



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **March 17, 2015**

#### **Officials plan to ask lawmakers to support more road funding**

WISH-TV

Teresa Mackin

3/17/15

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) – Some local leaders plan to head to the statehouse Tuesday to ask lawmakers to support more funding for roads. Members of the Association of Indiana Counties, among others from across the state, plan to speak with legislators about what they call a road funding gap. David Bottorff, Executive Director of Indiana Counties, says lawmakers have been supportive in recent sessions, and they're hoping to maintain support and stress the need for increased funding as well. That money, he says, goes to filling potholes, maintaining roads, aging bridges and relieving congestion. "The general assembly, two years ago, was very generous. They started directing some of the state sales tax for local roads. Because of that, counties received an extra \$60, or \$65 million. We want to make sure that stays in the budget this year, and then see what we can do to possibly expand our revenue," said Bottorff. On the state level, the I-65 Major Moves project is just one example of the new money lawmakers have dedicated to state roads recently. Bottorff says they'd like even more money dedicated to county and community roads as well. "We worked with Purdue University, and they estimated there's at least an immediate \$400 million need for maintenance of current roads at the local level. We certainly understand the general assembly doesn't have that kind of revenue available right now, but again, we want to keep it on their radar, make sure we maintain what we have, ask for some more money this year, then look for a longer term solution," said Bottorff. Bottorff added they need to be looking at the long term solution of roads funding.

[Officials plan to ask lawmakers to support more road funding | WISH-TV](#)

#### **INDOT Announces Hoosier State Line Extension**

Inside INdiana Business

3/13/15

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. - The Amtrak Hoosier State service between Indianapolis and Chicago will continue through the end of April. The announcement follows a Federal Railroad Administration phone call with INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning, during which Acting Administrator Sarah Feinberg committed to reconsider the position that would force the Hoosier State service to end. "It is not clear that the FRA will change its mind," Browning said. "Because Ms. Feinberg committed to reviewing this, we want to give the FRA another opportunity to consider the problems Indiana has been airing." For the past year, INDOT has been working to improve the Hoosier State service on behalf of the state and communities with stops along the Hoosier State line. Recently, INDOT has been making progress in negotiating long-term agreements with two experienced passenger rail providers, Amtrak and Iowa Pacific Holdings. Under the proposed

service, Amtrak would serve as the primary operator, working with host railroads, providing train and engine crews, and managing reservation and ticketing. Iowa Pacific would provide the train equipment, train maintenance, on-board services and marketing.

[INDOT Announces Hoosier State Line Extension - Newsroom - Inside INdiana Business with Gerry Dick](#)

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