



## **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

### **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**February 4, 2016**

#### **County spent \$1.8 million on paving in 2015**

The Herald Bulletin  
Ken de la Bastide  
2/3/16

ANDERSON – Madison County spent \$1.8 million on contract paving that made improvements to approximately 13 miles of county roads in 2015. County Engineer Charles Leser informed the Madison County commissioners on Tuesday of the work performed by E&B Paving. Leser said that was \$120,246 over the amount budgeted to complete several additional repaving projects during the year. The Madison County Council next Tuesday is being asked to approve \$1.3 million in county wheel tax funds for paving work in 2016 and \$300,000 from the Local Road and Street Fund. The commissioners approved a change in design work being done by the Indianapolis engineering firm of Beam, Longest and Neff on the Eisenhower Bridge on Eighth Street over the White River in downtown Anderson. Leser said the design work and soil borings at a cost of \$21,900 are for the retention wall on the Eisenhower Bridge near the parking lot for the Madison County Health Department. The work will include the replacement of the retaining wall. The Health Department is located on the northeast corner of Ninth Street and Central Avenue. The commissioners also approved three changes in the project for the planned replacement of the bridge on Eighth Street.

[http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local\\_news/county-spent-million-on-paving-in/article\\_8ddcd90b-5b11-52c1-883e-c596b577d8d1.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/county-spent-million-on-paving-in/article_8ddcd90b-5b11-52c1-883e-c596b577d8d1.html)

#### **Road bill with gas tax increase clears House**

The Journal Gazette  
Niki Kelly  
2/3/16

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana House voted 61-36 Tuesday to move forward a massive road funding bill that provides billions in new infrastructure dollars but comes with a price – tax increases. Eight GOP members voted against the bill even though House Bill 1001 has been deemed the top priority for the House Republican caucus. “It’s a great bill because it’s taking us in a direction where we are leading,” said Rep. Matt Lehman, R-Berne. “And that’s what we are here to do – lead.” He talked about political will – in an election year – and noted he never signed a pledge not to raise taxes just in case someday doing that was the right thing to do. The discussion was passionate and long on the House floor. Three area representatives voted against the bill – Rep. Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne; Rep. Chris Judy, R-Fort Wayne; and Rep. Curt Nisly, R-Goshen. All other area reps supported the measure. The bill has a number of provisions, including studying tolling on Indiana’s interstate highways for future funding. But one of the most important parts of the legislation would tie the state gas tax to inflation going back to 2002 (the last time it was raised) to regain some of the buying power. This would essentially raise the gas tax of 18 cents per gallon about 4 cents – at a time when gas prices are historically low. That

change is expected to cost the average Hoosier taxpayer \$25 a year.

<http://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/indiana/Road-bill-with-gas-tax-increase-clears-House-11280477>

### **Toll Road to get upgrade from Portage to Elkhart**

NWI Times

Keith Benman

2/2/16

Indiana Toll Road's private operator and Gov. Mike Pence announced a \$200 million pavement upgrade and other improvements between Portage and Elkhart. Indiana Toll Road Concession Co. awarded the contract for the "80/90 PUSH" project to Rieth-Riley Construction Co., of Goshen. It will be paid for by ITRCC. Construction work is scheduled to begin in March. It will take two years. "In Indiana, we've made great progress on our standing as the Crossroads of America, and today's announcement is yet another installment to ensure the quality of our roads and bridges," Pence said. The construction work will be done by union trades workers. Approximately 300 will be employed on the project, according to ITRCC. When Australian investment consortium IFM Investors bought the Toll Road out of bankruptcy in May, it pledged to undertake \$260 million in capital improvements on the 157-mile road. The project will include all interchanges, mainline pavements, shoulder replacement along with various bridge repairs and widening works. The project will also allow for the installation of intelligent transportation systems such as electronic signage. "The 80/90 PUSH project is a critical investment in safety and service on the Indiana Toll Road," ITRCC CEO Ken Daley said.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/toll-road-to-get-upgrade-from-portage-to-elkhart/article\\_235b6bce-7bfe-5c25-af57-ac5971e6afdc.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/toll-road-to-get-upgrade-from-portage-to-elkhart/article_235b6bce-7bfe-5c25-af57-ac5971e6afdc.html)

### **IndyGo: Reliable Transit is 'Baseline Expectation'**

Inside INdiana Business

Dan McGowan

2/1/16

INDIANAPOLIS - The vice president of government relations with the Indy Chamber says the organization is very supportive of changes IndyGo is proposing to expand public transportation throughout the state's largest regional economy. Mark Fisher, who also serves on the board of the public transportation corporation, says the IndyGo Forward plan will boost the reach and access of the service and make it more convenient for the "people that make our city run." Public input sessions will begin Friday and run through the rest of the month. He says a solid mass transportation system helps with talent attraction, as well as supports the existing work force. "Certainly, the Millennial generation is looking for more livable, walkable communities. They want to be able to live in a city and not necessarily have a car or maybe if they're in a dual-income household, maybe only have one car, so they're looking for some options, Fishers tells Inside INdiana Business. "It really is a baseline for Millennials as they're comparing cities." He believes a strong system is an expectation for the generation that has become the largest group in the work force. "It's not something that they are looking to go to a city and help build one up." With support from the Metropolitan Planning Organization and Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority, IndyGo has spent recent years crafting a new plan for a long-term strategy. Last year, IndyGo refined a five-year plan for the county, which includes more frequent, 7-day-a-week service with longer hours. It also involves more direct routes and a total of three rapid transit lines. By 2021, IndyGo says the proposed expansion would offer service to nearly 250,000 more in central Indiana and boost total service hours by more than 70 percent.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/31111706/indygo-board-member-reliable-mass-transit-is-baseline-expectation>

## **St. John studying impact fee for roads**

NWI Times  
Phil Wieland  
2/1/16

ST. JOHN — With growing criticism from residents over traffic congestion and the inability of the town's roads to handle additional development, the council has authorized a study of whether a road impact fee could be established. The fee would be assessed to developers to pay for improvements needed to accommodate traffic from new subdivisions or other developments similar to the impact fee paid by residential development for parks. State law allows communities to charge impact fees for certain infrastructure improvements needed as a result of development, and the law establishes the procedures that must be followed before the fees can be imposed. A road impact fee was suggested along with a school impact fee by a resident at a recent meeting. The law does not allow for a school impact fee, but a road impact fee is possible. Town Manager Steve Kil said, as far as he's been able to determine, no one in the state has enacted the road fee while many have the park fee. He expects the road fee is somewhat more difficult to enact. "If it was that simple, somebody would have done it because we are all in the same boat with the roads," Kil said. "We are going to do our due diligence to see what it takes."

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/st-john-studying-impact-fee-for-roads/article\\_376769a4-0a61-574f-b969-21f59b2684e9.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/st-john-studying-impact-fee-for-roads/article_376769a4-0a61-574f-b969-21f59b2684e9.html)

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