



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Study says Indiana's bridges are the 13th most 'structurally deficient' in the country

FOX 59

Nick McGill

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INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. --They're a familiar sight on every commute, but now a new study says thousands of American bridges are in disrepair. According to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, 56,000 bridges nationwide are now "structurally deficient." The term doesn't mean that the bridges are in danger of falling, but rather that one or more element of a bridge is in poor or worse condition. "So they're not inherently unsafe, but they are bridges where structural elements need repair," ARTBA Chief Economist Alison Black said. Black says the number of structurally deficient bridges decreases every year. However, at the current pace, it would take more than 20 years to repair every bridge. She says the bridges attached to the country's rail system are the ones that will require specific attention. "Those are bridges that really connect our economy so the issues and the challenges that they're facing in the country, at least on that freight network, have an impact on getting goods from state to state and for businesses," said Black. According to the report, Indiana has the 13th most structurally deficient bridges in the country. Seven of the top ten most traveled bridges in that list are in Marion County. Will Wingfield with INDOT says despite the ranking, Indiana is doing well with fixing the "problem." In 2015 the agency spent roughly \$215 million to fix infrastructure. "We've been able to reduce the number of bridges in poor condition the past few years significantly. But, we're also facing the challenge where a lot of the bridges built with the interstate system are coming due for major maintenance in the near future," he said. With the current \$215 million budget, roughly 8% of Indiana's bridges are structurally deficient. <http://fox59.com/2017/02/15/study-says-indianas-bridges-are-the-13th-most-structurally-deficient-in-the-country/>

County Council delays Eisenhower Bridge funding decision

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

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ANDERSON — The Madison County Council has tabled a decision on where to obtain the necessary \$5.2 million county's share of the Eisenhower Bridge project. After a lengthy discussion and the presentation of a new option using available funds, the council delayed its decision until Thursday, Feb. 23. The meeting is set for 6 p.m. The new option was presented Tuesday by Council President Steve Sumner who contends the county has the money in dormant accounts and reserves. Sumner proposed using \$1.7 million in funding from several dormant accounts and \$3.5 million from county reserves to fund the project. Last year, Madison County received a \$13.5 million federal grant to replace the downtown bridge that was constructed in 1969. The estimated total cost of the project is \$18.7 million. The Indiana Department of Transportation has set an April 5 bid date for the construction of the bridge. The county will need

\$3.9 million by the end of April. Sumner recommended taking \$1 million each from the county's general fund and public safety local option income tax reserves, \$661,000 from the rainy day reserves and \$908,000 from the local option income tax reserves. "We can find the money without spending any money on interest," Sumner said. "We don't need \$1.3 million until the second and third year of the bridge project. "This is nothing that puts us into a bind," he said. "We have over \$2 million in reserves in the public safety fund."

http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/county-council-delays-eisenhower-bridge-funding-decision/article_e009d60a-fb38-5df5-9abe-cb3941286abe.html

Taxes to pay for infrastructure right call

Palladium-Item

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Whenever discussion turns to Indiana education costs, you can count on someone asking why schools need money: "Don't they have all that lottery revenue? Indiana schools never had lottery money. After Hoosiers voted 28 years ago to amend the state constitution to allow it, the General Assembly instead decided to invest most lottery revenue in a new Build Indiana Fund, for one-time projects around the state. Today, Indiana's transportation funding program has its own Hoosier Lottery in the toll road lease. Talk about the need for infrastructure spending, and someone inevitably will ask why Major Moves money can't be used. There is no Major Moves money available – it was never intended to pay for the state's infrastructure needs in perpetuity. Which is why legislative leaders' work on a long-term transportation funding plan is so important. Fortunately, House Bill 1002 is gaining speed. The bill, which proposes a 10-cent increase in the state gas tax, highway tolling and a new \$15 registration fee on all vehicles, passed the House Roads and Transportation Committee on an 8-5 vote. Supporting the legislation takes courage. Some already are threatening to inform constituents "as to how lawmakers in state capitals vote on important fiscal and economic matters." Anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist sent that message to Indiana legislators last week, warning "any and all tax hikes will be scored as violations of the Taxpayer Protection Pledge." <http://www.pal-item.com/story/opinion/editorials/2017/02/13/taxes-pay-infrastructure-right-call/97879094/>

Democrats expect gas tax increase

The Herald Bulletin

Ken de la Bastide

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ANDERSON – Democratic lawmakers representing Madison County are convinced there will be an increase in the gasoline tax. Republicans in the Indiana General Assembly have proposed a 10-cent increase and a yearly index that will annually add a penny to the tax. The legislation includes a \$15 fee for every registered vehicle and a \$150 annual fee to alternative fuel vehicles. During the Third House legislative session Monday at the Anderson Public Library, Rep. Terri Austin, D-36th District, said there are competing proposals with Democrats seeking to keep the tax at the current 18 cents per gallon and freezing reductions in the state's corporate income tax. Austin said a 10-cent per gallon increase would make Indiana's tax one of the highest in the Midwest. "The House Republicans will either accept amendments to allow minority party input," she said. "If they don't allow amendments, there will be no bipartisan cooperation." Austin said the 7-cent sales tax on gasoline used to all go to the state's general fund to finance the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and Indiana State Police. She said 2.5 cents would go to fund improvements to the road system with the Indiana Department of Transportation receiving 53 percent of the funds and 47 percent to local units of government. Austin said House Democrats want the entire 7 cents to fund road improvements with the counties getting a larger share of the revenue. She said Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb wants to use the \$500 million in the reserve trust fund from the leasing of the Indiana toll road to fund entrepreneurs in the state.

http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/democrats-expect-gas-tax-increase/article_960a4908-f24c-

11e6-b2a0-3bc0cc957602.html

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