



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **March 27, 2014**

#### **Pence Releases Millions For Transportation Projects**

Indiana Public Media  
Brandon Smith  
3/27/2014

Governor Mike Pence says he's confident the Indiana Department of Transportation will receive the full \$400 million set aside by the legislature for major road construction projects. He signed a bill today authorizing the release of the money. The General Assembly last year appropriated \$400 million into a transportation fund for future, long-term projects. After Governor Pence called on the legislature to release that money, lawmakers passed a bill transferring half of the money to INDOT now. Release of the other \$200 million is subject to approval by the State Budget Committee...and that approval hinges largely on the December revenue forecast. Pence says despite revenue struggles this fiscal year, recent job announcements give him confidence in the state's economy: "We're making the kind of fiscal decisions that are going to ensure we end this fiscal year with \$100 million in surplus and I'm very confident that we'll be able at the end of the year, barring unforeseen circumstances, to be able to free up all of those dollars and put them to work in our economy," says Pence. Senate Appropriations Chair Luke Kenley says the money needs to be focused on major improvements to the state's highways. Pence says the dollars will go towards expanding roads such as Interstates 65 and 70.

<http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/pence-releases-millions-transportation-projects-64907/>

Also [http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/pence-inks-infrastructure-bill-during-visit-at-yu/article\\_232f9668-5320-56de-bd92-7e4ca22b49c2.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/pence-inks-infrastructure-bill-during-visit-at-yu/article_232f9668-5320-56de-bd92-7e4ca22b49c2.html)

#### **Mass transit battle's next stop: ballot boxes**

Indianapolis Star  
Barb Berggoetz and Tony Cook  
3/27/2014

The fight over whether to expand mass transit in Central Indiana could be coming to a ballot box near you. If voters approve, it will hit your wallet. After three years of Statehouse lobbying by local government officials and other backers, Gov. Mike Pence signed a bill Wednesday allowing six counties to take steps to enlarge their mass transit systems. "Our capital city is a world-class destination and needs a world-class transit system," Pence said in a statement. "While I still have reservations about the sustainability of expanded mass transit services, I signed this bill because the General Assembly made significant improvements during the legislative process, bringing to closure years of debate on this issue." Bill sponsors and many — but not all — local officials were grateful that local governments and citizens can now decide on the fate of mass transit. The law — scaled back from its original form — affects Marion, Hamilton, Hancock, Johnson, Delaware and Madison counties. They can now opt to conduct voter referendums on funding mass transit projects, primarily by increasing income taxes. But transit backers say it's unlikely local

governments will move to bring the issue to voters this November. Many expect it to take at least until 2015 before voters will get a chance to weigh in.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/politics/2014/03/26/gov-mike-pence-signs-bill-clearing-way-mass-transit-expansion/6925205/> Also <http://www.ibj.com/pence-signs-bill-allowing-counties-to-vote-on-transit-expansion/PARAMS/article/46854> Also <http://fox59.com/2014/03/26/gov-pence-signs-mass-transit-bill/#axzz2xC1Yt5MP>

### **Brazil chamber to help during U.S. 40 project**

WTHI TV10

Jon Swaner

2/27/2014

BRAZIL, Ind. (WTHI) – If you remember the project along US 40 in Plainfield, then you are familiar with what will start in Brazil April 1. This \$20 million project will improve drainage along 40, which the mayor says has been a problem for years. “In doing the flood project like that, there’s a lot of excavation, so we’re getting a new road, curbs and sidewalks out of it, because you gotta dig it all up to get to it anyhow,” said Brazil Mayor Brian Wyndham. Crews will start at the 340-40 intersection and rework the roadway one lane at a time for a stretch of roadway. Then they will come back and finish the other lane. Mayor Wyndham says he’s concerned about traffic, something he says the state and Gradex, the contractor, share. “They’ve been more than willing to communicate with the community with concerns and working with our public safety officials letting them know when certain streets are going to be shut down,” Mayor Wyndham added.

<http://wthitv.com/2014/03/26/brazil-chamber-to-help-during-us-40-project/>

### **\$86 million in federal funds available for local projects**

TriState Media/Warrick Publishing

3/27/2014

Beginning April 14, the Indiana Department of Transportation will accept applications from cities, towns and counties for an estimated \$86 million in federal transportation funding. In early February, INDOT awarded \$86 million in federal transportation funding for local projects that would be bid beginning July 2016. The latest round of funding is for projects that would be designed, developed and have purchased land according to federal standards prior to bid during the state fiscal year beginning July 2017. Rural communities may submit any local project eligible for \$73 million in federal highway funds, including bridge, road and safety projects. In addition, all communities may seek \$13 million in Transportation Alternatives funding for non-motorized projects such as trails and Safe Routes to School projects. INDOT sets aside 25 percent of the federal highway funds appropriated by Congress each year to fund larger local transportation projects. Metropolitan Planning Organizations distribute federal highway funds to local communities within the state’s larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas. To receive federal funding, typically communities must pay 20 percent in local matching funds.

[http://www.tristate-media.com/warrick/community/community\\_news/article\\_4ebafbd4-b4f0-11e3-ad34-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.tristate-media.com/warrick/community/community_news/article_4ebafbd4-b4f0-11e3-ad34-001a4bcf887a.html)

Also <http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/2063608.html>

### **Steel execs go to Washington to protect jobs**

NWI Times

Joseph S. Pete

3/25/2014

Top steel executives visited Washington, D.C., to call on Congress to help make the industry more globally competitive. Industry leaders, including ArcelorMittal USA President and CEO Mike

Rippey and U.S. Steel President and CEO Mario Longhi, testified at a House Steel Caucus hearing Tuesday. They lobbied for the U.S. to enforce trade rules, reduce energy costs and invest in infrastructure. "As the American economy and our energy and critical infrastructure demands rebounded, American steel companies spent billions of dollars to improve (oil country tubular goods) facilities across the country," Longhi said. But the steel market was flat last year. More investment in bridges, roads, rails and ports would boost demand for steel, Rippey said. Upgrades are also needed, because the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the nation's infrastructure a grade of D+ and said an additional \$200 billion would have to be spent a year to get roads, bridges and rail lines up to standard. U.S.Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Merrillville, vice chairman of the steel caucus, echoed the call for more infrastructure investment. He cited the expansion of the South Shore Rail Line as the sort of transportation project needed to strengthen the steel industry, which he described as the backbone of the American manufacturing base. Such investments are vital economically, and not just because of the temporary construction jobs they would create, Visclosky testified.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/steel-execs-go-to-washington-to-protect-jobs/article\\_1bb3c416-3b19-5a16-9f20-efa7e846042d.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/steel-execs-go-to-washington-to-protect-jobs/article_1bb3c416-3b19-5a16-9f20-efa7e846042d.html)

### **Southern Indiana officials question Ohio River Bridges Project impact study**

Jeffersonville News and Tribune

Matt Koesters

3/25/2014

JEFFERSONVILLE — The numbers may have changed, but opponents of tolls still see the Ohio River Bridges Project as a negative for Southern Indiana. The Indiana Finance Authority and the Indiana Department of Transportation invited the public to comment on a new economic impact study relating to the Ohio River Bridges Project at a public hearing Tuesday at the Sheraton Louisville Riverside Hotel in Jeffersonville. The new study, which is a revision of a study released in 2012, relies on a travel model that has been updated to reflect a post-recession economic forecast, said Michael Rodriguez with Boston-based Economic Development Research Corp., the company the authority contracted to conduct the study. The study predicts that the new bridges set to be completed in 2016 will generate a net business output of \$86.7 billion over a 30-year period between 2012 and 2042, with a negative impact from tolls of \$6.35 billion over that same period. Rodriguez said that the positive impact would increase at least as much as the predicted negative toll impact if tolls weren't a factor. The negative impact on Southern Indiana is understated in the impact study, said Mike Kapfhammer, a local businessman and member of the board of the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention & Tourism Bureau. Kapfhammer said that while he agrees with the construction of the new east-end crossing, the downtown crossing component of the project will hurt retail corridors in Clarksville and Jeffersonville.

<http://www.newsandtribune.com/local/x787231589/Southern-Indiana-officials-question-Ohio-River-Bridges-Project-impact-study>