



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 12, 2015

In Indiana, keeping common wage law is common sense

The Elkhart Truth

3/11/15

What the Indiana House of Representatives has done to eliminate the common wage for construction projects, the Indiana Senate must undo. There are two ways of looking at House Bill 1019, which was approved by a 55-41 House vote. One is that it lets the free market set prices and wages on public works projects. "This is taxpayer protection," said state Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, who sponsored HB 1019. The other view, which we believe is wisest, is that maintaining the common wage system in place for 80 years encourages quality workmanship by local workers. "If you really believe that lowering wages in your community is what people sent you here to do, then you vote for this bill," said state Rep. Chuck Moseley, D-Portage. We agree. Keeping the existing mechanism in place accomplishes a number of goals, all of which are good for the local economy. One is simply to keep local construction workers employed. When wages are set at a standard that encourages local construction workers to be hired for government jobs, that gainful employment allows the workers to meet their responsibilities to their creditors and to their families. Those dollars also percolate their way through the local economy, supporting other local jobs as well.

[In Indiana, keeping common wage law is common sense - Elkhart Truth](#)

State takes new approach to transportation funding

Journal & Courier

Chris Morisse Vizza

3/11/15

Karl Browning wants to change the way Indiana taxpayers and government leaders think about paying for transportation improvements. Browning, the Indiana Department of Transportation commissioner, presented his ideas Wednesday to county, city and state engineers and elected officials attending the 101st annual Purdue University Road School. Traditionally, projects are prioritized according to the amount of money available annually from state and federal tax revenues. If that isn't enough, elected leaders turn to taxes on fuel and vehicles or tolls. Instead, Indiana should first determine what type of transportation system it needs, Browning said. "It's not about an unmet need as much as it's about 'Where do we as a state want to be?'" he said. Indiana is the crossroads of America, particularly for freight transportation, simply because it's located in the heart of the country, he said. Fourteen interstates run through Indiana, more than any other state. More than 30 railroads operate in Indiana, the third highest in the nation.

<http://www.jconline.com/story/news/2015/03/11/indot-search-funding-road-rail-projects/70175438/>

Public Transportation Advocates Rally For Funding Increase

Indiana Public Media

Brandon Smith

3/10/15

Public transportation advocates gathered at the Statehouse Tuesday to urge lawmakers to dramatically increase statewide funding for public transit. The General Assembly hasn't increased dollars in the state's Public Mass Transportation Fund for seven years. Indiana Citizens' Alliance for Transit organizer Kim Irwin says that's despite a 15 percent increase in transit ridership in the last decade. Her group wants lawmakers to increase funding to \$60 million a year, up from \$42.5 million in the last budget. She says that kind of funding increase would make a huge difference. "That's about having buses on the roads longer periods of time each day and on days of the week they don't currently operate; it's about having buses come more frequently," Irwin says. Rep. Tim Brown, R-Crawfordsville, proposed a budget that includes a roughly \$6.5 million increase for public mass transit. He says transit is important as the state becomes more urbanized. "People younger age want to live in a city and not have to worry about a car. It makes sense long-term for growth of our state," he says. Brown says he can't promise a funding increase in this year's budget but acknowledges its importance moving forward.

[Public Transportation Advocates Rally For Funding Increase | News - Indiana Public Media](#) Also, [Public transit advocates rally at statehouse | Fox 59](#)

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