



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

October 25, 2016

MidState Corridor progresses; new legislation could support local funding

Dubois County Free Press
Matthew Crane
10/24/16

If legislators turn their eyes on Indiana's infrastructure funding problem during their next session, the MidState Corridor could get a needed boost. Hank Menke, president and CEO of OFS Brands and president of the I-67 Development Corporation, hosted an update on the MidState Corridor at OFS Brands headquarters Monday afternoon. Menke was joined by State Representative Mike Braun, Indiana Senator Mark Messmer and Dubois Strong Executive Director Ed Cole in providing update on the group's efforts to create an interstate grade road connecting the end of the upgraded U.S. 231 near the Dale Interchange with I-69. The group has been working on the project since 2011 when funding was cut to the improvement of U.S. 231. Menke and several civic and business leaders created the I-67 Development Corporation to support the infrastructure improvements. The MidState Corridor would provide a more direct connection from Tennessee to Michigan through Kentucky and Dubois County utilizing the improved portions of U.S. 231. The group released an executive summary of a funding study completed by London Witte Group. The study identifies several ways for local municipal and county entities to provide an incentive for Indiana Department of Transportation to approve a project. Those included tapping into local property taxes and local option income taxes as well as wheel and vehicle excise taxes. <http://www.duboiscountypress.com/midstate-corridor-progresses-new-legislation-support-local-funding/>

Interchange construction on track for November completion

Kokomo Tribune
Cody Neuenschwander
10/24/16

TIPTON – Construction on the recreated U.S. 31 and Indiana 28 intersection is on track for opening by Thanksgiving, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation. The \$10.8 million project by contractor Rieth-Riley Construction was meant to raise Indiana 28 above U.S. 31 and construct interchange ramps to access the new bridge. A late November opening was the initial plan, said Nathan Riggs, INDOT media relations director for central Indiana, and that plan is still on track, assuming cooperative weather. "As we get into November, we can have cold, wet, rainy days," said Riggs. "Indiana weather from October into November can be tricky to try to get some of these last things done ... weather can always play a factor into the final construction schedule." Some of the final items for construction are temperature and weather sensitive, he explained, like paving road surfaces and painting lines. Warm days in the weeks to come would benefit the project's completion. Paving on the access ramps is being done now, and Riggs said

the paving process includes various layers of pavement leading up to the layer designed to hold vehicles. "So they've got a couple more weeks' worth of paving to get all those layers complete on the approaches," Riggs said last week in an interview with the Tribune. As another leg in the state's Major Moves project, the construction went toward reducing travel time between South Bend and Indianapolis. http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/interchange-construction-on-track-for-november-completion/article_c95e6a04-9a1e-11e6-8f33-afb6d1c93bff.html

IKEA's new I-69 exit nears completion

Indianapolis Star

John Tuohy

10/23/16

FISHERS — As the building of a new IKEA begins, the construction of a nearby interchange on I-69 is wrapping up and should be finished by the end of the year. Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Nathan Riggs said the \$34 million exit and overpass on 106th Street is on schedule and could be finished as early as the end of November, depending on weather and other factors. Most of the heavy construction on the overpass is done but what remains will severely restrict traffic at night this week. Work crews will be pouring concrete on the bridge deck and painting the bridge beams. Riggs said up to three northbound lanes of I-69 will be closed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. from Sunday until Friday morning. INDOT will announce other lane closures in the coming weeks. A groundbreaking for the Swedish furniture retailer occurred Tuesday. The exit is being built ahead of 15 miles of lane reconstruction from 116th Street in Fishers to Ind. 38, exit 219. A lane in each direction of I-69 will be added and an extra — or auxiliary — southbound lane will be built from 116th Street to 106th Street for local traffic. The \$92 million, I-69 project is scheduled to be finished in the fall of 2017.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2016/10/21/new--69-interchange-nears-completion-will-relieve-ikea-traffic/92468330/>

House candidates support gas tax hike

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

10/21/16

ANDERSON — Four of five candidates running for local seats in the Indiana House voiced support for an increase in the state's gasoline tax. Republican incumbent Tony Cook and Democrat challenger Ryan Davis in District 32, and incumbent Republican Bob Cherry with his opponents, Democrat Nancy Tibbett and Libertarian Rick Brown in District 53, took part in a candidate forum on Thursday. The forum was sponsored by The Herald Bulletin at the Anderson city building, allowing the candidates the opportunity to make their case for votes. One of the questions dealt with a sustainable funding approach to improve Indiana's infrastructure needs. Only Brown spoke against an increase in the state's 18-cent gasoline tax, stating Indiana is not spending money intended for roads on the roads. "They have been diverting money from the infrastructure needs," he said. Cherry, a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, said a study committee is looking at the issue and that Indiana needs a long term solution and not a Band-Aid fix. He said the state's gas tax is one of the lowest in the nation and Indiana is a donor state, getting less from the federal gas tax as was sent to Washington. "The money is being spent," Cherry said, "but we don't have enough." Tibbett said the distribution of gas tax revenues are based on an old method, and today's cars are getting better fuel mileage.

http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/house-candidates-support-gas-tax-hike/article_9204600c-2ec6-54c6-b4a1-cba9b052ba80.html

www.buildindianacouncil.org