system projects, wellfield and water treatment projects,

wastewater treatment projects, and combined sewer overflow reduction projects.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Eric developed a greenhouse gas (GHG) community-wide inventory and set short-term and long-term GHG reduction targets. He identified highest priority community scale strategies and actions to become carbon neutral by 2050. The plan set interim targets of 26% by 2025 and 45% by 2035.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL FLEET PROGRAM



Eric led the implementation of an alternative fuel and fleet emission reduction plan that actually makes money for the city while also improving the environment. Under Eric's guidance and foresight, South Bend has emerged as a state leader in using alternative fuel technologies ranging from CNG, electric, and diesel emission reduction. An innovative program uses methane from the City's wastewater treatment plant to power its fleet of solid waste vehicles. Known as "poop to power," the city uses a process called anaerobic digestion to break down the organic matter from waste into biogas. When the fleet of solid waste vehicles returns for the day, vehicles are fueled with the converted biogas overnight. Beyond saving the environment from gasoline pollutants, the City earns tax credits from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for using renewable biogas. This provides the city with biogas that it doesn't pay for, and it receives hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax credits from the federal government annually.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INITIAL AND LIFELONG EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
Bachelor of Science, 1993
Civil Engineering

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
Bachelor of Arts, 1993
Psychology

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
Master of Science Administration, 2001

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
Supervisory Development, 1995
College of Business Executive Programs

Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Senior Executives in State and Local Government, 2018
Executive Education Program

FEMA, Emergency Management Institute
IS 100, IS 200, IS 700 Certified, 2018
Council

PUBLICATIONS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

- Old Pipes, New Data, and the Future of Infrastructure Finance with Eric Horvath, Public Money Podcast, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy, Episode 16, (January 23, 2023)
- The tech worker shortage is hitting local governments hard. Here's what some are doing about it, SmartCitiesDive (November 2022)
- Indiana City Reduces Sewer Overflows, Slashes Capital Costs, Civil Engineering Source (September 2021)
- Smart Sewer tech saves City of South Bend \$400m, SmartCitiesWorld September 16, 2021)
- South Bend, Indiana, Finalizes 'Smart Sewer' Plan After 5 Years of Retooling, StateScoop (August 27, 2021)
- Re-establishing a Sense of Place: South Bend's Smart Streets Initiative, Presentation at Challenges and Innovation in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences Seminar Series (April 15, 2021)
- Water Affordability Community of Practice: South Bend, Indiana, Presentation at The Water Center University of Pennsylvania, (December 17, 2020)
- Municipal Utilities Turn to the Cloud to Gain Visibility and Control Costs, StateTech (July 3, 2019)
- Employing Intelligent Watershed Technology to Reduce CSOs & Achieve Capital Savings, The Atlas (April 2019)
- Project Profile: The City of South Bend Gets Smart, GX (February 2019)
- Regional Challenges & Opportunities, Presentation at Great Lakes Regional Utility Forum, NACWA (May 8, 2018)
- Smart Water: Uncovering the Richest Returns, Presentation at American Water Summit (November 29, 2017)
- Watershed Approach: South Bend, Presentation at WEFTEC 2017 (October 3, 2017)
- Better and Smarter: Technology Innovation for the Utility of the Future, Presentation at Water Environment Research Foundation (June 2017)
- Sensors Help Combat Sewer Problems in South Bend, Indiana, government technology (February 2017)
- Tad Slawewski, Cecil McMaster, Mujib Lodhi, Eric Horvath, Chris Hornback, and Brianne Nakamura. Big Data: Preparing for the Future of 'Smart Water' and 'Big Data.' Water Environment & Technology. (September 2016)
- The Smart Utility and the Promise of Big Data, Presentation at National Association of Clean Water Agencies. (February 2016)

- Where the Rubber Meets the Road, Presentation at Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (2016)
- Municipal Growth & Development, Presentation at Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (December 11, 2015)
- Creating Operating Efficiencies through Technology, Presentation at Mayor's Institute. (March 2015)
- Current Events in Operating and Billing for Municipal Utilities, Presentation at Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. (September 2014)
- Re-envisioning South Bend, Presentation at ASCE North Central Branch. (December 2013)
- Regional Challenges & Opportunities, Presentation at Great Lakes Regional Utility Forum, NACWA (May 8, 2018)
- Smart Water: Uncovering the Richest Returns, Presentation at American Water Summit (November 29, 2017)
- Watershed Approach: South Bend, Presentation at WEFTEC 2017(October 3, 2017)
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- Current Events in Operating and Billing for Municipal Utilities, Presentation at Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. (September 2014)

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- American Society of Civil Engineers
- American Public Works Association
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Water Environment Federation
- American Water Works Association
- Accelerate Indiana Municipalities
- Indiana Water Environment Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Potawatomi Zoological Society Board Member- The Potawatomi Zoological Society operates, maintains, and raises funds for the city-owned Potawatomi Zoo located in South Bend, Indiana. The 23-acre zoological park is the second-oldest zoo in Indiana.

ChoiceLight Fiber Board Member - ChoiceLight Fiber is two corporations created through a private-public partnership to improve the economic development climate in South Bend, Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, Marshall County, Elkhart County, and the region by providing telecommunications infrastructure – not services – in the form of dark fiber-optic cable. The ChoiceLight network of fiber-optic cable extends more than 300 miles and has more than 250 subscribers in the most important commercial, education, medical, and governmental centers within the network footprint.

AWARDS

- Complete Streets Award, US Department of Transportation, 2016
- National Environmental Achievement Award, NACWA, 2016
- Partners for Clean Air Award, MACOG, 2016, 2017, & 2020
- Bicentennial Green Legacy Community Award, Sustainable Indiana, 2016
- Community Municipal Innovation Award, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities, 2017
- Smart City North America Finalist, International Data Corporation, 2019
- First Place, American Road & Transportation Builders Association Transportation Development Foundation (ARTBA-TDF) Globe Awards 2019, Smart Streets Initiative



**AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION – INDIANA CHAPTER
2022 PUBLIC WORKS LEADER OF THE YEAR SUBMISSION**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



CITY OF SOUTH BEND
MAYOR JAMES MUELLER
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 24, 2023

Re: Letter of Reference for Eric Horvath, PE - APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award

Dear Review Committee:

As the Mayor of the City of South Bend, it is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation supporting Public Works Executive Director Eric Horvath for the APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

I have known Eric professionally for eight years since I returned to South Bend to become Chief of Staff to then-Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Throughout my dealings with him from that time forward, Eric has met infrastructure challenges head-on with new approaches and innovation while also raising the quality of the services the Public Works Department provides to our residents. When I was elected Mayor in November 2020, I had no hesitation in retaining him to continue leading our Public Works Department.

Without a doubt, Eric has exceeded my expectations in managing our Public Works Department for efficiency, innovation, and infrastructure investment. I charged Eric with implementing a key initiative of my administration, the Rebuilding Our Streets Program. This is a 10-year strategy for addressing the conditions of neighborhood streets across the entire city in an equitable and measurable way. The first three years of the program focused on neighborhood streets in the worst condition. Eric had the job of implementing and managing the City's \$25 million infrastructure investment over the three-year period. Many of these streets had not been improved for decades. More than 200 streets have been repaved in the first two years of the program, and we hope to repave and repair an additional 100 streets in 2023. Eric's expertise in budgeting for and managing all these projects has directly contributed to the program's success.

Eric was a key player in the City's successful renegotiation of the consent decree with the US Department of Justice, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in 2021. Eric directed the effort to optimize the existing sewer system and smart technology to achieve greater environmental benefits and deliver cleaner water to South Bend residents. The new consent decree agreement also saves South Bend ratepayers more than \$420 million over the cost of implementing the original agreement. It is safe to say that the consent decree revisions would not have occurred without Eric's knowledge of newer technologies to bring cleaner water to South Bend residents and businesses at a lower cost.

These are just two of the countless examples of Eric's tremendous leadership capabilities that pay many dividends for our city. Eric is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly and passionately for the greater good of all South Bend's residents and constituents. He is a true asset to our city and his profession. I am delighted to support Eric for this award.

Sincerely,

James Mueller
Mayor, City of South Bend

1400 COUNTY-CITY BUILDING • 227 W. JEFFERSON BOULEVARD • SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601
PHONE 574/235-9261 • FAX 574/235-9892 • TTY 574/235-5567



February 23, 2023

Re: APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award
Letter of Reference for Eric C. Horvath, PE

Dear Review Committee,

I am honored to be writing a letter of recommendation for City of South Bend Public Works Director Eric Horvath, PE for the APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

As a resident of and civil engineer in the South Bend area for over a decade now, I could write extensively about the improvements to the City's civil infrastructure systems that have occurred under Eric's directorship, but I believe others will address these achievements in their letters of recommendation. I will instead focus on two of Eric's other achievements for which I have a unique insight given my role as a faculty member and industry-liaison at the University of Notre Dame.

Firstly, Eric and I have co-taught for the past three years the Senior Design Capstone in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Notre Dame, which is a two-semester course in which we upskill soon-to-graduate seniors in regard to the importance of professional licensing, industry ethics, technical communications, and general principles of professional practice. The bulk of this course consists of students in groups of three or four working alongside industry mentors on a complete engineering design or construction management project, [which have ranged from 12 – 18 projects per year](#), with Eric serving as the primary recruiter of the mentors and supervisory liaison between the mentors and the students through both semesters. This course has become one of the highest-rated courses in our upper-class division. Furthermore, the early industry experience and networking skills students have gained are unique within our curriculum and entirely thanks to Eric's experience, vast industry connections, and relentless energy in mentoring the students directly and regularly himself. In regard to the latter notion, it is remarkable how much energy and time Eric devotes to one-on-one student meetings in "overtime" atop his obviously demanding schedule as the director of public works for one of the largest cities in the State of Indiana. As a final observation on Eric's unique leadership role in our course mentoring young engineers, he delivers annually the most personal, relevant, and engaging presentation on engineering ethics I've ever seen in my 10+ year academic career and spearheads the students' efforts in writing technical papers on ethics topics for submission to the [ASCE Daniel W. Mead Prize for Students](#).

Secondly, Eric's mentoring of early career professionals extends beyond campus to the local ASCE chapter and the local industry in general. With the City of South Bend Public Works Department creating appealing career opportunities for young engineers corresponding to their increasingly numerous and robust projects, we as a local industry have been able to retain talent in recent years that wasn't possible when I first moved here. Notre Dame students from outside the region now consider staying here in South Bend more so than they did a decade ago. In particular, the City of South Bend Public Works offers a wide range of projects, accelerated leadership and project management opportunities, and numerous registered PEs to mentor young staff, which is unique amongst city employers in my experience. I can name three superstar former students off the top of my head who have taken jobs in Eric's department in the past two years alone (I know there are more as well), whereas I wasn't able to convince any of my former students

1



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

College of Engineering

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING AND EARTH SCIENCES

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to remain in the State of Indiana when I first began teaching in 2011 prior to Eric's joining the City. Some of Eric's past hires have moved onto other local firms, but with PE registration, professional networks, and experience that they could have only earned in such short order working on Eric's team. Other local engineering firms have benefitted in growth from the strong relationships and world-class projects that Eric has spearheaded, further expanding the local engineering talent pool. In summary, we benefit region-wide from Eric's industry leadership.

We are extremely lucky to have Eric Horvath as our City's public works director, and I strongly recommend you consider him for the Indiana APWA award for his role. Please reach out if I can provide any further information in support of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Kevin Q. Walsh, PhD, PE, SE
Associate Teaching Professor
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences
University of Notre Dame
156 Fitzpatrick Hall | Notre Dame IN 46556-0767
+1 513 445 8406 | +1 574 318 2988

February 23, 2023

Re: APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award
Letter of Reference for Eric. C. Horvath, PE

Dear Review Committee,

I am proud to be writing this letter of recommendation for City of South Bend Public Works Director Eric Horvath, PE for the APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

As a civil engineer for 29 years and the President / CEO of Abonmarche, our firm of more than 180 employees and I have come to know Eric because of the collaborative projects that we have been a part of with Eric at the helm. Through his leadership, public engagement, and vision as a public works leader for the City of South Bend, which has more than 100K residents, he has elevated the level of service residents, businesses and visitors have come to experience within the city. Eric has been instrumental in the revitalization of downtown South Bend and the improved quality of life for all residents in the City.

Eric has lead the effort to redevelop the Howard Park area in South Bend, revitalize the Western Avenue corridor which is home to a large minority population; improve the Lincoln Way West corridor with new sidewalks and bike lanes; played an instrumental role in a 2.5 megawatt hydroelectric facility operated by the University of Notre Dame along the St. Joseph River; held a key role in redesigning pedestrian and vehicular traffic in downtown South Bend by replacing one way streets with two way streets; and, is now managing the construction of an \$11M Martin Luther King Center which is currently under construction. He has favorably impacted all four corners of the city in his role as public works director. In addition to these projects and hundreds more, Eric led the process to reimagine the City's Long-term Control Plan, gain the approval of the EPA, and saved the City hundreds of millions of dollars.

Eric has also played an instrumental role in encouraging equity and diversity for all public works programs through ordinances and policies which encourage the hiring of minority owned businesses and staff, as well as promoting access to quality public works and amenities throughout the city.

Maybe most impressive is Eric's commitment to the next generation of public works leaders. I was part of a Notre Dame Senior Design classes which Eric has taught for several years and have seen firsthand the impact he has on future engineers and policy makers. He has inspired many to contribute to society thorough innovation and improvement of our public works and the built environment. Eric's demonstrated passion has also allowed the City of South Bend to assemble a talented team of problem solvers and innovators throughout the administration.

As you can see, Eric has been extremely busy and project and people focused since joining the City of South Bend more than a decade ago, and his fingerprints are on so much of the successes South Bend and their residents are experiencing. Therefore, I strongly recommend Eric for the APWA Indiana Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

Daryl Knip, PE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daryl Knip', written in a cursive style.

President / CEO