



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 25, 2014

INDOT: \$86M in federal funds available for local projects

The Brazil Times
3/25/14

Beginning April 14, the Indiana Department of Transportation will accept applications from cities, towns and counties for an estimated \$86 million in federal transportation funding. In early February, INDOT awarded \$86 million in federal transportation funding for local projects that would be bid beginning July 2016. The latest round of funding is for projects that would be designed, developed and have purchased land according to federal standards prior to bid during the state fiscal year beginning July 2017. Rural communities may submit any local project eligible for \$73 million in federal highway funds, including bridge, road and safety projects. In addition, all communities may seek \$13 million in Transportation Alternatives funding for non-motorized projects such as trails and Safe Routes to School projects. INDOT sets aside 25 percent of the federal highway funds appropriated by Congress each year to fund larger local transportation projects. Metropolitan Planning Organizations distribute federal highway funds to local communities within the state's larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas. To receive federal funding, typically communities must pay 20 percent in local matching funds.

[Brazil Times: Local News: INDOT: \\$86M in federal funds available for local projects \(03/25/14\)](#)

Region's drive for transit shifts to voters

Indianapolis Star
Christine Altman
3/21/14

The Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority and other groups across the region applaud state lawmakers for passing Senate Bill 176, the mass transit bill. This is a great start for local transit discussions and in giving communities the choice to invest in an improved and expanded transit system for the region. We've long known that improved transit is a high priority for many Central Indiana residents, and we're pleased our lawmakers have agreed. In particular, we appreciate the leadership of Sens. Patricia Miller, Luke Kenley and Brent Waltz and Reps. Jerry Torr, Greg Porter and Cherrish Pryor, who led the way with their caucuses. In addition, credit should go to our local elected officials, specifically the 18 mayors and town council presidents in the Regional Council of Elected Officials, who championed the bill. Now the responsibility for assessing and voting on mass transit shifts to voters. That means organizations like CIRT have a responsibility for providing information to the public and offering opportunities for meaningful discussion and debate. We look forward to providing that support in the coming months as local government considers improved transit and voters prepare to make their voices heard. Here are key points of the final bill: It allows six counties – Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock,

Johnson, Madison and Marion — to have voter referendums on whether to create a dedicated funding source for transit projects. In addition, townships that are adjacent to a county or township whose voters already approved a mass transit plan could elect, at the township level to have referendums as well. [Region's drive for transit shifts to voters](#)

Study will seek answers to transportation funding issue

Indianapolis Business Journal
Jacob Rund / The Statehouse File
3/21/14

The Indiana Department of Transportation will launch an expansive study seeking new ways to finance road construction and maintenance, according to a bill passed by the Indiana legislature awaiting the governor's signature. House Bill 1104, authored by Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, authorizes INDOT to contract with a third party to study methods that could be used to fund the state's infrastructure. The bill comes as revenue from Indiana's gasoline tax has stagnated or fallen, in part because the increased fuel economy of most modern vehicles means Hoosiers are buying less gas. That's raised concerns among lawmakers that the state might not have the cash it needs in the future to keep up with road construction. Federal officials are facing similar questions. "Infrastructure across America is falling apart," Soliday said. "The gas tax and the diesel fuel tax is a fixed number. It hasn't been raised for years. Inflation is eating away at that money." Although the gas tax has consistently been relied on to fund the state's road projects, the tax is set at a fixed rate – one that hasn't increased since 2003 – and does not account for inflation. That means that the amount of money generated by the tax and available to use on statewide transportation continues to decline. "We think the study is extremely important because the sources of fuel for various types of vehicles are changing and our current funding system hasn't kept up with that," said Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. "Solving and addressing this challenge is a high priority for us." [Study will seek answers to transportation funding dilemma | 2014-03-21 | Indianapolis Business Journal | IBJ.com](#)

Proposed U.S. 33 project in Goshen draws support, criticism at INDOT hearing

The Elkhart Truth
Angelle Barbazon
3/21/14

GOSHEN — Homeowners on the east side of Goshen and drivers who regularly take U.S. 33 to and from work voiced concerns Thursday evening, March 20, about a major road project proposed by the Indiana Department of Transportation. INDOT hosted a public meeting Thursday at Goshen High School to collect comments about the project. The department has come up with a plan to reroute part of U.S. 33 to the outskirts of Goshen's historic district. The plan for the proposed route, known as the northern connector, calls for realigning U.S. 33 between Monroe Street and S.R. 15 so that the two-lane road runs parallel to the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks on the east side of town. The construction project would include three overpasses built at Cottage Avenue, Lincoln Avenue and the railroad spur that runs north and south along the east side of Ninth Street. INDOT has proposed closing the railroad crossing at Ninth Street. City officials told the crowd of more than 200 people who the project has been a long time coming, touting it as the "preferred alternative." "Nobody likes to hear it, but it's for the greater good," Goshen mayor Allan Kauffman said. "When we do these projects, we have to look at the benefit for the whole community, and I agree this is the project that needs to happen, and I'm probably not going to stick a shovel in the ground before my term ends, but I'm glad to see this finally getting to this point." [Proposed U.S. 33 project in Goshen draws support, criticism at INDOT hearing - Elkhart Truth](#)

Indianapolis Boulevard in line for \$6 million renovation

NWI Times
Matt Wilkus
3/20/14

WHITING | Indianapolis Boulevard will be repaved from Calumet to Schrage avenues in a \$6 million renovation project announced Thursday in Whiting. The funds for the 1.5 mile repaving project, which is expected to take 15 months, will largely come from state coffers. Because that stretch of road passes through Hammond and Whiting, both communities with share in the cost of the work. Hammond will contribute \$600,000, and \$2.1 million will come from Whiting. "Combining the work from two cities into one project is going to help us increase our efficiency," Robert Alderman, Indiana Department of Transportation deputy commissioner, told the Whiting/Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce on Thursday. The road falls within Hammond's boundaries from Calumet Avenue to Atchison Avenue, and in Whiting from Atchison to 121st Street. The road runs along the two boundaries from 121st to Lake George Trail, enters back into Hammond until White Oak Avenue, then back to Whiting to Schrage Avenue. Indianapolis Boulevard, the primary thoroughfare through the Whiting/Robertsdale area, carries more than 35,000 vehicles a day. During construction, one lane of Indianapolis Boulevard will remain open to traffic in each direction, but Whiting Mayor Joe Stahura said the city will try to encourage alternate routes. [Indianapolis Boulevard in line for \\$6 million renovation : Whiting News](#)

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