



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **September 28, 2017**

#### **Leaders discuss shift in road funding**

Pharos-Tribune  
Mitchell Kirk  
9/27/17

Logansport officials are considering forgoing state money on a road project and funding it through the city in order to save in the long run and take on more improvements. The Indiana Department of Transportation gave \$3.5 million to Logansport after relinquishing control over East Broadway and East Market Street when the Hoosier Heartland Highway was completed south of town in 2013. The city split the funds among its pavement management plan, improving the intersection at 18th and Main streets, bike lanes, new lights and railing to accompany INDOT's replacement of the Market Street Bridge, repaving West Market Street and changing Fourth and Fifth streets to two-way. The projects on Fourth and Fifth streets would require environmental studies if state relinquishment funds are used, but the studies would not be required if the city funded the projects. Those studies would contribute to a project total of \$510,925 if relinquishment funds are used. With city funds, the projects would cost a total of \$147,300. Logansport Deputy Mayor Mercedes Brugh asked city council at a finance committee meeting Monday night, Sept. 25 to consider having the city fund the projects on Fourth and Fifth streets to get more bang for its relinquishment bucks. Brugh suggested using the \$511,000 in relinquishment funds currently assigned to Fourth and Fifth streets and putting \$258,000 of it toward the decorative lighting and railing accompanying the rehabilitation of the 18th Street Bridge. The city originally decided to fund the lights and railing from its county economic development income tax fund in 2016. Brugh also recommended putting the rest of the relinquishment funds currently assigned to Fourth and Fifth streets toward contingency funds for the West Market Street repave in case unforeseen expenses arise.

[http://www.pharostribune.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_4c4170a5-73aa-51d6-9df0-144ef26565c2.html](http://www.pharostribune.com/news/local_news/article_4c4170a5-73aa-51d6-9df0-144ef26565c2.html)

#### **Hancock County gets \$2.4 million for roads**

Daily Reporter  
Samm Quinn  
9/26/17

HANCOCK COUNTY — More than \$2.4 million of state funding will be spent improving Hancock County roads in coming months. Seven Hancock County government units learned last week they received the state's Community Crossings grant, a program that helps Indiana communities fund road projects. On Monday, Gov. Eric Holcomb awarded those communities a check. While the county highway department received the largest — about \$627,000 — to invest in roads outside of city and town limits, Hancock County's smaller communities received hefty checks, too, officials said. Much of the funding will go toward resurfacing roads to maintain them, but some

streets and roads are slated to be completely reconstructed. The local communities are among 396 Indiana cities, towns and counties to receive grants totaling \$150 million. The Indiana General Assembly created the Community Crossings grant in 2016 in an effort to improve roads and bridges across the state. Funds are awarded from the state's local road and bridge matching grant fund. To qualify, communities must provide a match. For communities larger than 10,000 people, the match must be 50 percent of the project's total funding, while smaller communities are required to provide 25 percent.

[http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/2017/09/27/paving\\_the\\_way/](http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/2017/09/27/paving_the_way/)

### **Money enough to repave roads**

The Republic

Mark Webber

9/26/17

Bartholomew County has enough funding to put a new layer of asphalt on all the roads commissioners want to repave this year. But the question remains whether there will be enough time to complete both phases of this year's \$1.6 million overlay program before the ice and snow arrive. As presented to the commissioners, the 12.5 miles of road included in Phase Two of the program will cost \$689,764, well within the \$836,012 awarded last week through the state's 2017 Next Level Roads: Community Crossings Initiative. The remaining \$146,248 received through the Indiana Department of Transportation matching grant program will either be used to reimburse the county for work already done this year, or rolled over into next year's overlay program, Bartholomew County Highway engineer Danny Hollander said. The county commissioners Monday gave their official go-ahead to Milestone Contractors to move ahead with the 13 projects listed in Phase Two. Since the county had enough funds in reserve to pay for those projects if it wasn't awarded grant money, commissioners were legally allowed to award the contract in May. After being awarded the contract, Milestone reserved a block of time during mid to late fall to carry out the Phase Two work, Hollander said. "If we get three-fourths of those projects done this year, it'll be all right," Bartholomew County commissioners chairman Carl Lienhoop said. But Commissioner Larry Kleinhenz joined both Hollander and Dave Hayward, Columbus' executive director of public works and city engineer, in advocating for earlier grant announcements.

[http://www.therepublic.com/2017/09/27/money\\_enough\\_to\\_repave\\_roads/](http://www.therepublic.com/2017/09/27/money_enough_to_repave_roads/)

### **Faster trains will significantly outpace crossing improvements**

Daily Journal

Annie Goeller

9/26/17

In the next few years, railroad crossings from Greenwood to south of Franklin will get cross arms and flashing lights in a more than \$4 million project. The county, Franklin, Greenwood and Whiteland teamed up to apply for a federal grant to upgrade 17 local crossings, and the funding was approved. The upgrades are planned to begin in 2020 to railroad crossings on the east side of the county, along the Louisville & Indiana Railroad. But longer and faster trains will be running through Johnson County for years before the crossings will be updated with new warning signals. Upgrades to the railroad tracks allowing the faster and longer trains to run began earlier this year, and were set to be done by the end of summer. Railroad officials have said they will gradually increase train speeds from the maximum of 25 mph now to the newly approved maximum of 49 mph. Local officials decided to apply for the grant when CSX Corp. got federal approval to run more trains that will be longer and traveling at faster speeds along the railroad tracks that run through the county from Kentucky to Indiana. The concern from local officials and residents was that an accident could happen with a faster train at a crossing only marked with a stop sign, instead of cross arms and flashing lights. Officials asked for the federal government to require the railroad company to do the upgrades, but that was not required with the federal approval.

[http://www.dailyjournal.net/2017/09/27/railroad\\_upgrades\\_coming\\_in\\_a\\_few\\_years/](http://www.dailyjournal.net/2017/09/27/railroad_upgrades_coming_in_a_few_years/)

## **Tipton, Miami counties awarded state grant for road repairs**

Kokomo Tribune

Cody Neuenschwander and Carson Gerber

9/26/17

Tipton and Miami counties have received in total over \$1.2 million of state money to take on a slew of road projects, including repaving streets and making bridge repairs. The money comes from Community Crossings, a partnership between the Indiana Department of Transportation and both rural and urban communities to invest in infrastructure projects that spur economic development and strengthen local transportation networks. The city of Tipton was awarded \$803,572, with the funds predominantly set to go toward extensive street milling and paving efforts. Additionally, Tipton County received \$720,000 from the grant, along with the towns of Kempton and Windfall. Mike Terry, Tipton's street department superintendent, said the list of streets set for the milling and pavement will be released when the projects are advertised for contracting. Combined with the city's contribution for the fund, Terry said they now have a total of \$1.071 million that will be used. "It would be the equivalent to four times what we normally would do in a year," he said, adding that they applied for \$1 million and are pleased with the amount they received from the state. For Tipton County, Highway Superintendent Bret Morris said in an email that the funds will go toward a double micro-seal project on Division Road from U.S. 31 to 1200 West. There will be cold in-place recycling projects – a method for removing and reusing asphalt – on 200 West from 300 North to 700 North and from U.S. 31 to 900 West. Kempton was awarded \$46,564 and Windfall \$40,248.

[http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/tipton-miami-counties-awarded-state-grant-for-road-repairs/article\\_be97a042-a2f4-11e7-a197-73dac7205288.html](http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/tipton-miami-counties-awarded-state-grant-for-road-repairs/article_be97a042-a2f4-11e7-a197-73dac7205288.html)

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