



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **March 29, 2018**

#### **More Than \$160 Million Going To Rural Communities For Infrastructure Improvements**

WBIW

3/29/18

The Indiana Department of Transportation announced today that \$161.2 million in federal transportation funding is being awarded to 66 cities, towns, and counties in rural portions of Indiana to invest in local road and bridge improvements as well as sidewalk and trail projects. Combined with local funds, approximately \$212 million is being invested in infrastructure in communities receiving funds. According to a news release Lawrence County will receive \$552,240 for projects in District 1. Types of projects receiving funds include 27 bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects; 31 resurfacing/reconstruction projects; 17 Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects that include work such as sidewalks, ADA ramps, and trails; and 6 traffic safety projects. "Indiana is investing in transportation at record levels and that includes more than just our highways," INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness said. "Our sustained commitment to modernizing local roads and bridges, adding sidewalks, and growing our trail networks sends a clear message that we're building communities that are primed to attract and retain talent and spur job growth in the 21st century economy." For this latest round of funding, rural communities will design, develop and purchase land for projects that would be bid during the fiscal year beginning July 2021. While the funds awarded now are dedicated to construction, INDOT will be financially participating in design, engineering, and right of way acquisition components of these projects. INDOT dedicates approximately 25 percent of its federal highway funds to supporting local projects each year. Metropolitan Planning Organizations distribute those funds to cities, towns, and counties within the state's larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas. Communities must pay at least 20 percent in local matching funds and meet other federal requirements to receive federal funding. <http://www.wbiw.com/local/archive/2018/03/more-than-160-million-going-to-rural-communities-for-infrastructure-improvements.php>

#### **County lawmakers visit Indiana Congress members in D.C.**

The Times

3/27/18

Six Hamilton County and City of Noblesville leaders recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss traffic congestion and future highway funding with Indiana Congressional leaders as well as the Federal Highway Administration. Top of mind were two projects: the 146th St. corridor between Greyhound Pass and Hazel Dell Parkway, as well as the State Road 32 and Pleasant Street corridors in Noblesville. Various traffic studies show growing congestion along both routes. "Hamilton County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state," said Mark Heirbrandt, president of the Hamilton County Commissioners. "Proactive efforts to address these critical corridors are vital to future job creation and in ensuring our county continues to be a great

place to live and work." In addition to Heirbrandt, the Hamilton County delegation included County Commissioners Christine Altman and Steve Dillinger, County Council President Steve Schwartz, Noblesville Common Council President Chris Jensen and Hamilton County Highway Director Brad Davis. During the two-day trip, Hamilton County lawmakers met with U.S. Senators Joe Donnelly and Todd Young, U.S. Representatives Susan Brooks and Luke Messer, as well as Federal Highway Administration and Vice Presidential staff. "Funding is always the biggest challenge on projects like these," Altman said. "We appreciate the time that our representatives and their staff took to review our needs and offer suggestions. Their insight was extremely helpful." Jensen said projects like these are critical to the prosperity of cities like Noblesville. "The Pleasant Street Economic Development Corridor has been on the city's thoroughfare plan since 1995," he said. "It is a top priority for the city. Not only will it help spur economic growth in our downtown, but will also serve as a catalyst for future successes in the heart of our community." <https://thetimes24-7.com/Content/Default/Local-News/Article/County-lawmakers-visit-Indiana-Congressmembers-in-D-C-/3/592/58243>

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