



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **February 8, 2018**

#### **Donnelly, Burr Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Ensure States Get Fair Share of Federal Highway Funds**

WBIW  
2/8/18

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - U.S. Senators Joe Donnelly (D-IN) and Richard Burr (R-NC) today introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure that each state receives a fair share of federal highway funding. Currently, each state is guaranteed a return of at least 95% of its tax contributions to the Highway Trust Fund. Federal highway programs, however, are no longer exclusively funded by Highway Trust Fund contributions so the 95% guarantee only applies to a portion of the total expenditures. As a result, Indiana receives a little less than 92% in return on its contributions to the Highway Trust Fund and North Carolina receives 90% in return--losing out on tens of millions of dollars each year. Donnelly and Burr's legislation would ensure that every state receives a percentage of total highway funding equal to at least 95% of a state's portion of the contributions to the Highway Trust Fund. Under this bill, Indiana would receive approximately \$24.5 million a year more in federal highway funds. Donnelly has previously pushed to ensure states receive its fair share of federal highway funding. In 2015, Donnelly and Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced bipartisan legislation that would fix funding of federal highway programs and also introduced an amendment to the Senate version of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill. They also urged Congressional leaders, in a letter, to fix funding of federal highway programs in the long-term transportation reauthorization. <http://www.wbiw.com/state/archive/2018/02/donnelly-burr-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-ensure-states-get-fair-share-of-federal-highway-funds.php>

#### **Lawmakers cite I-69 delays in effort to change how state contractors are selected**

WRTV  
Katie Heinz and Katie Cox  
2/7/18

MORGAN COUNTY, Ind. -- State lawmakers are using the I-69 construction project mess to push their efforts to require more information when the state hires contractors for large projects. The bill, co-authored by Rep. Ed Delaney and Rep. Tim Brown would require the Indiana Finance Authority to only consider potential contractors who have "experience and quality performance in comparable projects in North America" in the previous two years. The original completion date for section five of the I-69 project, between Martinsville and Bloomington, was October 2016. Delaney claims that the contractor, Isoflux Corsan, not having experience building similar roads in the U.S. caused multiple delays in the timeline for completion and eventually a state takeover. The project is now set to be complete sometime in August 2018. A review of state documents shows that Isoflux Corsan was one of four contractors that made the Indiana Finance Authority's "short list" Brown says independent teams selected the company after weighing a number of factors, including finances and the ability to build the road to INDOT's specifications.

Isoflux Corsan was based in Spain and had three projects in the U.S. at the time they were awarded the contract but none of those were road construction. "I think the process at the time was appropriate," said Brown. "They didn't weigh the idea of the company having experience in the technical part of it." The new proposal would change that. The House unanimously approved the bill this week. It now heads to the Senate for vote.

<https://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/indianapolis/lawmakers-cite-i-69-delays-in-effort-to-change-how-state-contractors-are-selected>

## **LaPorte County Railroad Set For Major Improvements**

Inside Indiana Business

Alex Brown

2/7/18

LAPORTE COUNTY - The Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad has announced plans to invest \$600,000 into railroad improvements in LaPorte County. The company says the track and bridge work will support increasing business demands in the area. The work will be done along a 15-mile stretch of railroad line between La Crosse and Wellsboro. CKIN says it will match a \$300,000 grant from the Industrial Rail Service Fund, which was awarded by the Indiana Department of Transportation. The company says the project will allow the segment of railroad to meet the Federal Railroad Administration's requirements for Class I Track Standards, which allows freight trains to travel at a maximum speed of 10 miles per hour. "As Indiana continues to invest in its infrastructure, it is crucial for the rail lines to invest in upgrades and remain competitive," said Powell Felix, president of CKIN. "This grant funding allows us to continue improving the tracks and bridges as business grows." CKIN says additional improvements are slated for the Thomaston interchange along the Norfolk Southern railroad to accommodate increased traffic from Avon-based grain co-op Co-Alliance. The company says the co-op is "critical" to the agriculture communities in LaPorte, Porter and Starke counties. Work on the project is expected to be complete this fall. <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/37452869/laporte-county-railroad-set-for-major-improvements>

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