



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 1, 2018

Letters: Indy's streets are in deplorable condition

Indianapolis Star
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The condition of Indianapolis' streets is deplorable. Blaming this on the weather is a cop out by government officials. The weather has not changed. Indiana experiences periods of freezing and thawing. Where has the money gone for the past 20 years? It obviously hasn't gone to the roadways. It didn't go to streetlights. It doesn't appear that it has gone to schools, or the police force or the fire departments. In the past 19 years we have built a new basketball fieldhouse and a football stadium. These projects were sold to the public as a way to attract visitors, spending and tax revenue to the city. What has the money been used for? What have the increased gas taxes been used for? Mayor Joe Hogsett is more than 25% into his term of office. Is there a plan to remedy the road conditions? The article of Feb 16 painted a bleak picture, but certainly didn't allude to a plan to fix it. Our city government needs to look long and hard at this issue, and figure it out. A commuter tax is a good place to start. Mount cameras on major intersections and ticket those who run through red-lights. (The cameras would pay for themselves quickly, as anyone who drives in the city limits can attest to) Indianapolis wants to be a vibrant city. But outside of building new athletic facilities, it appears to have no idea how to do that.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/opinion/readers/2018/02/27/ini-letters-editor-022718/377102002/>

More input on 'connector' sought

Herald-Argus
Jon Gard
2/27/18

La PORTE — Engineers and elected officials who continue to sort through options for a four-lane bypass around the east side of the city say they are pleased with the feedback they have received from residents so far. "We asked for comments, and we've been getting them," Lochmueller Group project manager Steve Fleming told about 40 people who attended the La Porte County Board of Commissioners meeting for a briefing. "Keep it coming," he said. The commissioners asked the firm to provide an update Feb. 21, three weeks after a public meeting at the La Porte Civic Auditorium where engineers showed maps of potential route options, talked about the history of the project and outlined the need for a "north-south connector" to alleviate downtown traffic congestion and encourage economic growth. No public comment on the project was allowed, but the commissioners said residents were urged to continue asking questions and submitting their views ahead of another public session this summer or early fall. After hearing from constituents following the previous meeting, the commissioners agreed one option presented in the draft would be eliminated from future consideration — Option C-1, which would follow CR-300N along the south edge of Briar Leaf Golf Course. "It's off the table," Commissioner Vidya Kora said. Bruce and Lyn Batzer, who live just off CR-300N, said they would continue to follow the project as it develops even though their neighborhood has been spared. They said truck traffic downtown does not seem as bad as some have suggested. "We still have a lot of questions," Bruce Batzer said. Peter Nielsen, who lives with his wife, Mary, near Ind. 4 and CR-200E, said downtown streets may be congested in the afternoons, but he is not convinced the solution is a new highway around the city. "It seems to me like

they're pushing the city's problems out to the county," Nielsen said. Lochmueller Group planner David Goffinet, manager of public engagement on this project, said the process of planning for the new highway was only beginning. http://www.heraldargus.com/news/more-input-on-connector-sought/article_e4c5b5ec-c577-524f-8af5-a7aece351ec2.html

State rejects state's request for overpass funding

The Paper of Wabash

Josh Sigler

2/27/18

The city's request for an Indiana Department of Transportation grant to help fund an overpass on East Street has been denied, Mayor Scott Long announced Thursday evening, Feb. 22. The city received the notice on Friday, Feb. 16, according to the release. In November, the city sent a letter to INDOT seeking the grant for the project, which had an estimated cost of \$10.7 million. The city would have had to provide a 20 percent match, or 2.14 million. "While this is not what I as mayor wanted to hear, it was not unexpected due to the limited funding that was available statewide in this call for projects," Long said in the release. "We were told that total funding available in this round was \$80 million dollars and the 80 percent funding that we sought for this project was 10 percent of that total. While this is a setback to the project, the City of Wabash and our engineering firm that designed the project, American Structurepoint Inc., will continue to seek additional avenues for funding." Long, when announcing the project, said East Street was selected for several reasons. "The problem with our two state highway routes is historical homes, government buildings, churches and schools along both routes," he said in November. "The crossings in those selections – both of them – are too close to Hill Street and Sinclair Street. The streets would need to be closed to cross traffic. That could cut off access to the courthouse, churches, and schools. "The other good thing about the East Street crossing is the topography of the land goes down toward the rail line, which makes it more affordable to build up above it. You have to be 23 foot about the rail from the bottom of the bridge, and we won't have to close any streets down on either side of it." The overpass, he said in Thursday's news release, "is vital to the safety of our community and its citizens, and is also important to the Economic Development of our City."

<http://www.thepaperofwabash.com/index.php?subaction=showfull&id=1519747219&ucat=1&template=FrontPage>

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