



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

April 26, 2016

Study in favor of passenger rail service in Indiana

WLF1

Brad Oppenheim

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Trains have been an important mode of transportation since the 1800s, but there's been a push to use them more frequently for passenger rail here in Indiana. After a recent study conducted by the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, passenger rail may become a more popular form of transportation. State Rep. Randy Truitt said, "It's a modality of transportation. We can't just build roads and bridges forever, we need to be thinking of other mass transit." Truitt serves on the Midwest Interstate Rail Passenger Commission. The organization is made up of members from nine different Midwestern states, focusing on promoting passenger rail. Recently, 19,000 people from 30 Midwestern colleges and universities took part in a study asking if the students would use a passenger rail line. Purdue University was the only school in Indiana participating in the study. Truitt said Purdue's results are proof more needs to be done with passenger rail service. <http://wlf1.com/2016/04/22/study-in-favor-of-passenger-rail-service-in-indiana/>

Pence announces distribution of road funding to local governments

Kokomo Tribune

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Indianapolis – Indiana Gov. Mike Pence announced Friday that local governments will receive \$435 million in local option income tax distributions that can be used for transportation infrastructure maintenance for counties, cities and towns as part of Senate Enrolled Act 67, which was signed into law on March 23. Additionally, other local units of government will receive \$70 million for deposit in their rainy day funds. In total, Howard County entities will receive \$2.4 million, with \$742,000 going to county government and \$1.43 million to city government. The remaining dollars are split between various governmental operations. "Here in the Crossroads of America, roads mean jobs," said Pence in a press release. "In this past session of the Indiana General Assembly, we committed to bringing significant new funding for local governments with regard to transportation infrastructure, and I thank our legislators for their leadership on this issue. "I was pleased to sign into law SEA 67 and today, these funds will now be available in communities throughout Indiana." http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/local_news/pence-announces-distribution-of-road-funding-to-local-governments/article_ffd0f862-08c0-11e6-9de8-ff65f172fa10.html

Pence Breaks Ground on Major Road Project

Inside INdiana Business

Alex Brown

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ROANOKE - Governor Mike Pence was joined by state legislators and other officials Thursday to break ground on a big reconstruction project in Allen and Huntington counties. The two-year, \$19.1 million project will upgrade County Road 900 North/Lafayette Center Road. The project will include widening the road from two to four lanes, a center turn lane, paved shoulder, roadside ditching, a new grade-separated railroad crossing, widening of two existing bridges, upgraded traffic signals and intersection improvements. The work will be done on CR 900 between U.S. 24 in Huntington County to Fogwell Parkway in Allen County. "Roads mean jobs. And, the State's investment to widen and modernize Lafayette Center Road is a prime example," said Pence. "The upgrades to this vital piece of transportation infrastructure for the Fort Wayne area help employers in Northeast Indiana to expand operations and create jobs." The project is being funded by Major Moves 2020. It is expected to be completed by the fall of 2018.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/31787544/pence-breaks-ground-on-major-road-project> Also, <http://wane.com/2016/04/21/pence-helps-break-ground-on-c-r-900-n-lafayette-center-road-project/>

Council considers raising wheel tax to receive state road repair funds

Daily News

Brent Brown

4/21/16

GREENSBURG – The Decatur County Council will meet next month to discuss the possibility of raising the county's wheel tax in order to be eligible to receive state funding for road and bridge projects. Council President Ernie Gauck recommended meeting in May to discuss the proposal further, which was presented to the council by Decatur County Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr during Tuesday's regular monthly meeting. Mohr discussed two bills passed during the recently-concluded legislative session that are intended to help counties and municipalities fund road and bridge repairs. Senate Bill 67, which passed the House and the Senate in March, gives back about \$890,000 to the county with the caveat that 75 percent of the funds be used to repair roads or bridges. The funds were previously held in the state's Local Option Income Tax Trust Fund since 2009, District 67 State Rep. Randy Frye (R-Greensburg) told the Daily News last month. The county is set to receive the one-time monetary distribution May 1. The other portion of the state's road funding legislation originated in the House and is decidedly more complex. 'A rock and a hard place' The heart of House Bill 1001 is fairly cut and dry. Mohr explained that, via the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), the state will match county road and bridge projects 50/50. The matching account makes up 45 percent of a \$414 million transfer, the remainder of which is to be used for state highways and interstates.

http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/news/local_news/council-considers-raising-wheel-tax-to-receive-state-road-repair/article_f99bcc3d-f497-50b4-92ce-6389b4dffe2d.html