



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **January 12, 2017**

#### **How much would you pay for good roads?**

South Bend Tribune

Jeff Rea

1/11/17

The debate is underway at the Indiana General Assembly about 2017 priorities. It's a budget year, so there is a long line of worthy endeavors hoping to find a spot in the biennial budget. Legislators are left with the task of prioritizing the state spending and ensuring the long-term financial stability of the state. Perhaps no issue will get more attention than infrastructure funding. Experts estimate our roads and bridges need close to \$1 billion more annually for upkeep. That really would allow us only to take care of what we have; additional dollars would be needed for new projects. The simple truth is there is no way to accomplish this goal without it costing you and me a little more money. A variety of proposals out there seek to collect the needed funding from a variety of different sources. As with any proposal to raise taxes or fees, it likely will face some opposition. At the same time, it is expected many will step forward now in support. I'm one who believes the time is now to fund the state's 20-year transportation plan. The tolling of existing interstates will be one option that is studied. I'm a believer in this "user" fee: When I want the speed and convenience of the Toll Road, I utilize it. I think others around the state would follow suit. The Indiana Toll Road helped us pay for 20 years of transportation needs. New toll roads will help address the next 20. [http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/how-much-would-you-pay-for-good-roads/article\\_79034ea8-fceb-5372-bc53-6ee1033afdf9.html](http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/business/how-much-would-you-pay-for-good-roads/article_79034ea8-fceb-5372-bc53-6ee1033afdf9.html)

#### **County needs \$3 million for Eisenhower Bridge by April**

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

1/10/17

ANDERSON – With an April bid date for the construction of the new Eisenhower Bridge, Madison County needs approximately \$3 million in matching funds. The Madison County commissioners recommended to the County Council on Tuesday that it consider a \$5.2 million construction loan to cover the county's anticipated matching funds on the \$18.7 million project. The local match has increased by approximately \$600,000. The bulk of the increase is to the Indiana Department of Transportation for an oversight fee. The County Council tabled discussion on how matching funds will be obtained until the February meeting. At that meeting a recommendation is expected from the Capital Projects Committee consisting of Brent Holland, R-at large; Mike Gaskill, R-at large, and Clayton Whitson, D-1st District. Charles Leser, county engineer, said the Indiana Department of Transportation has set a bid date of April 5 and the county needs the funds before a contract can be awarded. After eight attempts, Madison County received one of 40 grants in the amount of \$13.5 million from the Federal Highway Administration for the bridge project.

Leser said construction work on the replacement of the four-lane bridge over White River would

start in December and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

[http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/county-needs-million-for-eisenhower-bridge-by-april/article\\_4761eb52-d7a4-11e6-bfd0-4bcffad94018.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/county-needs-million-for-eisenhower-bridge-by-april/article_4761eb52-d7a4-11e6-bfd0-4bcffad94018.html)

### **Money for roads, without the tax hike**

Palladium Item

John Pickerill

1/9/16

As the Indiana General Assembly begins its 2017 session, one would assume the Republican-dominated state government would be pushing legislation for a more limited and fiscally responsible government — and one that protects individual liberty, freedom of religion, the right to keep and bear arms, and the sanctity of life. After all, that's what their 2016 state convention said they stood for. That would be a bad assumption; the GOP leadership actually intends to increase taxes. The heart of their legislative agenda is a gasoline tax hike on Hoosiers from 18 cents per gallon to 26 cents per gallon. Why? So they can spend an additional \$900 million to \$1.2 billion a year to maintain state and local roads and fund new highway projects. They're also talking about new tolls on state and federal highways and imposing new fees at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. So much for the Republican Party's promise, "We believe that budgets should be balanced and should reduce spending, rather than increasing taxation." To add insult to injury, House Speaker Brian Bosma's agenda is to triple the spending on the new government-funded pre-school pilot program at the same time he says we don't have enough money to maintain our existing roads and bridges. His counterpart, Senate President Pro Tem David Long, wants to double this pre-K spending. If these Indiana Republican leaders were really the fiscal conservatives they claimed to be on the campaign trail, they would fix the road problem by reducing spending elsewhere to pay for their road funding plan instead of raising taxes. <http://www.palladiumitem.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/01/09/money-roads-without-tax-hike/96372032/>

### **Council Gets First Look at Mass Transit Expansion Proposal**

Inside INdiana Business

Dan McGowan

1/9/16

INDIANAPOLIS - Monday night, the City-County Council in Indianapolis is slated to hear details of a major mass transportation expansion plan. The proposal, which was approved by voters in November, includes a 0.25 percent income tax hike to pay for the initiative. Many economic leaders in the city, including the Indy Chamber, see it as a way to help attract and retain talent. The plan could boost hours of service for the city's IndyGO buses by up to 70 percent. Marion County got the go-ahead to put expanded public transportation up for vote by citizens of individual counties through a law that was tweaked in 2014 by the Indiana General Assembly. Proposal 3, as it's called in the City-County Council will face a battery of public and legislative scrutiny in the coming weeks and could reach the full council for a final vote as early as the end of next month. <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/34217572/council-gets-first-look-at-mass-transit-expansion-proposal>