



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **October 26, 2017**

**Lawmaker trying to head off tolling for I-465 commuters after state wouldn't rule it out**  
Indianapolis Star  
Kaitlin L. Lange  
10/25/17

State Sen. Mike Delph said he will propose legislation forbidding tolling on I-465, a response to the Indiana Department of Transportation's announcement last week that it would not rule it out. The Carmel Republican tweeted Wednesday morning that "increasing gas taxes & levying tolls is unfair to my constituents." Lawmakers approved a road-funding bill last legislative session that both increased the gasoline tax by 10 cents per gallon and paved the future for tolling by asking the Gov. Eric Holcomb's administration to study the issue. The goal is to generate \$1.2 billion in revenue the state estimates is needed to maintain and repair roads. The bill also gave Holcomb's administration more freedom to toll roads without having to get the approval of the entire General Assembly. Delph, who is the ranking member on the Homeland Security and Transportation committee, opposed the road-funding plan during session. The state is seeking a firm to study tolling on specific legs of I-65, I-70 and I-94, according to a request for proposal issued by the Indiana Department of Transportation. The department also wants to take a closer look at I-465, not ruling out tolls for commuters in the Indianapolis area. "No decisions have been made on whether to do tolling at all, let alone on a given route," Scott Manning, strategic communications director for INDOT, said this past week. "We're calling those (routes) out because we know there are significant needs there we'd want to address."

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2017/10/25/lawmaker-wants-forbid-tolling-465-after-state-wouldnt-rule-out/798191001/>

**Logansport drivers react to gas tax hike**  
Pharos-Tribune  
Ben Middlekamp  
10/24/17

Since a 10-cent-a-gallon increase to Indiana's gas tax went into effect this summer intended to fund fixes to roads and bridges, locals say they hope state officials are accountable in how they spend that new funding. Ball State University released poll results on Monday indicating most Indiana residents approve of the gas tax hike. The survey found that about 57 percent of those polled are in favor of it, while 38 percent disapproved. Pollsters surveyed 600 Indiana adults by phone from Oct. 2-15. The Indiana General Assembly voted to up the tax to 28 cents per gallon beginning July 1. The law also raised vehicle registration fees by \$15 starting in January 2018, and owners of electric cars will be charged \$150 annually and hybrid car owners will be charged \$50 each year. That extra funding will be spent over the next five years through Gov. Eric Holcomb's Next Level Roads initiative. Cass County is expected to see more than \$36 million in infrastructure improvements from 2018 to 2022, including 109 lane miles and 16 bridge

replacements. Larry Miller, of Winamac, said he noticed the 10-cent-a-gallon increase right when it took effect in July. He occasionally travels to Logansport from Winamac to shop — an hour round trip — unless the gas prices in Logansport are higher than in Pulaski County. While filling up gas in his car at Speedway Gas Station in Logansport on Tuesday afternoon, Miller said he doesn't have a problem with the higher gas tax. He wants the state to publish quarterly reports on how much money they receive from the tax and how they intend to spend the funding on roads, in order to better inform Hoosier drivers and taxpayers. "They should be held accountable," he said. The Indiana Department of Transportation released a tentative schedule of projects in July for each county. Some of that work for Cass County include improvements to Ind. 25, U.S. 24 and U.S. 35, as well as changing Fourth and Fifth streets in Logansport from one-way to two-way streets. [http://www.pharostribune.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_60e39086-2f13-5e0d-8215-1d8d956d8fee.html](http://www.pharostribune.com/news/local_news/article_60e39086-2f13-5e0d-8215-1d8d956d8fee.html)

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