



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 24, 2016

Gov. Pence signs bill boosting Indiana roads funding

Indianapolis Star
Aric Chokey
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Indiana Gov. Mike Pence on Wednesday praised a short-term road funding package, saying it will pump millions of dollars in additional money into needed infrastructure improvements without raising taxes. The deal reached in the last days of the legislative session will put roughly \$230 million in new money into state highways and bridges over the next two years. That is just a fraction of the \$1 billion boost over four years that Pence sought, but it doesn't include an election-year increase in cigarette and gasoline taxes proposed by House Republicans as a longer-term plan to increase funding. The funding plan draws down the state's \$2 billion budget reserve and also gives about \$580 million to city and county governments for road projects, with much of that a one-time distribution from local income taxes held in reserve by the state. Road funding was a major debate during this year's legislative session — and Pence said he was pleased with the outcome. "We were able to prove in this session that we were able to do it without raising taxes," he said. "I'll bring that same bias to any future debates." Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma and other GOP legislative leaders joined Pence for a ceremonial signing of the roads package Wednesday in Westfield. Pence formally signed it into law during a Fort Wayne event later in the day. Bosma said he expected lawmakers to debate a longer-term road funding plan during their work next year on a new state budget. "I ultimately think that the goal is to get the sales tax on gasoline to roads," Bosma said. "We want there to be a long-term funding plan in place." <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2016/03/23/gov-pence-signs-bill-boosting-indiana-roads-funding/82164978/>

GOP failed to act on big issues

The Star Press
Senator Tim Lanane
3/23/16

Time and tides stand still for no one. But progress seems to be of little concern to Gov. Mike Pence and Republican Statehouse leaders, who skillfully dodged and delayed action on just about every big ticket item this session. Make no mistake, from some of the lowest wage growth in the country, to the highest levels of drug abuse, basement level health rankings and infrastructure going unfortified, our state faces critical problems that demand leadership. Yet, Gov. Pence decided it was better to coast, leaving the difficult decisions for another day and keeping a low profile heading into this election year. Where does that leave Hoosiers? Left behind. The state of Indiana's roads and bridges demands a sustainable, long-term funding solution. Hoosier motorists are paying \$391 annually in the form of blown tires or bent wheels. We live with the reality of dodging potholes and detouring around closed bridges. All four

legislative caucuses brought infrastructure proposals but Gov. Pence buried any long-term solution, opting for another study and another stopgap. Consider also the cost to Indiana's businesses in lost time spent sitting in traffic. Every year we fail to find a sustainable, long-term solution, our roads and bridges are a year more outdated and the price tag to fix them just keeps climbing. <http://www.thestarpress.com/story/opinion/contributors/2016/03/23/gop-failed-act-big-issues/82160846/>

Region likely to see few benefits from Pence-signed roads plan

NWI Times
Dan Carden
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Northwest Indiana probably will not see much road construction as a result of Gov. Mike Pence signing two laws Wednesday that contain up to \$1 billion in short-term infrastructure funding. House Enrolled Act 1001 spends \$338 million on state highways over the next two years by withdrawing \$228 million from the state's \$2 billion budget reserve, and taking \$100 million set aside in last year's budget for new roads and repurposing it for pavement and bridge preservation. The state actually needs nearly \$300 million each year in additional spending just to take care of what it has, according to a 2014 analysis by the Indiana Department of Transportation. Spending less will increase the 12.5 percent of bridges and 11.4 percent of roads expected to be in poor condition by 2024. Under Senate Enrolled Act 67, Indiana's cash-strapped localities will get a combined \$430 million of their own income tax collections back from a state holding fund — with a mandate to spend at least 75 percent of the money on roads. Local governments in Lake County will receive \$31.3 million, Porter County units will get \$4.3 million, LaPorte County \$4.9 million, Newton County \$670,000 and Jasper County \$10.4 million. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/region-likely-to-see-few-benefits-from-pence-signed-roads/article_6ec2e60f-f01c-5029-8913-06c41f42dc06.html

Pence to Sign Transportation, Regional Cities Bill

Inside INdiana Business
Andy Ober
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Governor Mike Pence says he will sign a more than \$1.2 billion road and bridge funding bill into law today. The measure includes \$42 million to fund an expanded Regional Cities Initiative. The two-year funding bill is significantly stripped down from earlier versions and was a result of a compromise among Indiana House and Senate lawmakers. The measure uses a combination of state reserves, tax re-allocations, Major Moves dollars and proceeds from last year's tax amnesty program to fund the projects. Previous proposals included tax hikes on gas and cigarettes. Pence will ceremonially sign the bill at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Park Administration Building in Westfield. At 2:30 p.m., he will officially sign the measure at the Allen County Court House Rotunda in Fort Wayne. <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/31540248/pence-to-sign-transportation-regional-cities-bill>