



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

February 13, 2014

Mass transit bill heads to House floor

WISHTV
Jim Snell
2/12/14

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) – A committee in the Indiana House of Representatives passed the mass transit bill Wednesday. The vote was 11-to-1 to send it to the full House. Mayor Greg Ballard testified in favor of the new taxes in the bill that is intended to create a better mass transit system in Central Indiana. “I’m asking you to let the voters of Central Indiana remove this obstacle to population attraction,” said Ballard. “Reliable and dependable public transportation is crucial to bringing new people to our city.” Before the final vote the committee removed a new corporate tax from the bill. It now calls for a better bus system that would be supported by higher local income taxes and higher bus fares if voters approve referendums that could be held in as many as seven counties. [Mass transit bill heads to House floor | WISHTV.com](#)

Diverging Diamond: Public Meeting For I-69 & Dupont Interchange Plans (VIDEO)

Indiana’s News Center
Emma Koch
2/12/14

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (21Alive) -- The Indiana Department of Transportation is planning an interchange modification at I-69 and S.R. 1/Dupont Road that is unique to this area. It has a European feel, with traffic being diverted to drive on the left side of the road for the overpass over I-69 and then crossing back over to the right side of the road. It's being called the "diverging diamond interchange". Watch the video to see the traffic patterns. INDOT will be holding a public information meeting Feb. 17 in the Carroll High School auditorium at 6 p.m. The meeting will consist of a presentation and question and answer session. After the meeting, the public will have time to interact the design consultant, contractor and INDOT personnel.

[Diverging Diamond: Public Meeting For I-69 & Dupont Interchange Plans \(VIDEO\) | Indiana's NewsCenter: News, Sports, Weather, Fort Wayne WPTA-TV, WISE-TV, and CW | Local](#)

Video update on state highway funding bill

NUVO/ The Statehouse File
Jessica Wray
2/12/14

Money available for state highway and bridge projects will fall by nearly a quarter during the next budget cycle when cash from the lease of the Indiana Toll Road all but runs out, transportation officials said Wednesday. A drop in gas tax revenue associated the consumers' falling gas

consumption, is putting an additional crimp in the budget. [Video update on state highway funding bill | Politics | NUVO News | Indianapolis, IN](#)

Council backs high-speed rail study with cash

The Journal Gazette

Dan Stockman

2/11/14

Once again, the City Council has voted to support a study needed to bring high-speed passenger rail to the city, but this time council members backed it up with cash. The council voted unanimously Tuesday to give \$200,000 toward an environmental study of a high-speed rail line between Columbus, Ohio, and Chicago, with stops at several cities in between, including Fort Wayne. "I believe this is critically important. If we do not move forward diligently, this project could be in jeopardy," said Geoff Paddock, D-5th, who pushed the measure and has long championed the cause. If built, the rail line would move trains at 110 mph, allowing passengers to get from Fort Wayne to downtown Chicago in two hours or less. Paddock said \$200,000 represents about 10 percent of the expected cost of the 18-month, three-state study, which is required before federal officials will consider paying for 80 percent of the \$1.2 billion rail project. Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association officials have said that the Indiana Department of Transportation could pay for half of Indiana's share in the study, but officials at INDOT and other cities are looking to Fort Wayne to commit funding first. The Allen County commissioners considered a request for \$50,000 last week and generally backed the idea, but said they needed to draw up a formal proposal identifying where the money would come from. [Council backs high-speed rail study with cash | The Journal Gazette](#)

Complaints mount about condition of old US 31 route through Kokomo since new bypass opening

Daily Reporter

2/11/14

KOKOMO, Indiana — Many drivers are complaining about the condition of the former U.S. 31 route through Kokomo that remains the state's responsibility despite the opening of the new bypass around the city last fall. Mayor Greg Goodnight said the city hasn't been able to reach a deal with the Indiana Department of Transportation about taking over what is now Indiana 931 despite more than a year of talks. The two sides are millions of dollars apart on what they state would pay the city toward future road maintenance and that negotiations have been put on hold, Goodnight told the Kokomo Tribune. The Kokomo bypass is part of a \$1.2 billion reconstruction project for U.S. 31 linking Indianapolis and South Bend. Other major parts include roadway sections being built in the northern suburbs of Indianapolis and between South Bend and Plymouth. Local governments have taken over other sections of former state highways under agreements such as a 2012 deal under which the highway agency paid nearly \$23 million to Lafayette for it to take over a section of U.S. 52. [Complaints mount about condition of old US 31 route through Kokomo since new bypass opening](#)

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