

## MLK Bridge Opening Celebrated In Fort Wayne District



*Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry (with big scissors, second from right) celebrates with INDOT officials and others by cutting the ribbon and officially opening the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge on June 4.*

More than 2,000 people gathered near downtown Fort Wayne on the evening of June 4 to celebrate the opening of the new Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge on U.S. 27/Clinton Street.

The bridge features 25 plaques with quotes from Martin Luther King Jr., sculptural etchings, a 50-foot arch, pedestrian seating midway across the span, and state-of-the-art lighting that displays millions of shades of color. Such aesthetics make it an ideal gateway to downtown Fort Wayne.

Adding to the festivities was a performance by renowned Fort Wayne youth group Voices of Unity Choir, a gold medalist at the World Choir Games.

After a Unity Walk across the bridge at dusk, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and King's nephew, Derek King Sr., spoke to the crowd.

Although there have been many dedications to his uncle over the years, Derek King Sr. noted that a bridge seemed most appropriate for his uncle's work.

"There are not many municipalities that have dedicated a bridge, and certainly not of this caliber, in the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said King. "You have dedicated a bridge to a bridge maker."