



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

February 25, 2016

Will Lawmakers Agree On A Road Funding Plan This Session?

Indiana Public Media
Brandon Smith
2/24/16

A House committee Wednesday kicked off what will be a series of legislative maneuvers between the two chambers over House and Senate road funding plans. It's the first step of a process that could last up until the last moments of this session. The House Roads and Transportation Committee advanced Senate Bill 333, Governor Mike Pence's state road funding plan, but not before making some major changes. The committee took out a portion of Pence's plan that would allow the state to take out bonds for road construction. The Pence administration, since proposing that idea, has said it now doesn't plan to do so anyway and is fine with that change. The House committee then added the entire House Republican road funding plan into 333 before advancing the bill. Both Senate leadership and the governor's office have expressed opposition to the House plan – specifically the two tax increases in it. Sen. Carlin Yoder, R- Goshen, author of Pence's road funding bill, says he would have preferred his legislation advance without any changes, but understands the committee's addition is part of the process. "I think we're all aware this will go to a conference committee and the hard work will begin. So do what you will and we'll see you in conference committee." A Senate committee Thursday is expected to largely dismantle the House GOP road funding bill, prompting the House committee's action. The two chambers will work out their differences over the next two weeks in the conference committee process.
<http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/lawmakers-agree-road-funding-plan-session-94435/>

Ironwood-Rockne-Corby could become roundabout in South Bend

South Bend Tribune
Erin Blasko
2/24/16

SOUTH BEND — The city is considering building a roundabout at the intersection of Corby, Rockne and Ironwood Drive, near Morris Park Country Club, to address congestion. The project, intended to improve the flow of traffic along Ironwood between McKinley Avenue and Edison Road, would not get underway until 2019. Traffic currently backs up at the intersection due to its complexity, earning it the worst possible level of service rating — F — according to a study conducted by Traffic Engineering Consultants, of Granger. The project would require full or partial acquisition of some surrounding property. Currently, four homes and a church — St. Peter's United Church of Christ — surround the busy intersection, which handles in excess of 20,000 vehicles per day. The city is pursuing the project in coordination with the Indiana Department of Transportation, which will provide 80 percent of the funding. The roundabout is one of two "preferred alternates" to the existing intersection identified in a 2014 report by South Bend-based Lawson-Fisher Associates. The other alternate, a signal upgrade, would replace the existing

signals and reconfigure the approach lanes to accommodate more traffic. City Engineer Corbitt Kerr said the roundabout will provide a higher level of service than a signal upgrade, reducing traffic delay from 96 seconds to 16.9 seconds. And it will reduce the severity of crashes and future operation and maintenance costs, Kerr said. As for the location of a roundabout at a five-leg intersection, "Actually, there's a lot of them," deputy city engineer Jitin Kain, formerly with the Department of Community Investment, said. "Five-point intersections are not that uncommon in general, but where we've seen them (a roundabout) becomes a really good option," Kain said. http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/ironwood-rockne-corby-could-become-roundabout-in-south-bend/article_2ca21493-4638-5c22-b241-b4ed5ba8435c.html

INDOT wants 4 more roads repaved

Indianapolis Star

John Tuohy

2/24/16

The Indiana Department of Transportation said Wednesday that it has reached a settlement with one contractor over road paving while demanding from another that four other roads be resurfaced. INDOT Deputy Commissioner Robert Tally said letters were sent to Dave O'Mara Contractors of Mount Vernon on Jan. 1 requesting that it resurface recently completed road projects in or near Bloomington, Seymour, Richmond and North Vernon. "Each road to some degree has premature cracking and is visibly aging," Tally said. The department says that the asphalt mixture used by O'Mara did not follow state specifications and was prone to early decay. O'Mara disagreed and replied that it would not repave the roads, Tally said. The two sides are now in negotiations. The demand is part of an INDOT review — disclosed by IndyStar in September — of 188 road projects to find out whether the correct asphalt mixture was used. The list has been whittled to 136 projects worth \$57 million. On Wednesday, officials announced that Brooks Construction had agreed to resurface 3 miles of the Hoosier Heartland Highway near Logansport. INDOT had demanded that Brooks repave or refund \$5 million it had paid the company for the job. The negotiations lasted more than a year. INDOT eventually got what it wanted: a newly paved road and no legal action, INDOT spokesman Scott Manning said. Newly resurfaced roads are expected to last 20 years, but the Hoosier Heartland Highway eroded to such a degree after three years, state officials said. The \$16 million section was part of a larger project that opened on June 29, 2012.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2016/02/24/indot-wants-four-more-roads-repaved/80864020/>

Agreement set for C.R. 200S project

Journal Review

Bob Cox

2/23/16

Montgomery County Commissioners signed an inter-local agreement with the city of Crawfordsville and the Indiana Department of Transportation describing the distribution of costs for the C.R. 200S road extension. All three entities will have a financial stake in the project with the county bearing the largest share of the costs. The county will pay 73 percent of the construction costs while the city will pay 27 percent. Percentages are based on demographic boundaries. INDOT will be responsible for all of the expenses for intersection construction. Inspection costs will be distributed at 25 percent for each the county and city, while INDOT will pay 50 percent. Right-of-way acquisition costs will be the responsibility of the city and county for property within their areas. Montgomery County Commissioner Terry Hockersmith asked for a clause within the ordinance that will protect the county if the city would annex the property in the future. It was decided by commissioners to include a statement that would have the city reimburse the county, in the event of annexation, for the construction costs at an amortized rate for the next 10 years. Commissioners acted upon citizen Dick German's request to vacate West Street, which lies within the town of Linden. Commissioners amended the original proposal to just

annex the street that lies south and west of German's property. The rest of the street vacation will now have to be requested by another citizen. A new fund for the county health department was established. The source of funds will be donations to the department's community health improvement plan. http://www.journalreview.com/news/article_50438066-d9ec-11e5-9e3a-4f912557afac.html

www.buildindianacouncil.org