



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Motorists to get break on Region highway work next year, but watch out for 2019

NWI Times
Bob Kasarda
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As various road projects that have choked the Region this summer wrap up, the Indiana Department of Transportation has some good news for next year. While there are some key projects planned for 2018, there will be fewer overall, and Interstate 94, the area's main traffic artery, should be smooth sailing. Paving and bridge repair work continues from an area just east of Ind. 249 in Portage to two miles east of Chesterton, he said. The area includes the Ind. 49 ramps, which provide access to the popular Indiana Dunes State Park and various Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore sites. Work is wrapping up a little farther west on the replacement of a bridge carrying I-94 over the Indiana Toll Road in Portage, and the highway has undergone restoration and paving work even farther west in Lake County. The reason for the large number of state highway projects this year, in addition to all the side road work done by counties, cities and towns, is that INDOT had to take advantage of funds made available the last couple of years by state lawmakers, Moats has said. "The work next year is going to be so much better," he said. Next year's break for motorists will be short lived, Moats said. The additional revenue being collected from the state for highway projects will result in another surge in projects in 2019, he said. Among the projects already slated for then is the addition of a roundabout along Ind. 2 at the combined intersection of County Road 100 South and 300 West in Porter Township, Moats said. The project is scheduled to be completed prior to the start of school that year. The recent gasoline tax increase of 10 cents per gallon will help make more money available next year for road projects at the state, county and municipal levels. The Next Level Indiana plan lists projects in Lake County totaling \$112 million over the five-year period from 2018-22. Porter County's total is \$35.7 million, and LaPorte County's is \$78.4 million.

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/motorists-to-get-break-on-region-highway-work-next-year/article_4fa38ad0-b8fa-5429-8a1d-193ac69795af.html

Miami County fights against proposed J-turns on U.S. 31

Kokomo Tribune
Carson Gerber
8/9/17

The Miami County Economic Development Authority is pushing back against a proposal to install J-turn intersections along U.S. 31, arguing the move would jeopardize future economic development in the county and impede operations at Grissom Air Reserve Base. The MCEDA Board of Directors Wednesday approved a resolution strongly opposing the potential developments and asking the Indiana Department of Transportation not to spend highway funds on the new intersections. The resolution will be sent to the office of Gov. Eric Holcomb. The move

comes after INDOT announced plans to eliminate the traffic lights along U.S. 31 at the intersections of Indiana 218 West and Indiana 18 and install J-turns – an alternative to traditional roadway intersections. “It’s mindboggling,” he said. “I understand that you have to be efficient with money. I totally get that. And J-turns are less expensive. But you’ve got to look at the fact that you’re throwing critical highway money at short-term projects that aren’t going to fix the situation.” The U.S. 31 Coalition, which has advocated for a stop-light-free highway since the 1990s, has also expressed opposition to J-turns. Coalition Vice President Brad Bagwell said in a recent newspaper editorial a subcommittee of the organization met with INDOT representatives and informed them they would not support the proposal. “Spending \$2 million-\$4 million on J-turn intersections that are a Band-Aid, and will likely be replaced in a few years, is not an efficient or effective use of [the state’s] limited resources,” he wrote in the editorial.

http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/miami-county-fights-against-proposed-j-turns-on-u-s/article_9802a0bc-7d47-11e7-9735-3bdf6cbd3b2c.html

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