



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Editorial: \$41 million in funds should support mass transportation

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In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency revealed Volkswagen had violated the Clean Air Act by tampering with emissions testing. The agency discovered the German car company's diesel engines were programmed to activate emissions controls only during laboratory testing. In the lab, the output met U.S. standards for emissions. But in real-world driving, the vehicles would emit up to 40 times the limit. It was an egregious violation. And now Volkswagen is paying a hefty price. A federal settlement with Volkswagen created a mitigation trust fund of nearly \$2.9 billion, which aims to address the resulting increase in nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere. That's in addition to \$10 billion the company has set aside to buy back the offending vehicles. Each state will receive a portion of the trust fund. Indiana's share should be about \$41 million. State officials, however, have yet to decide exactly how to use that money. Department of Environmental Management Commissioner Bruno Pigott is reportedly holding meetings with "interested parties" to gather thoughts on how to use the funds, though his office declined to say who exactly those parties were. We haven't been granted an audience with Mr. Pigott, but we would like to offer a suggestion. Use the \$41 million as seed funding for improvements to mass transportation. Ideally, that would come in the form of the long-debated light rail system. Imagine zipping from Anderson to downtown Indianapolis without having to worry about traffic or gas or the weather. Imagine the benefit to travelers who could fly into Indianapolis and be at their downtown hotel in minutes. Imagine doing something that could create jobs, improve our everyday lives and protect the environment. http://www.heraldbulletin.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-million-in-funds-should-support-mass-transportation/article_f6b3fc42-2e0b-54b9-8b05-c406ff7166b8.html

Speedway gets \$172K to spend on roads, infrastructure

WRTV
Kara Kenney
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SPEEDWAY, Ind. -- The Town of Speedway has \$172,234 to spend on improving its roads and infrastructure. Speedway received the money from the Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings grant program, which is now in its second year and has awarded \$150 million to Indiana cities, towns and counties. Speedway plans to use the money for resurfacing and milling projects, as well as an ADA approved curb ramp. The funds will be used to improve areas of 22nd, Auburn and McCray streets, according to the town managers office. Rep. Bob Behning (R-Indianapolis) supported the legislation. "With these grants, our communities will be able to fund critical local road repairs," Behning said. "Reliable, well-maintained roads and bridges improve motorist safety and reduce traffic congestion. These continued investments in Hoosier roadways will help drive our local economies and maintain Indiana's reputation as the

Crossroads of America.” Hendricks County will receive \$670,000, and Marion County will receive \$663,500. <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/indianapolis/speedway-gets-172k-to-spend-on-roads-infrastructure>

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