



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **February 7, 2017**

#### **For whom the bill tolls**

The Herald-Tribune  
Elizabeth Beilman  
2/3/17

JEFFERSONVILLE — It wasn't too long ago driving a tolled road meant stalling in traffic and digging for loose change. "I can't help remember when we leased the Indiana Toll Road, they still had the old toll collectors, sometimes collecting as little as — I'm not making this up — as 15 cents. Who's got a nickel, right?" said former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels during a stop in Southern Indiana in January. "Now, it's modern," said Daniels, now the president of Purdue University. Technology has since answered the call for convenience and efficiency, with all-electronic collection systems that read a magnetic device or photograph a license plate. And just as automated toll collection has become more prevalent, so has conversation among state lawmakers to rely on tolls as a way to fund roads. Indiana is one of them. House Bill 1002, known for its proposed gas tax hike, would also direct the Indiana Finance Authority to study the feasibility of tolling interstates. "I think it's generally accepted across the policy space, across the academic space, that the fuel tax is a dying tax — primarily because vehicles are becoming increasingly fuel efficient," said Denvil Duncan, associate professor for Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. A 2015 study by Massachusetts-based research firm Cambridge Systematics estimated the state could receive up to \$1 billion every year, if it implemented tolls on all lanes of Interstate 65 and Interstate 70 and on a new Interstate 69 bridge. The study identified optimal tolling rates — what would maximize revenue but limit the percent of drivers who would take alternate routes. [http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/indiana/news/indiana-considers-toll-roads-to-raise-infrastructure-funds/article\\_bbf3e576-d80e-5715-a15c-ad5c3292cfd4.html](http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/indiana/news/indiana-considers-toll-roads-to-raise-infrastructure-funds/article_bbf3e576-d80e-5715-a15c-ad5c3292cfd4.html)

#### **COG studying mass transit option for Madison County**

The Herald Bulletin  
Ken de la Bastide  
2/3/17

ANDERSON – Madison County Council of Governments is preparing to start a study of a mass transit system to Indianapolis, as part of a long-range transportation plan. Bob Wertman, transportation planning supervisor for the Madison County Council of Governments, said Thursday there are plans to conduct an analysis of travel by individual vehicle, express bus service or commuter rail. "We're going to do a feasibility study of commuter rail," he said. "Will there be enough ridership and are people willing to pay?" Once the base year is determined, COG will start forecasting commuter travel patterns, Wertman said. "We're looking at regional land use," he said. "Estimates are that by 2050 there will be another 700,000 people living in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. Will Madison County capture 5, 10, or 15 percent of the growth?" Wertman said the growth is expected to take place between Interstate 69 and Interstate 70. COG is also working

on studies involving travel patterns in Madison County that started in 2014, he said. In 2016, the Indy Partnership determined that 16,964 people left Madison County to work elsewhere and 8,167 came to Madison County for employment. "We looking at the number of trips out of the area, trips that come into the area and those that pass through," Wertman said. About one-third of the trips are by people leaving the Madison County area to Muncie or the Indianapolis metropolitan area. "Over the next 50 years, as Interstate 69 becomes more congested, we're looking at the potential of trips on Indiana 9 to Interstate 70 to Interstate 465."

[http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local\\_news/cog-studying-mass-transit-option-for-madison-county/article\\_ecc52984-e9af-11e6-86ab-278a2aa45282.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/cog-studying-mass-transit-option-for-madison-county/article_ecc52984-e9af-11e6-86ab-278a2aa45282.html)

### **Rough roads take a toll: Governor wants to hear from residents on funding repairs**

Daily Journal  
Annie Goeller  
2/3/17

A higher gas tax, a new vehicle registration fee and tolls on Indiana highways are all on the list of possibilities to bring another \$1 billion of road funding into the state each year. As lawmakers debate and discuss each option, the state's new governor wants to continue hearing from residents on what options they like — or don't like. But Gov. Eric Holcomb doesn't see the solution in one measure or another. He thinks the additional funding will likely come in the form of several different ideas. The trick will be finding the right combination of each, he said. "There are multiple options. The only one that I've taken off the table is to do nothing. So "none of the above" doesn't work for me. All of the above (are) still on the table. But I see them as all dials that we're either going to dial up or down, and they're all related," Holcomb said. Holcomb said he doesn't have a strong preference on which combination legislators choose. "I want to solve the problem. And so, I'm agnostic about how, but I want to make sure when we arrive at the final decision we get it right," Holcomb said. He isn't in favor of a proposal to charge tolls on existing highways or interstates, or ones that are already built with tax dollars, such as Interstate 69, he said. But he is more open to tolling added lanes or bridges. For example, he would consider tolling a new bridge over the Ohio River, like the state did in Jeffersonville. Drivers are saving time by using the bridge, and the state is collecting money from drivers who live in nearby states to help pay for roads that are used by travelers from all over, he said. "We sit in the center of the country, we have a lot of cross traffic. We are the crossroads of America, and so if we can get others to help pay for our roads, I'm leaving that on the table as well," Holcomb said.

[http://www.dailyjournal.net/2017/02/03/governor\\_wants\\_to\\_hear\\_from\\_residents\\_on\\_road\\_funding/](http://www.dailyjournal.net/2017/02/03/governor_wants_to_hear_from_residents_on_road_funding/)

### **House Dems to Unveil Road Funding Plan**

Inside INdiana Business  
Alex Brown  
2/3/17

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana House Democrats are set to unveil Monday details of their comprehensive infrastructure funding plan. The proposal is an answer to House Bill 1002, which is already making its way through the Indiana General Assembly. The House Republican's plan, which passed through the House Roads and Transportation Committee in late January, includes a hike in the state's gas tax as well as increases the special fuel and motor carrier surcharge taxes and new vehicle registration fees. House Minority Leader Scott Pelath (D-9) will be joined by Representative Dan Forestal (D-100) and Rep. Greg Porter (D-96) at the press conference. Pelath touched on the topic of the state's infrastructure last month when he detailed the House Democratic vision for the 2017 legislative session. "Together confront the future of Indiana's circulatory system – our state's roads, bridges, and railways," said Pelath. "The good news is that we have choices for improving how people get to work and move goods and services through our state. We certainly have had differences of opinion on what methods the people might prefer, and we must acknowledge that in several instances, you have done some of what we've

recommended. But we share your sense of urgency about this prime component of Indiana's prosperity. However, the people's views will be essential, and our new Governor's leadership will be key, especially with making the case for new road financing to the public."

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/34423570/house-dems-to-unveil-road-funding-plan>

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