



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Bosma: 'Very Reasonable' Hikes to Fund Road Plan

Inside INdiana Business

Dan McGowan

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INDIANAPOLIS - The Speaker of the Indiana House says a long-term road and bridge funding plan unveiled Wednesday morning will help put Hoosiers to work. "An investment in infrastructure creates jobs, not just road construction jobs, but jobs for employers, especially in a manufacturing-heavy state," said Brian Bosma (R-88). He calls the tax and fee hikes to pay for the projects "very reasonable," saying the average Hoosier would pay \$5 more per month than they do right now. During an interview with Inside INdiana Business, Bosma says he will work "collectively" with Governor-elect Eric Holcomb and Democrats in both chambers to pass the bill. Bosma says House Bill 1002, which was crafted by House Committee on Roads and Transportation Chair Ed Soliday (R-4), could raise an average of \$1.2 billion per year over the course of 20 years. The funding formula involves a variety of sources, including raising gas and diesel taxes and exploring the possibility of interstate tolling. "Eighty percent of the goods that are manufactured here travel worldwide first on Indiana highways," he said. You can't claim to be the 'Crossroads of America' without a strong infrastructure." Lawmakers last year approved a boost in transportation funding for two years. The investment was not the long-term solution all were seeking, but it allocated \$1 billion for new construction and fixes to aging infrastructure. Republicans once again hold a supermajority in both the House and the Senate. The remainder of their budget year agenda included focusing on education, job creation, workforce development, addiction treatment and public safety.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/34182959/bosma-very-reasonable-hikes-will-pay-for-big-road-plan>

Change made at top of INDOT

The Journal Gazette

Niki Kelly

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INDIANAPOLIS – As legislators convened a major road funding session Tuesday, incoming Gov. Eric Holcomb announced he is moving the Indiana Department of Transportation commissioner to a different state agency. Brandye Hendrickson has headed INDOT since April 2015 and was a major player as state officials passed a short-term infrastructure plan last year. She also spent recent months on a blue ribbon task force examining road funding options for state highways and bridges to be acted on this year. The Indiana Senate kicked off the session by assigning bills to committees. The House comes in today and also will lay out a road funding proposal. Lawmakers expect to need \$1 billion a year in new revenue to meet the needs. Hendrickson will now run the State Personnel Department. Holcomb did not immediately announce who he is appointing to run

INDOT. "Brandye has over 20 years of experience in public service, where she has demonstrated both her leadership abilities and her commitment to Indiana," he said in a news release. "She will serve Indiana well as the head of the State Personnel Department and I look forward to her leadership as we work to take Indiana to the next level." As INDOT chief, Hendrickson managed an annual construction budget of about \$700 million and an annual operating budget of \$50 million. She also oversaw a workforce of 360 employees responsible for the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of INDOT's transportation infrastructure within the district.

Road funding plan could shift tax burden to Indiana's middle class

Indianapolis Star

Tony Cook

1/3/17

Republican legislative leaders say they need hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue to pay for highway improvements, with much of that money expected to come from a tax hike on gasoline. But those same lawmakers were also behind a series of tax cuts over the past five years that wiped out more than \$600 million a year in state revenue — money that critics argue could have been used for roads. Supporters of the road funding plan are pitching the gas tax increase as a "user fee." Those who use the roads will end up paying for them. But economists say there's another way to look at the proposal when placed in the context of the recent tax breaks — as a large shift of the state's tax burden from higher income to middle income Hoosiers. That's because the taxes lawmakers have cut since 2011 have tended to benefit wealthier individuals. They include the elimination of the inheritance tax, corporate and financial institution tax cuts and a 5 percent reduction to Indiana's flat personal income tax. The new tax hikes, on the other hand, will likely hit a broader socio-economic group — Hoosier motorists. "In a sense we have cut one tax and raised the other," said Larry DeBoer, an economics professor at Purdue University. "The income tax and corporate tax — and the inheritance tax in particular — tend to be more progressive. Higher-income people pay more. The gasoline tax is not as progressive. It is a shift then from higher income to middle income people."

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/03/road-funding-plan-could-shift-tax-burden-middle-class/96123252/>

House Republicans to Detail Road Funding Plan

Inside INdiana Business

Alex Brown

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INDIANAPOLIS - Hoosiers will get their first look Wednesday at a potential fix for Indiana's transportation infrastructure challenges. Indiana House Republicans will provide details of their long-term road funding plan and unveil their legislative agenda for 2017. The announcement will come less than one month after a legislative task force revealed its recommendations for generating revenue to improve the state's roads and bridges. The report from Funding Indiana's Roads for a Stronger Safer Tomorrow, or FIRSST, suggested an increase in the gasoline tax, vehicle fees and tolling as examples of potential revenue sources. The task force said "current funding levels are insufficient to meet the critical transportation infrastructure needs of the state." Eric Berman, Statehouse bureau chief for our partners at Network Indiana/WIBC, said this week he expects this year's legislative session to be dominated by road funding. House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-88), Rep. Tim Brown (R-41) and Rep. Ed Soliday (R-4) will join other members of the House Republican leadership team for the announcement, which is set for 10:00 a.m.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/34174825/house-republicans-to-detail-road-funding-plan>

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