



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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18th Street Bridge closes today ahead of six-month project

Pharos-Tribune
Mitchell Kirk
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A major thoroughfare in and out of Logansport from the south is expected to be affected for about the next half-year as a bridge rehabilitation project gets underway. Rehabilitating the 18th Street Bridge over the Wabash River will last up to six months, according to information released by the Cass County Highway Department. "I know it'll be an inconvenience but it'll be a nice project when it's done," Cass County Highway Superintendent Jeff Smith said. "It's one of those things that just has to be done. The bridge is 40 years old and it's due for some rehab work to last for another 40 years hopefully." Smith said the project costs about \$1.5 million. Cass County is paying about 20 percent of the cost, he continued, while the rest is being paid for with federal funding that the Indiana Department of Transportation administers. LaPorte-based JCI Bridge Group is taking on the project, Smith said. He added their work will include removing the bridge's deck where each expansion joint is and repairing the ends of the concrete beams underneath. Salt that has dripped down over the years is causing the beams to deteriorate, Smith continued. Removed decking will be replaced, he went on to say, before the entire bridge is resurfaced. The project will result in there no longer being a need for expansion joints across the middle of the bridge, Smith also said. The bridge will have lighting after the project is done too. Logansport officials appropriated \$258,000 for the same kinds of lights and railing on the Third Street Bridge, which was rehabilitated in 2014. The funds come from money the state gave Logansport after relinquishing control of Burlington Avenue.

http://www.pharostribune.com/news/local_news/article_f0f3c3bd-886b-526b-a6b8-cf75e0edd2c0.html

Indiana Legislature prepares law to address driverless cars

WISH-TV
David Williams
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INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - Would you ever get behind the wheel of a driverless car? Would you let one chauffeur you around? That might seem far-fetched, but Indiana lawmakers are paving the way for driverless vehicles at the Statehouse. Companies already have permits to test driverless cars on public roads and highways in California. Could Indiana be next? State Sen. Jim Merritt, an Indianapolis Republican and a member of the Legislative Transportation Committee, said, "There are so many people who are behind the idea of autonomous vehicles that we have to create a framework in state government to allow them." Which is where State Rep. Ed Soliday's driverless vehicles bill comes in. The Valparaiso Republican's bill already passed both chambers. Soliday said, "It encourages testing and research in Indiana on autonomous vehicles but, at the

same time, assures public safety." The state representative claimed 75 percent of Americans say they're afraid of driverless vehicles. Still, Soliday pointed to mobility benefits for the blind, a leg up for truckers, and possible traffic reduction. But, he said, there are no federal standards for driverless vehicles. Soliday said, "To quote the Rand Corp. report: Today, you can run a autonomous vehicle into a brick wall, kill everyone on board and be fully compliant with every state and federal law because there is no standard and no law regarding a robot driver." The Indiana Department of Transportation is also watching the driverless car debate at the Statehouse. This week, INDOT announced an expansion of what they're calling their traffic signal technologies to get ready for connected and driverless cars. Scott Manning, an INDOT spokesperson, said "I think this is a nice compliment to the conversation that's advancing at the Legislature." Manning said INDOT will use about 20 stoplights statewide that can wirelessly share data between vehicles. <http://wishtv.com/2018/03/07/indiana-legislature-prepares-law-to-address-driverless-cars/>

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