



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**March 23, 2017**

### **Last leg of I-69 clears big paper hurdle**

Times Herald  
Mike Grant  
3/22/17

The Indiana Department of Transportation has released the final Environmental Impact Statement on the last leg of Interstate 69, moving the road one step closer to completion. The 1,500-page Tier 2 Draft concludes that completing the road from Martinsville to Indianapolis will not only improve travel times, but also improve safety for travelers in the corridor as well as increase economic activity. "This is a very important document," said Lamar Holliday, public involvement specialist with INDOT on the I-69 project. "With sections one through four open and section five under construction, this begins the work to finish the corridor connection from Evansville to Indianapolis." The Draft EIS recommends a preferred route that runs 26 miles in the SR 37 corridor from Martinsville to Indianapolis. It calls for a new or upgraded roadway with 10 exits, 16 underpasses or overpasses and new local access roads. The route was chosen after public hearings in which 85 percent of those responding suggested the SR 37 corridor. "This is an important milestone for an important project, and it couldn't have been accomplished without the significant amount of public input we received from hundreds of citizens, elected officials and civic organizations along the corridor," said Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe McGuinness. "This draft study moves us closer to what's been talked about for so, so long -- finishing I-69 and having a free flow of traffic from Evansville to Indianapolis." The report estimates construction will cost a minimum of \$1.35 billion. It is expected to reduce the number of accidents in the corridor by around 200 per year. As a result of the completed project the road is expected to help generate around 1,400 new jobs by 2045. During that same time population in the area is expected to grow by at least 1,700 people. The new jobs over 20 years are expected to bring in \$1.6 billion in additional income and increase tax revenues by \$145 million.

[http://www.washtimesherald.com/news/local\\_news/last-leg-of-i--clears-big-paper-hurdle/article\\_fd1c7afa-a96f-552d-879c-7e8bdccba243.html](http://www.washtimesherald.com/news/local_news/last-leg-of-i--clears-big-paper-hurdle/article_fd1c7afa-a96f-552d-879c-7e8bdccba243.html)

### **Gas station offers 50 cents off to fight proposed gas tax**

WANE  
March 21, 2017

FORT WAYNE A Fort Wayne gas station will offer discount fuel on Wednesday as it makes a case against the proposed gas tax hike. The Mac Food Mart gas station at 4136 W. Washington Center Road will drop the cost of gas 50 cents per gallon during its "No Gas Tax Hike" tax-free gas event from 10 a.m. until noon Wednesday. The offer is good for the first 200 customers during the two-hour event. Americans for Prosperity, advocates for spending gas tax revenues on roads and bridges rather than increasing the gas tax, is behind the event at the station. Last month, the Indiana House approved a roads plan that would raise the gasoline tax by 10 cents,

as well as increase vehicle registration fees, to fund improvements to the state's infrastructure. Last week, a legislative panel heard testimony on the measure and is expected to vote on the measure at a later meeting. <http://wane.com/2017/03/21/gas-station-offers-50-cents-off-to-fight-proposed-gas-tax/>

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