



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

March 13, 2014

Indiana lawmakers eyeing roads, preschool deals

News-Sentinel
Tom LoBianco
3/13/14

INDIANAPOLIS — Votes on deals to spend heavily on new road construction and a preschool pilot program are expected to dominate the final day of this year's legislative session in Indiana on Thursday. The agreements between Statehouse Republican leaders announced late Wednesday would have the state potentially release \$400 million for transportation projects this year. Bosma said he believes the state could use the \$400 million to leverage up to \$2.4 billion for highway projects — including additional lanes for Interstates 65, 69 and 70 — through federal funding. The first \$200 million would be given to the Indiana Department of Transportation immediately, but the second half would only be released after legislators receive an update of the state's finances in December.

[Indiana lawmakers eyeing roads, preschool deals - News-Sentinel.com](http://www.news-sentinel.com/story/news/politics/2014/03/13/indiana-lawmakers-eyeing-roads-preschool-deals/6541171)

Progress made on mass transit compromise

Indianapolis Star
Tony Cook
3/12/14

A bill that would clear the way for a mass transit system in Central Indiana is poised for a final vote after House and Senate negotiators agreed Wednesday to exclude light rail and remove a proposed business tax from the measure. Senate Bill 176, which would allow six counties to have voter referendums on whether to fund mass transit projects, still needs approval from the full House and Senate by today, the anticipated final day of this year's legislative session. The bill is a culmination of repeated efforts in recent years to fund an expanded mass transit system in Marion County and surrounding counties. Previous measures have failed to advance. Supporters, including Mayor Greg Ballard, say expanded transit is critical if Indianapolis wants to remain competitive with other cities. But some opponents worry that the cost of a mass transit system could spiral out of control. The transit issue is one of dozens of down-to-the-wire decisions lawmakers will have to make today. Among the others are proposals to cut business taxes, create a preschool voucher program, allow guns in vehicles in school parking lots, and test welfare recipients for drugs. Sen. Patricia Miller, R-Indianapolis, and Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Carmel, have been negotiating on the mass transit measure ever since the House and Senate passed different versions earlier in the session.

[Progress made on mass transit compromise](http://www.indianapolisstar.com/story/news/politics/2014/03/12/progress-made-on-mass-transit-compromise/6541171)

Pence tells highway planners he's 'cautiously optimistic' about road funding legislation

Journal and Courier
Hayleigh Colombo
3/12/14

Gov. Mike Pence said Wednesday afternoon he was “cautiously optimistic” that lawmakers would pass a last-minute bill in the General Assembly to boost road construction funding. A bill to spend up to \$400 million on new road construction may still have a chance to be approved this year. It’s one of three key issues Republican leaders are trying to pass before the 2014 legislative session wraps up this week. “I am profoundly grateful to the Indiana General Assembly, and I hope at this time tomorrow I’m even more grateful to the Indiana General Assembly for their efforts and their support of infrastructure,” Pence said at a luncheon at Purdue University celebrating the 100th anniversary of Purdue Road School. “I believe it’s absolutely essential that in this session in the General Assembly we also free up additional resources.” Lawmakers announced Tuesday they were working on last-minute compromises on the road funding, tax cuts and preschool, according to the Associated Press. Pence spoke in prepared remarks to the Purdue Road School group and did not accept questions from the media.

[Pence tells highway planners he's 'cautiously optimistic' about road funding legislation | Journal and Courier | jconline.com](#)

Transit questions remain

Pharos-Tribune
3/11/14

Trust those witty folks in the Indiana General Assembly to keep confounding us simple Hoosiers. Last week, I praised the passage of HB 1020 calling for a study of economic incentives. I made the unforgivable mistake of working off a press release. What I discovered later was the bill itself is a 160 page document laying down the law for all sorts of matters dealing with economic development. Naive as I am, I had endorsed a whole bill, most of which I could not understand. As this column is being written, the legislature has yet to decide if the voters of selected Central Indiana counties will be allowed to vote on a mass transit proposal. Presumably, this bill would improve bus service within, into and out of Marion County. Some new type of bus would be used to swish commuters to and from Hamilton County. Johnson County also might get similar swooshing service. Note that the idea of rail (light or heavy) has been deleted from the current discussion. That does not mean it will not reappear in the final bill. Our incredible legislature is capable of adding or subtracting anything about anything up to the final act of passage which occurs whenever the leadership deems it appropriate. It is difficult to be against improving public transit in the Indianapolis area. The past and current IndyGo system is a model of inadequacy. Improvements, made elsewhere decades earlier, are still not in place in Indianapolis.

[Transit questions remain » Local News » Pharos-Tribune](#)

Schneider: Rerouting I-69 might not produce savings

The Courier Press
Chuck Stinnett
3/11/14

The president of Henderson-based Kyndle (formerly the Henderson Chamber of Commerce) said Tuesday any cost savings associated with Owensboro Mayor Ron Payne’s proposal to reroute I-69 to his city and avoid building a new bridge over the Ohio River might be overstated or even nonexistent. Payne has launched a campaign to use the existing U.S. 231/Natcher Bridge over the Ohio River in eastern Daviess County. Eliminating the planned construction of a new I-69 bridge between Henderson and Evansville would save Kentucky and Indiana \$1 billion, he has said. However, Payne’s proposal would require constructing approximately 38 miles of new interstate roadway in Southern Indiana — mileage that would parallel a newly constructed stretch of I-69. His plan to build a new stretch of interstate from near Dale, Ind., to Washington, Ind. —

which is also part of a proposed Interstate 67 from Bowling Green to Michigan — plus upgrade 26 miles of U.S. 231 in Southern Indiana would cost an estimated \$550 million to \$600 million, according to the website of the I-67 Development Corp., an advocacy group. “That’s \$550 (million) to \$600 million that they (Indiana) don’t have budgeted and haven’t given any consideration of spending,” especially since it just completed construction of I-69 from Evansville to Washington, Ind., just over a year ago, Kyndle President and CEO Brad Schneider said.
[Schneider: Rerouting I-69 might not produce savings » Evansville Courier & Press](#)

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