



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Indiana road funding fix hinges on overcoming aversion to tax hikes

NWI Times
Dan Carden
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INDIANAPOLIS — The dilemma of how to fund Indiana's roads and bridges for the next quarter century is likely to come down to whether anti-tax Senate Republicans can be persuaded the return on investment is worth making Hoosiers pay slightly more. At the center of that debate when the Legislature begins working in January will be state Sen. Mike Crider, R-Greenfield, who this week was appointed chairman of the Senate's transportation committee. "My job is going to be trying to sell whatever package we come up with to colleagues who may have in the past signed pledges that they aren't going to raise taxes at any point in the future," Crider said. "This is a difficult subject." At the Indiana Logistics Summit on Thursday, Crider acknowledged there's no doubt Indiana needs new, steady revenue to replace declining gas tax receipts caused by inflation and more fuel efficient vehicles — just to maintain the state's existing infrastructure. "We really need to be thinking on a large scale and be innovative in what we consider," Crider said. "From my perspective, really, everything is on the table." A legislative task force studying how Indiana and other states fund roads is expected to issue its recommendations in early December. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/indiana-road-funding-fix-hinges-on-overcoming-aversion-to-tax/article_0fc951e5-7412-5402-8c3f-31d5d003c5df.html Also, <http://www.ibj.com/articles/61372-gas-cigarette-tax-hikes-on-table-again-as-lawmakers-weigh-road-funding-options>

INDOT Shifting to 'Preservation Focus'

Inside INdiana Business
Andy Ober
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The commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation says, while major projects like the I-69 extension and the Ohio River Bridges Project are crucial to "moving goods and people around Indiana," the state must continue to shift its focus moving ahead. Brandye Hendrickson says, since Major Moves, INDOT has been in "preservation mode," looking to improve roadway conditions and bridge ratings. She says maintaining infrastructure is just as important as new construction projects. Hendrickson spoke with Inside INdiana Business from the Indiana Logistics Summit in Indianapolis. She updated the I-69 project, saying the first four sections have been completed, with the fifth set to wrap up in October 2017. She says Section Six, which runs from Martinsville to Indianapolis, will begin "in the near future." The massive Ohio River Bridges project, which is a partnership between Indiana and Kentucky, continues to progress as well. Earlier this month, INDOT and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet selected California-based Parson Transportation Group Inc. to head up the preliminary design and environmental review for

the proposed I-69 Ohio River Crossing Project. Governor Mike Pence has called the proposal, which would connect Evansville with Henderson, Kentucky, an "artery of growth" that will help bring more prosperity to both states. This week, the final long-term closure related to the Downtown Crossing portion of the \$2.3 billion project was completed. Crews reopened the final lanes of traffic to make the John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge fully open.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/33738458/indot-shifting-to-preservation-mode>

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