



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 17, 2016

NWI transportation faces critical choices for the future

NWI Times
Keith Benman
3/17/16

A highly respected transportation study recently revealed traffic congestion in Northwest Indiana had surged 45 percent, with the cost of congestion soaring to \$500 million from \$300 million just two years before. That study jumbles forecasts for progress in transportation in Northwest Indiana, but the fate of our commute to work and transporting goods through the Region remains in our hands, according to Tyson Warner, executive director at the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. "There are different choices we have; we are not total slaves to this," Warner said. "We have options. We just have to act on them." In making those choices, the goal is not just to cut the time and cost of being stuck in traffic, but also to leverage all that transportation activity for economic development locally, Warner said. There may be no single set of projects that will both reduce congestion and promote economic development more than those contemplated for the South Shore commuter railroad by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, according to proponents. http://www.nwitimes.com/business/nwi-transportation-faces-critical-choices-for-the-future/article_510effe3-8632-50fa-9b09-62f9de4c88a4.html

State road plan provides \$13 million for local governments

The Lebanon Reporter
Rod Rose
3/15/16

If the Indiana General Assembly's decision to give towns, cities and counties access to \$430 million in road funding can be considered a windfall, it is a windfall with teeth. The \$430 million will come from local income tax collections that have been held in reserve by the state. Lebanon would receive \$2.2 million, Zionsville \$3.5 million, Whitestown \$1.5 million and Boone County \$4.1 million under the plan. The one-time distribution is spread over the next two years. The state's plan will also provide Advance with \$39,291, Jamestown with \$41,470 and Thorntown with \$72,124. Money for Boone County's 12 townships ranges from \$44,285 for Jackson to \$108,118 for Worth. The General Assembly's plan gives towns and cities of 10,000 or more population the option of implementing a wheel tax, a funding source previously available only to counties. Lebanon Mayor Matt Gentry rejected the wheel tax option. "I am not a supporter of a wheel tax," Gentry said Monday. "I think other counties and cities have found ways to work together to fund our public projects and make sure our roads are in a quality condition." Zionsville Mayor Tim Haak said a wheel tax decision would be up to the town council. Gentry was disappointed the General Assembly did not address a permanent road funding solution. "I think the legislature came up with a stop-gap measure," he said, adding he favored the road plan the Indiana House

had been given to consider. "It's a shot in the arm, but it's just that, short term," Gentry said. "We'll have to be very wise with the money." http://www.reporter.net/news/local_news/state-road-plan-provides-million-for-local-governments/article_918c4dc8-5eff-5822-bbb7-2edc53b48e37.html

INDOT Announces \$117M in Road Projects

Inside INdiana Business

Alex Brown

3/15/16

The Indiana Department of Transportation has announced a major investment in road and bridge projects throughout the state. INDOT has awarded 65 contracts worth \$117 million. The contracts include 24 bridge and road paving projects, 13 bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects and maintenance or repairs to six bridges. Sixteen of the projects were for city, town and county projects. INDOT says it has been expanding its investments in maintenance and preservation projects for pavement and bridges. Over the last three years, state bridges rated as "fair or better" have increased from 93 percent to 95.3 percent. The national average is 94 percent.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/31474784/indot-announces-117m-in-road-projects>

www.buildindianacouncil.org