



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Council to vote on spending \$14M for roads, bridges, streetlights

Indianapolis Business Journal
Hayleigh Columbo
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The Indianapolis City-County Council is poised to vote Monday night to spend an additional \$14 million to upgrade city transportation infrastructure this year—including the first installment of a three-year plan to update the city's street lights. The spending increase is possible partly because of \$8 million in revenue the city is expecting to receive this year because of the state's legislature's vote to raise the gas tax. The city will also tap \$6 million from a pot of county option income tax revenue that was returned from the state last year. Since then, \$39 million in COIT revenue that needs to be spent on transportation funding has been sitting in the city's rainy day fund. A council committee unanimously approved the \$14 million spending plan Aug. 23. The new spending includes the first installment—\$5 million—of the \$12 million total three-year plan to update the city's 27,000 streetlights with light-emitting diode, or LED, technology and add 4,000 more streetlights by using the estimated \$800,000 in annual savings. Vop Osili, a Democratic council member, praised Mayor Joe Hogsett's administration for taking "this bull by the horns." "This has been such a longstanding issue in my district, and I'm sure, so many others," Osili said. The streetlight funding, along with a \$1 million match to pay for resurfacing a portion of 38th Street from Emerson Avenue to Arlington Avenue, will be paid for by the COIT revenue. "That's a big project for us," said Department of Public Works Director Dan Parker, referring to 38th Street. "If you've driven on East 38th Street, you understand why that needs to happen." The \$8 million in gas tax revenue will be used to pay for several "shelf ready" projects for the city, including upgrading Mitthoeffer Road between 21st and 38th Streets, and rehabbing a bridge on South Keystone Avenue over Pleasant Run Creek that Parker says "desperately needs work."

<https://www.ibj.com/articles/65342-council-to-vote-on-spending-14m-for-roads-bridges-streetlights>

INDIANA IN DEPTH: New tax, fees expected to reduce deficient bridges

News and Tribune
Roger Schneider
9/9/17

GOSHEN — The influx of cash from the state's gas tax and vehicle registration increases is expected to help restore many of Indiana's deficient bridges to top-notch condition. The state has 19,245 bridges, according to the Federal Highway Transportation Administration's National Bridge Inventory. Of those, 1,525, or 7.9 percent, were rated as structurally deficient in 2016. That total includes bridges on federal highways. According to the National Bridge Inventory compiled by the Federal Highway Administration, a bridge with a "structurally deficient" rating "... has one or more structural defects that require attention. This status does not indicate the severity of the defect, but rather that a defect is present." In some cases, the defects would only become a public safety hazard if heavy traffic or overweight loads traveled over the bridges,

officials explained. In other situations, bridges need repairs — and soon — to avoid major infrastructure failure. But help is on the way, lawmakers say. The General Assembly raised the state's gas tax 10 cents per gallon to 28 cents beginning July 1 and also raised vehicle registration fees by \$15 beginning in January. In addition, owners of electric cars will be charged \$150 annually and those who own hybrid vehicles will be charged a \$50 fee. All those changes will fund the state's \$4.7 billion, five-year Next Level Roads initiative, announced by Gov. Eric Holcomb in August. "Being it is long term and sustainable over 20 years, it will make a significant impact," Scott Manning, spokesman for the Indiana Department of Transportation, said about the new taxes and fees for road and bridge projects. According to Manning, counties will receive a 40 percent increase in state funding for roads and bridges through the Next Level Roads plan. "They will be better able to address those bridges that have reached the point where they need replaced or repaired," Manning said of local governments.

http://www.newsandtribune.com/indiana/indiana-in-depth-new-tax-fees-expected-to-reduce-deficient/article_1d1a30b4-94cf-11e7-aa0c-9f018aa69388.html

Tipton Commissioners amend comprehensive plan to encourage future access to U.S. 31

Kokomo Tribune

Cody Neuenschwander

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TIPTON – The Tipton Board of Commissioners approved amendments to the county's comprehensive plan on Tuesday in the hopes of drawing the Indiana Department of Transportation's attention to needed interchanges and overpasses along the U.S. 31 corridor. The amendments were proposed by the Tipton Planning Commission and highlight "three proposed and needed interchanges" at Division Road, County Road 450 North and County Road 600 South to secure access onto the major highway from various points throughout the county. According to Tipton County Planning Commission Executive Director Steve Niblick, there's no guarantee that INDOT will provide the funding and means for each of the proposed projects, but he also added that there's no chance the projects will be done without the changes to the comprehensive plan. "We may get some, we may not get any – you just don't know. But if it's not in the local plan, it's not even going to be considered," said Niblick. INDOT has been working on an ongoing initiative to make U.S. 31 a non-stop highway from Indianapolis to South Bend, and individual counties' comprehensive plans play a role in INDOT's decision of which projects along the corridor move forward. For Tipton County, the comprehensive plan encourages an interchange at Division Road most prominently. A proposal for an interchange at that site was in the plan before the amendments were approved on Tuesday. That intersection was the source of some concern earlier in the year when the Tipton County Economic Development Organization started an online petition asking for an interchange at the currently stop-lighted intersection, with the concern that access to U.S. 31 would be cut off completely from Division Road. During an interview with the Tribune in January, Tipton County Sheriff Tony Frawley expressed concern about losing access to U.S. 31 at that intersection. "Any time you limit access to a major highway, that has a negative effect on the response time of emergency vehicles," he said.

http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/tipton-commissioners-amend-comprehensive-plan-to-encourage-future-access-to/article_228e9e8a-93fe-11e7-b0e1-f3d0c6ab8698.html

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