



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**April 19, 2016**

### **Crown Point committee endorses city wheel tax**

NWI Times  
Phil Wieland  
4/18/16

The City Council will consider an ordinance at its May meeting that could increase the amount of money the city has for its roads by four or five times. The council's ordinance committee endorsed the proposed wheel tax Thursday calling for an annual \$25 fee for vehicles under 11,000 pounds and \$40 for larger vehicles. Mayor David Uran estimated the amount of money the fee would generate at about \$1.6 million a year. The city now budgets about \$550,000 in gas tax revenue and property taxes. Additional funds from the city's Redevelopment Commission are used for projects within the tax increment financing districts. If the wheel tax is approved by June 30 and the city also completes a transportation plan for repairing and maintaining roads, it will qualify for a matching grant from the state. Uran said the state Legislature set aside about \$250 million from the state's budget surplus for the grants, and it appears the cities can get \$500,000. The city evaluated all its roads for its annual paving program, and Uran said it would take about \$2.6 million just to take care of the worst ones. Engineering Administrator Bill Kozlowski said it would take about \$6 million annually to keep up with the 138 miles of city roads. Uran said the cost of the wheel tax is much less than the cost to repair the damage to cars from potholes. City Attorney David Nicholls said the city received one claim for \$2,000 for damage caused by bad roads, but Uran said the city's only responsibility is to repair the potholes. [http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/crown-point/crown-point-committee-endorses-city-wheel-tax/article\\_513b4a48-1282-534b-85c7-7e768e20fc91.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/crown-point/crown-point-committee-endorses-city-wheel-tax/article_513b4a48-1282-534b-85c7-7e768e20fc91.html)

### **Council approves \$1.1 million in road funding**

The Lebanon Reporter  
Rod Rose  
4/16/16

Funding what was described as an immediate need, the Boone County Council Tuesday approved spending \$1.1 million for road maintenance this summer, and more could be allotted. County Engineer Craig Parks outlined his spending plan for road improvements, which totaled \$2.95 million. "I wanted to show you what I needed overall," he told the council. The \$1.1 million the council approved will cover chip and seal, striping, micro-surfacing and maintenance projects. During a review of the plan, the council discussed long-term options to pay for road improvements and maintenance. "We need to talk about the state giving us a one-time fund," Council President Steve Jacob said. That one-time award of \$4.1 million will be disbursed by the state on June 1, Parks said. Indiana House Bill 1001 created the disbursement of \$430 million in local income tax revenue that has been held back by the state. Parks said he anticipated that in July the state will ask local highway departments to submit projects to be considered for a 50-50

matching grant. House Bill 1001 created a \$150 million pool for those grants, but also placed a condition on applications. Only two local sources can be used for the local share, Parks said — a wheel tax or the income tax return dollars. “So we should try to keep some of this money back,” Council President Steve Jacob said. “Otherwise, we’re going to be looking at a wheel tax.”  
[http://www.reporter.net/news/local\\_news/council-approves-million-in-road-funding/article\\_4d453a44-c74c-5d93-96b6-69f98d3cb2c2.html](http://www.reporter.net/news/local_news/council-approves-million-in-road-funding/article_4d453a44-c74c-5d93-96b6-69f98d3cb2c2.html)

### **City nabs \$360,000 more for road repairs**

The Herald-Tribune

Debbie Blank

4/15/16

According to Bettice, state Sen. Jean Leising and state Rep. Cindy Ziemke met with the mayor, Gates and city director of operations Tim Macyauski March 22 about more road funding. After state Senate Bill 67 passed, “Batesville will get approximately \$360,000 in additional road funds for this year. It will come in the next few months.” House Bill 1001 allows for the possibility of matching money if the road improvements are for an economic development project. He admitted, “We are not there yet, but we have an opportunity to match some of those dollars.” Councilman Kevin Chaffee asked if those road funds had been earmarked. Bettice maintained, “During the last couple of years, we have not kept up with some of our road repair work.” He wants to catch up with that, plus use part of the funding for the Merkel Road rehab. Because that road leads to the shell building, which the city constructed and wants to sell to attract a company with jobs, “if that’s not the epitome of an economic development project, I don’t know what it could be.” Council member Darrick Cox asked if the mayor has done research on the bumpy frontage road south of I-74 that runs between State Road 229 and Bedel Boulevard. “I don’t have a good answer for that,” Bettice admitted. He wants to grasp how businesses there pay for frontage road repairs. On the city’s to-do list is a stormwater project “that was put on hold for the past year.” He explained, “There is water running off of Ashlin Court into a field north of the street. It is sitting in that field.” A stormwater pipe will be installed that will take the water to one on Tekulve Road.  
[http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/news/local\\_news/city-nabs-more-for-road-repairs/article\\_eadd1f0-e98b-54ee-af0e-ed137f837e83.html](http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/news/local_news/city-nabs-more-for-road-repairs/article_eadd1f0-e98b-54ee-af0e-ed137f837e83.html)

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