



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

September 5, 2017

Another round of road construction on the way

Goshen News
John Kline
9/4/17

GOSHEN — With everything from extended closures on Pike Street and Kercher Road to the ongoing U.S. 33 realignment project, traveling around the city over the past few months has been a lesson in patience to say the least. But according to state and local transportation officials, the area likely won't see much of a respite from large, disruptive road projects anytime soon. James Turnwald is executive director of the Michiana Area Council of Governments, the designated metropolitan planning organization for the South Bend and Elkhart-Goshen urbanized areas. Charged with the responsibility of promoting an efficient and effective intermodal transportation system, MACOG maintains a 20-year Transportation Plan for the area as well as a more focused, three-year Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP. According to Turnwald, a major push in road maintenance and construction is headed the state's way over the next few years, a fact due in large part to the recent passage of House Enrolled Act 1002. The new legislation, approved by the Indiana General Assembly this past spring, established a sustainable plan to fund roads and bridges for at least the next 20 years, including a fully funded asset management plan for every state-maintained road and bridge. When fully phased in, HEA 1002 will provide \$1.2 billion per year in new road funding, about \$850 million for state highways and about \$350 million for local roads, he explained. As a result of this new influx of road funding, a large number of road construction and maintenance projects have now been green-lighted through MACOG's Fiscal Year 2018-2021 TIP, many of which were submitted by the Indiana Department of Transportation's Fort Wayne District, which covers Elkhart and Kosciusko counties. What that ultimately translates to, Turnwald said, is yet another round of major road projects targeted for the Goshen/Elkhart County area. http://www.goshennews.com/news/local_news/another-round-of-road-construction-on-the-way/article_2d145aaa-db78-5d10-b9ae-9ae2cccd098.html

Valparaiso looking for public input on road safety

NWI Times
9/3/17

VALPARAISO — The city is launching a road safety audit to assess areas where safety may be improved along the city's most traveled arteries. "The road safety audit is a proactive measure meant to show us any issues we're not already addressing — for motorists as well as pedestrians or cyclists. We're interested in sharpening our focus on improving safety and ultimately creating a master plan of recommended improvements and costs. Revealing areas of concern is our first step," City Engineer Tim Burkman said. The road safety audit will assess main arteries including Silhavy Road, Burlington Beach Road, Calumet Avenue, Campbell Street, Lincolnway, Vale Park Road, Ind. 2, LaPorte Avenue and Harrison Boulevard. The audit will consider public input,

accident data and traffic counts, and will identify both sight distance and geometry. The road safety audit is funded through a federal highway safety improvement grant, administered by the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/valparaiso-looking-for-public-input-on-road-safety/article_2821f939-e04d-56e0-abfa-04908e3ed47e.html

Street project moves ahead: Franklin to get center turn lane north of U.S. 40

Daily Reporter

Samm Quinn

9/2/17

GREENFIELD – A busy thoroughfare on the city’s west side will be reconstructed to improve traffic along a road many local drivers use as an alternate route to State Road 9. City officials have taken the first steps needed to expand Franklin Street north of U.S. 40, adding a center turn lane to the street that runs parallel to State Road 9. Recently, the Greenfield City Council approved the purchase of property at 1002 W. Main St., which sits at the northwest corner of Franklin and Main streets. City officials say the empty commercial property – formerly Summers Construction – sits along the right-of-way line. The building stands where utilities must be relocated to widen the intersection, said utility director Mike Fruth. The building will have to be razed before any pre-construction work can start. City officials are in negotiations with the property’s owner, Jacob Huck, records show, to finalize the sale, Fruth said. Adding a center turn lane on North Franklin Street from U.S. 40 north to about Seventh Street will ease congestion created by cars stopping to turn left off Franklin Street, making the thoroughfare safer for drivers, city officials say. And officials hope widening and improving the street will encourage residents to use it rather than State Road 9, which could eliminate some of the traffic snarls on that busy highway. Some 6,000 cars drive on Franklin Street every day, city traffic counts show. State Road 9 sees as many as 14,000 cars, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation. A similar project on Franklin Street between Tague Street and U.S. 40 was completed last year. The project, which widened the street to three lanes, improved road conditions for industrial traffic and residents who travel it frequently, city officials said.

http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/2017/09/02/second_phase_of_road_expansion_nears/

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