



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **February 1, 2018**

#### **Easterly bypass again proposed for downtown LaPorte**

South Bend Tribune  
Stan Maddux  
2/1/18

LAPORTE — A new road connecting with the Indiana Toll Road so trucks could bypass downtown LaPorte is being seriously considered again. The estimated \$130 million project was outlined Tuesday night at the Civic Auditorium in front of more than 100 people, and includes four different, yet similar, routes for the bypass. "It's a long time coming," said Mike Seitz, director of economic development for LaPorte County, of the proposal. The potential of a four-lane road bypassing downtown has been discussed for 50 years, and its hope for success this time around could hinge on results of a feasibility study expected to be complete by February 2019. Seitz, a former president of the Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce and supporter of the bypass, said trucks getting through the city quicker could help boost industrial development and make downtown more business and pedestrian friendly. "People (could) find places to park," Seitz predicts, "without worrying about their mirrors getting torn off by trucks." Supporters point to the city of Valparaiso in neighboring Porter County and how its downtown became more vibrant and user-friendly after Indiana 49 was constructed years ago just east of the city, as an example of what can happen here. Lochmueller Group, Inc. with offices in Indianapolis and South Bend have identified four possible routes, all starting at or near Boyd Boulevard beside U.S. 35 on the city's south side. The roughly eight mile-long road would loop around the downtown to the east. Once reaches north of Indiana 2 at Range Road, it would veer back west until reaching the Toll Road at Indiana 39. Former LaPorte Mayor Leigh Morris said Tuesday that the lack of such a road had hindered long-term industrial development at the Kingsbury Industrial Park south of the city.  
[https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/easterly-bypass-again-proposed-for-laporte/article\\_82a3ab3a-277e-552e-a4e4-173af73ba626.html](https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/easterly-bypass-again-proposed-for-laporte/article_82a3ab3a-277e-552e-a4e4-173af73ba626.html)

#### **How President Trump's \$1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Plan Could Help Hoosiers**

WIBC  
C. J. Miller  
1/31/18

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As President Trump called on Congress to approve \$1.5 trillion to improve the country's roads, bridges and waterways in his State of the Union address Tuesday, INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness says he was excited to hear the push coming directly from the President. "It was music to my ears. I know that received a standing ovation and I may have been the first one out of my seat," says McGuinness, who says he is pushing Indiana's lawmakers in Washington to approve the plan for additional federal funds to beef up the state's infrastructure. McGuinness was invited to attend the President's State of the Union speech and sat in the U.S. House chambers in the balcony not far from First Lady Melania Trump and the

First Family. McGuinness was a guest of Congressman Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN). "We on average now receive approximately \$900 million from the federal government into our roads and bridges across the state. We'll just be able to further stabilize our infrastructure so we can continue to grow the economy," says McGuinness. The INDOT Commissioner says building wider interstates and stronger bridges would help ease the transportation of freight across Indiana. Last year, Indiana lawmakers approved a tax increase on gasoline and vehicle registrations to pay for better roads and bridges, but McGuinness says any additional money from the federal government would only improve the lives of Hoosiers and continue to make the roads safer. "It's not a Republican, it's not a Democrat issue. It's a Hoosier issue. It's an American issue," says McGuinness. "We travel on all sorts of roads and bridges across the country and we need to make sure they're safe and reliable." <http://www.wibc.com/news/local-news/how-president-trumps-15-trillion-infrastructure-plan-could-help-hoosiers>

### **Preliminary Peek at Potential I-69 Bridge Project**

Inside Indiana Business

Dan McGowan

1/31/18

The preliminary alternative routes for three potential I-69 bridge corridors over the Ohio River have been unveiled. Transportation officials from Indiana and Kentucky are continuing to seek feedback on the proposals that have taken into account factors including access, traffic performance and safety. Funding is expected to come from a combination of tolling, traditional sources and grants. Other considerations include: minimizing or avoiding the impact on sensitive resources, accessibility and visibility to the U.S. 41 corridor, life-cycle maintenance cost estimates for I-69 and U.S. 41 bridges, adjusted cost estimates to year of expenditure and use of traffic models to evaluate cross-river capacity needs. Officials say alternatives must also include six lanes of cross-river traffic and at least four lanes dedicated to I-69 use. The three proposed alternatives are titled: West Alternative 1, West Alternative 2 and Central Alternative 1 and the Indiana Department of Transportation and Kentucky Transportation Cabinet say they will "provide the best opportunity to be financially feasible and address the purpose and need of the project." <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/37398386/preliminary-alternatives-provide-peek-at-potential-i-69-bridge-project>

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