



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **February 27, 2014**

#### **Obama kicks off debate on big highway, transit bill**

NWI Times

Joan Lowy and Stephen Ohlemacher, Associated Press and Keith Benman, NWI Times  
2/26/14

President Barack Obama on Wednesday kicked off the push for a new four-year transportation bill that would put \$300 billion, or about \$75 billion per year, into America's highways and mass transit systems. That would represent a big increase in the \$52.5 billion in annual funding under the current two-year transportation bill, called Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21. Projects proposed for Northwest Indiana such as the Illiana Expressway and the South Shore extension hinge on adequate funding under the transportation bill, most of which flows through state departments of transportation. Obama was announcing the proposal Wednesday at the Union Depot rail and bus station in St. Paul after touring a light rail maintenance facility. Funding for surface transportation programs expires later this year, and the White House says 700,000 jobs could be at risk unless it is renewed. MAP-21 expires in September and Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx warned Wednesday of a "transportation cliff coming in August or September." That's because the Highway Trust Fund, which finances federal highway and transit projects, will need an influx of \$100 billion over the next six years just to maintain transportation spending levels. But Obama and Congress have been unwilling to raise federal gas and diesel taxes that have been the main source of federal transportation funding for decades. Obama is proposing that half of the \$302 billion he's seeking come from an overhaul of corporate taxes, but he says he's open to other ideas. [Obama kicks off debate on big highway, transit bill](#)

---

[www.buildindianacouncil.org](http://www.buildindianacouncil.org)