



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

January 6, 2015

Indiana lawmakers set to begin work

NWI Times
Dan Carden
1/4/15

INDIANAPOLIS | Hoosier lawmakers return to the Statehouse Tuesday for a four-month session primarily focused on enacting the state's two-year, \$30 billion budget that takes effect July 1. The General Assembly will have an estimated \$840 million more to spend compared to the prior budget thanks to modest projected growth in the state's economy through 2017. The \$10 million annual state contribution to the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority must be added to the state budget if it is to continue. For the past decade, the state's share of RDA funds for region infrastructure and economic development projects was paid out of money set aside in the now-depleted Major Moves account created following the 2006 Toll Road lease. State Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is skeptical Northwest Indiana deserves dedicated economic development funding separate from the rest of the state. The One Region quality-of-life organization for Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties has declared RDA funding renewal its top legislative priority.

[Indiana lawmakers set to begin work](#)

Waiting for gridlock relief in Munster

NWI Times
Lu Ann Franklin
1/3/15

Phase 1 will realign 45th Street with the stoplights at Calumet Avenue and West 45th Street, said Jim Mandon, Munster town engineer who is retiring in mid-January. "The design will take 45th Street at a 45-degree angle just to the west of Southwood Drive through the former Munster Steel property," he said of the concept that will have vehicles traveling through a tunnel-like structure under the elevated railroad track. Mandon said design work on this phase is about 60 percent complete with final plans expected in the fall of 2015. Robinson Engineering has added the bridge-building firm of H.W. Lochner Inc. as a subcontractor to construct the elevated railroad track for Phase 1. "You have to go much higher for the elevated train track to have room for a large truck to go under it safely," he said. As part of the design for the elevated concrete bridge, a temporary track called a shoo-fly would be built so trains can use the tracks during construction, Mandon said. Although initiated by Munster, the Calumet Avenue overpass/underpass has grown into a regional, bi-state project and one of the largest local public agency projects in the state of Indiana. "It will benefit many more communities than Munster," Mandon said. Thousands of vehicles funnel into the Calumet Avenue/CN track area from the Borman Expressway on the north, U.S. 30 from the south and from Illinois by way of West 45th Street, he said. Each phase will cost approximately \$26 million to \$28 million, "plus or minus several million. Phase 1 will take

two construction seasons,” Mandon said. “We’re looking to INDOT (the Indiana Department of Transportation) to fund construction of the project.”
[Waiting for gridlock relief in Munster](#)

www.buildindianacouncil.org