



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 9, 2017

Letter: Gas tax increase bad for Hoosiers

Daily Journal
3/9/17

I write to give your readers additional information regarding the gas tax increase passed by the Indiana House in House Bill 1002. This tax will reflect poorly upon Indiana. Johnson County residents should be aware their elected Republican representatives voted in favor of this tax increase, and some of them violated pledges they took to not raise taxes. This tax will immediately take us to the sixth highest gas tax rate in the country, and will put us in line with wonderful tax bastions such as California, Washington and New York. The automatic indexed increases may very well drive the rate even higher. Indiana will be by far the highest rate in the Midwest under this measure. Those traveling through the state on the interstate highway system will certainly take advantage of the more favorable tax environment in neighboring states for their fuel needs. This will further shift the burden of road wear upon average Hoosier residents. The bill also further increases our already high registration fees. The bill also allows the governor to impose tolls unilaterally without additional legislative approval. I have it on good authority studies are already underway for tolling on I-70 and I-65. Indiana is well positioned as the Crossroads of America and a logistical hub. I hope Indiana Republicans do not damage this as a result of their tax and fee policies. Though I suppose they will continue to offset the costs to major players through continued corporate welfare handouts at the expense of Indiana taxpayers.
http://www.dailyjournal.net/2017/03/09/letter_gas_tax_increase_bad_for_hoosiers/

Holcomb: Don't 'raid our rainy day fund' for roads

Journal & Courier
Jeremy Ervin
3/8/17

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Repairing and expanding roads, bridges and rail lines is the "job that literally can never end," said Purdue President and former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels. Above the soft clinking of silverware, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb met with Daniels on Wednesday to discuss long-term infrastructure funding in Indiana. The talk served as the keynote event for the Purdue University Road School Transportation Conference and Expo, which began on Monday. Failing to create a sustainable long-term infrastructure plan, Holcomb said, is not an option. "I view (funding) as a menu and a series of dials, if you dial one up, you can dial one down — or completely off," Holcomb said. "I am not one who wants to raid our rainy day fund for a one-time high and jeopardize our AAA credit rating. I'm not one who just wants to borrow and bond and simply tax someone else in the future." Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski was in the crowd alongside other local government officials. He said he was glad to see the state's governor determined to figure out infrastructure funding. "That everything is on the table, the only thing that is not on the table is doing nothing — that was great to hear." Roswarski said. "We know that to be

competitive, as he said, into the future, we've got to do that." Regardless of what form funding eventually takes, Holcomb said Indiana's starting position to continue as a major transportation hub is "strong." "No state has invested like Indiana has in our infrastructure — roads and bridges specifically," Holcomb said. "Having said that, we always have to look toward the future." "We have to look out ten to twenty years from now if we're going to maintain this leadership position and take advantage of leveraging our location, location, location."

<http://www.jconline.com/story/news/2017/03/08/holcomb-daniels-talk-infrastructure/98813814/>

County signs contract to have all bridges inspected

The Lebanon Reporter

Rod Rose

3/8/17

A four-year agreement to inspect all of Boone County's 189 bridges has been approved by the county commissioners. The \$472,600 agreement with United Consulting will include on-site inspections in two phases, beginning this year, Boone County Highway Engineer Craig Parks said. The inspections are mandated by the Indiana Department of Transportation. Bridges to be inspected in the third and fourth years of the contract will only be those that require inspection every 12 months, due to their condition ratings, Parks said in an email. A federal grant will reimburse 80 percent of the cost, Parks said. "This is more than our inspection contracts have been in the past because INDOT is requiring more in the scope," Parks told the commissioners. "There is a lot more analysis that goes into inspections." Brian Frederick of United Consulting said that INDOT has a bridge load rating the agency wants local highway departments to use. "There is a lot of effort, initially, in getting that data in there," Frederick said. Commissioner Marc Applegate said it was frustrating to have to meet another mandate. "We have so little funding these days," Applegate said. But Parks said the inspection will be beneficial because it will produce more information about the condition of the county's bridges.

http://www.reporter.net/news/local_news/county-signs-contract-to-have-all-bridges-inspected/article_68b54d41-0d62-5b9d-8a0a-c3e2d43a7ec0.html

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