



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

August 8, 2017

South Shore projects will upgrade and reduce at-grade crossings

NWI Times
Andrew Steele
8/5/17

The number of at-grade road crossings along the South Shore Line will be reduced by more than one-fourth if the planned double-tracking and South Bend realignment projects are completed as planned. And an Indiana Department of Transportation program will add gates to 20 crossings now regulated only by signs and flashing lights. "We should see a dramatic improvement in grade-crossing safety," Chief Engineering Officer Victor Babin told the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District Board of Trustees at its recent meeting. Babin said the South Shore currently has 138 grade-level crossings, 49 with flashers and gates, 34 with flashers only and 55 marked only by the traditional crossbuck "Railroad Crossing" signs. The INDOT project has a cost of about \$1.4 million funded through a federal grant program administered by the state agency. Babin said the railroad's decision a decade ago to pre-wire crossings during another project enabled the South Shore to increase INDOT's initial work proposal to 20 crossings from 12, and to reduce the cost to just more than one-third the original estimate.

http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/south-shore-projects-will-upgrade-and-reduce-at-grade-crossings/article_ecc8013e-de81-5f8b-b235-17cd5b11740b.html

City can keep Community Crossings grant money

The Herald
Candy Neal
8/4/17

HUNTINGBURG — The Community Crossings grant money Huntingburg thought it had to return to the state does not have to be returned. City officials thought they had to return money given in the 2016 grant round because the project designated for the money was not done, Street Superintendent Jason Stamm told to the Huntingburg Board of Public Works and Safety Thursday. But Indiana Department of Transportation officials decided to let communities keep the money, so long as the money is used on any project outlined in the 2016 grant application, Mayor Denny Spinner said. That means the \$74,000 the city received to pave 12th Street from Chestnut Street to Main Street, which is U.S. 231 in the city, can be used on one of the other projects in the application — completing work on Washington Street from Sixth Street to Church Avenue, and the upcoming repaving of County Road 400 West from 12th Street to Phoenix Drive. "That's what we intend to do," Stamm said this morning. "We will use all of the money on those other projects." The cost to do 12th Street was a lot more than what the city had anticipated, so Stamm held off on doing that project. The project has been resubmitted along with two other projects in the 2017 round of applications for Community Crossings funds. Those requests were turned in last month. The city is estimating that it will cost \$695,271 for the three projects — \$528,264 for 12th Street,

\$92,467 for Washington Street from First to Fifth streets, and \$74,540 for Fifth from Main to Washington streets. <https://duboiscountyherald.com/b/city-can-keep-community-crossings-grant-money>

I-74 work set to begin Monday

Daily News

Joshua Heath

8/4/17

GREENSBURG — Decatur, Franklin, and Ripley counties will see reconstruction along I-74 beginning next week. According to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), they will launch their \$61 million pavement replacement project on Interstate 74 at a Groundbreaking Ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 7 at the eastbound rest park located 2-and-a-half miles east of Batesville. The department also says that this full-depth reconstruction of I-74 lanes between interchanges at New Point and State Road 101 is INDOT Southeast District's first NEXT LEVEL project. NEXT LEVEL is a sustainable, data-driven plan to invest over \$30 billion in road and bridge improvements over the next 20 years. INDOT's contractor for the 2-and-a-half year I-74 project, Milestone, plans to begin construction activities immediately after the event. In addition to the pavement replacement, the project will include new bridge superstructures at Little Laughery Creek and Western Creek. "We're completely taking the pavement up and replacing it," said Harry Maginity, INDOT Southeast District Media Relations Director. Even though road construction may be frustrating for some, Maginity says the time is now to resurface this portion of the interstate. "I think this interstate was built in probably the early '70s," he said. "It looks like it's pretty much time to replace it." Maginity said that a pre-construction meeting was held Thursday afternoon with talks pertaining to what they'll be facing with the tasks at hand. He said that they have a good crew and a good contractor for this project. And at the end of the day, this project comes down to safety and having a functional road. "This is to make the road safe for the public this winter and next winter," Maginity added. "We want to make this road highly serviceable." http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/news/local_news/i--work-set-to-begin-monday/article_f6921833-9ed6-5f0d-ab78-ca6cf1004ede.html

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