



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

April 6, 2017

10th Street widening construction to begin soon in Jeffersonville

News and Tribune
Elizabeth Beilman
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JEFFERSONVILLE — After years of designing and preparing, Jeffersonville's busiest road soon will expand to one lane wider. Construction of the 10th Street Widening Project, which will add a center turning lane between Penn Street/Dutch Lane and Reeds Lane, will likely begin sometime in the next six weeks or so. The Jeffersonville Redevelopment Commission agreed to pay \$10.6 million to the Indiana Department of Transportation, the project's contracting entity, for construction on the mile-and-a-half stretch of road. The commission unanimously approved the funding, with member Matt Owen absent. The city's expenditure is the bulk of the \$13.3 million construction phase, with the remaining \$2.8 million covered by federal funds. Jeffersonville is about 60 days away from receiving a large bond, which will cover the cost of the project as well as others. The Jeffersonville City Council approved the issuance of a \$30 million bond last September to pay for the city's infrastructure projects. But INDOT won't award a contract until it receives money from the city, Attorney Les Merkley said. Construction will take 18 months, and city officials plan for it to be complete by Christmas of 2018. It's up to the contractor to create a list of lane closures, which Merkley said is likely. Those closures must be approved by the city. The 10th Street Widening Project, which has been a vision of Mayor Mike Moore's since the beginning of his first term, is meant to hold the tens of thousands of cars that drive it daily — and handle heavier traffic volumes in the future. The redevelopment commission awarded contracts for two more road projects that will also be covered by the infrastructure bond. The North 10th Street project will transform a traditionally rural portion of the road expected to become more heavily traveled since the opening of the Lewis and Clark Bridge and development of Jeffersonville's east end. The project will result in turning lanes, add three traffic signals, replace three existing signals, and install lighting and landscaping on East 10th Street between Allison Lane and the Interstate 265 interchange. http://www.newsandtribune.com/news/th-street-widening-construction-to-begin-soon-in-jeffersonville/article_e334a4aa-1a5e-11e7-809f-ff5ca76b6b34.html

Road Funding Bill Passes Senate

Inside Indiana Business
Alex Brown
4/5/17

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Senate has passed its version of the long-term road funding plan which continues to be a major focus of the legislative session. Senate President Pro Tem David Long (R-16) calls the passage of House Bill 1002 an "important step" for Indiana. Long says more

work must be done before HB 1002, which passed the Senate by a 34-13 vote, is sent to the desk of Governor Eric Holcomb. A conference committee will get together to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Both versions of the bill include a 10-cent increase in the state's gasoline tax as well as a \$15 increase in vehicle registration fees and new fees on electric vehicles. Our partners at WIBC-FM cite the most notable difference between the two is the House version's proposal to earmark gasoline sales taxes for roads and a cigarette tax increase filling the gap that would be created in the state's budget. "Taking care of our transportation infrastructure supports our growing economy and positions us to maintain our reputation as the Crossroads of America. It also means improved safety and less traffic congestion for everyday Hoosier drivers," said Long. "This legislation is the result of a comprehensive bipartisan study involving members of the public, a variety of state and local leaders, and many industry experts and stakeholders. It is in the long-term interest of our state and I'm pleased to see it pass the Senate." All but six Indiana Republicans voted in favor the Senate version of the bill, with two Democrats supporting it as well. <http://www.insideindianabusines.com/story/35077753/road-funding-bill-passes-senate>

Midstate Corridor gets needed support with new bill

Dubois County Free Press

4/4/17

A bill passed by the Indiana House of Representatives today is designed to provide a pathway to funding for regional infrastructure improvements including highway or bridge repairs, rail lines, airports, commuter transportation and other critical road improvements. Senate Bill 128 sponsored by State Rep. Mike Braun (R-Jasper) and State Sen. Mark Messmer's (R-Jasper) allows Indiana counties or municipalities participating in a Regional Development Authority (RDA) to create a fund specifically for regional infrastructure projects. "A recent study conducted by Purdue University estimates that local governments need \$775 million annually over the next decade to maintain their current infrastructure," Braun said. "This session, House and Senate lawmakers are working together to find long-term road and bridge funding solutions for Indiana. This bill would give local and regional areas additional tools to help fund their infrastructure projects. By providing new ways for local governments to pay for these projects, legislators can continue to encourage economic development while working to improve the quality of roads and bridges in areas that desperately need it." Under the bill, RDAs would be able to apply for FASTLANE federal grants, which fund road and bridge projects across the country. Local governments could also transfer money out of their general or rainy day funds to support regional infrastructure development. Braun said the proposal would allow Braun said the proposal would allow an RDA to enter into an agreement with the Indiana Department of Transportation to contribute local matching funds to pay for these projects.

<https://www.duboiscountypfreepress.com/midstate-corridor-gets-needed-support-new-bill/>

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