



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **February 25, 2014**

#### **Vote delayed on mass transit bill**

The Herald Bulletin  
Zach Osowski  
2/25/14

INDIANAPOLIS — A mass transit bill, which could lead to a tax increase in Madison County, will be considered today in the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee. Chairman Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville, heard testimony Monday on Senate Bill 176. It would enable several central Indiana counties, including Madison, to set up mass-transit programs. Brown decided to postpone a vote on the bill and several amendments until today to allow the Republican caucus time to discuss changes. If the amendments are passed, the bill won't look like the original one passed by the Senate last week. Proposed amendments would put the option for light rail back in the bill, take Hendricks County out of the list of counties and find some way to encourage corporations to lend money to the program. The Senate version allowed for a voter referendum for mass transit funding in Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Johnson, Madison and Marion counties. The House Roads and Transportation Committee stripped out language that originally had businesses paying 10 percent of the cost of a transit system. That committee had also added Hendricks County to the bill. Rep. Gerald Torr, R-Carmel, the house sponsor of SB 176, said a proposed amendment would try to find a way to get some of that money back in without putting too much of a burden on corporations. [Vote delayed on mass transit bill » Breaking News » The Herald Bulletin](#)

#### **INDOT closing U.S. 31 in Carmel for better part of 2014**

Indianapolis Business Journal  
Kathleen McLaughlin  
2/25/14

A section of U.S. 31 in Carmel will be closed as early as April 4 until Thanksgiving, instead of next year, the Indiana Department of Transportation announced Tuesday. The closure is from 136th Street on the north end to Old Meridian Street on the south end, and will affect motorists headed to IU Health North Hospital, St. Vincent Carmel Hospital, as well as office buildings and hotels in the U.S. 31 corridor. The official detour routes are Keystone Parkway and Interstate 465, but INDOT and Carmel officials are expecting a lot of local traffic to be diverted onto Illinois and Pennsylvania streets, which run parallel to U.S. 31. During the closure, motorists will be able to cross over U.S. 31 at 136th and Old Meridian, which is a small street just north of the intersection at 116th Street. The closure is part of the larger \$1.2 billion upgrade to U.S. 31 that's removing traffic signals and building new overpasses and interchanges, all to shave 30 minutes off the drive time between Indianapolis and South Bend. The \$141 million contract for the Carmel section was awarded last year to a joint venture between E&B Paving Inc. and Gradex Inc. [INDOT closing U.S. 31 in Carmel for better part of 2014 | 2014-02-25 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

### **House committee mulls corporate contribution to mass transit**

Indianapolis Business Journal  
Kathleen McLaughlin  
2/24/14

Whether to make businesses ante up for the creation of a mass-transit system they have pushed for will be a key consideration in House Republicans' vote on the issue Monday at the Indiana Statehouse. The House Ways and Means Committee on Monday morning took up Senate Bill 176, which authorizes central Indiana counties to pass tax increases for a regional mass-transit system, with four amendments. One of the amendments would require 10 percent of revenue for the system to come from non-traditional sources, not local tax sources or fares. Indy Chamber lobbyist Mark Fisher said there's nothing to prevent IndyGo or any future regional transit authority from being supported by private-sector donations, but he said, "This gives them more of a stick." What form that "stick" might take isn't spelled out in the proposed amendment, but Fisher said there have been discussions about using advertising, public-private partnerships to build transportation stops, or revenue guarantees, in which case a company might agree to buy so many passes each year. Chairman Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville, held off on voting, saying the Republican caucus wanted to discuss the bill, especially the issue of private-sector funding. The committee will convene and take votes later Monday. The bill already passed the House Roads and Transportation Committee, which stripped out original language requiring 10 percent of revenue to come from a local corporate-income tax. [House committee mulls corporate contribution to mass transit | 2014-02-24 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

### **Differences could push mass transit bill off the road**

Indianapolis Star  
Vic Ryckaert  
2/22/14

A scaled-back transit bill is moving through the Indiana General Assembly but could hit roadblocks if the House and Senate can't work out differences. "(Mass transit) is vitally important to the future growth of the city," said Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, the House sponsor of a proposal to let voters in seven counties decide on a local tax hike to pay for better bus service. Torr is confident the bill eventually will win House approval, but he expressed concerns whether both chambers can agree on a plan to send to the governor. "The question is whether we can get it in a form the Senate can concur on or if we will have to go to conference committee," he said. Success in the Statehouse is the first part of the battle for Torr and other supporters. Eventually, they will have to convince voters — particularly rural residents least likely to ride buses — that mass transit is worth a tax increase. [Differences could push mass transit bill off the road | Indianapolis Star | indystar.com](#)

### **INDOT engineers begin final planning in preparation for Winchester Gateway project**

Winchester News-Gazette  
Bill Richmond  
2/21/14

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) engineers Tuesday met with contractors, construction consultants and the landscape designer to discuss the mobilization of crews and equipment for Winchester's Gateway Project. Morphey Construction of Indianapolis, the project's prime contractor, offered a timeline that calls for the placement of construction signage in late March - with actual construction activities to begin in early April. This \$664,383 intersection enhancement project will be built along the infields on the south side of State Road 32 at its interchange with U.S. Highway 27. The project includes serpentine walls with decorative metal

work, a mounded terrain, special lighting and signage that welcomes motorists to the city. INDOT spokesperson Harry Maginity said traffic disruption by the construction process should be minimal. [Winchester News-Gazette: Serving Winchester, Indiana > News > INDOT engineers begin final planning in preparation for Winchester Gateway project](#)

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