



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**April 7, 2015**

### **Hoosier State rail can continue under state, fed agreement**

Journal & Courier  
Chris Morisse Vizza  
4/6/15

Odds have improved that the Hoosier State passenger rail line will continue to run four days a week between Indianapolis and Chicago. The Indiana Department of Transportation on Monday said that it and the Federal Railroad Administration reached an understanding that will allow Indiana to pursue a long-term operating contract for the 196 mile line that serves Lafayette. INDOT has been trying to develop a business model in which Amtrak would serve as the primary operator, and Iowa Pacific Holdings Inc., a private company, would provide and maintain the train equipment, on-board services and marketing. But INDOT last month said it would cancel the service because FRA determined the new arrangement would make Indiana financially liable for any property damage, injuries or death involving the train. Local and state elected leaders, along with U.S. Senators Dan Coats and Joe Donnelly and U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita protested the ruling to FRA's acting administrator Sarah Feinberg. The understanding clarifies who would be liable in the event of property damage, injury or death resulting from operation of the train, INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning said.

<http://www.iiconline.com/story/news/2015/04/06/state-feds-agree-passenger-rail-operating-terms/25363787/>

### **Wheel Tax goes a long way in repairing county roads**

The Brazil Times  
Ernest Rollins  
4/5/15

More than \$700,000 was spent repairing Clay County roads in 2014, and, as construction season begins to gain some steam, county officials are not slowing down. "At the end of the year our budget is exhausted," Clay County Commissioner Tony Fenwick said. Fenwick says the county utilized the more than \$670,000 collected through the Wheel Tax Fund to blacktop and chip and seal a number of county roads throughout each commissioner's district in 2014 -- equating to roughly 30 miles of road. In addition to Wheel Tax funds, an Accelerated Excise Tax contributed an additional \$100,000 for roadwork. Most of the work is done in house. Fenwick said the county handled the majority of the chip and sealing, but signed contracts to blacktop roads. Each commissioner takes care of his own district, he continued. Through communication with the Clay County Highway Department supervisor, they prioritize which roads require attention based on different factors. One factor commissioners will consider is the ongoing Indiana Department of Transportation construction projects for this year. State-contracted work will continue on U.S. 40 through downtown Brazil as well as planned work on a number of bridges. One of the projects, the State Road 42 Bridge rehabilitation project over the Eel River, is expected to close the

structure for an extended period which means residents may have to find alternate routes of travel. With INDOT's increased presence, commissioners target roads tend to include those motorists may use to avoid construction. As an example, Fenwick said work along Pinckley Street in the past couple of years was done with the U.S. 40 and S.R. 59 projects in mind. Fenwick said the county and INDOT usually discuss what could potentially be unofficial detours.

[Brazil Times: Local News: Wheel Tax goes a long way in repairing county roads \(04/05/15\)](#)

### **Indianapolis Avenue project is underway**

The Lebanon Reporter

Sarah Lang

4/3/15

With the onset of warmer weather, crews have broken ground on the Indianapolis Avenue project. Construction for phase one of the project started last week. This first phase includes road reconstruction from Interstate 65 to Hendricks Drive, along with the addition of a median, a trail, new sidewalks, new storm sewers and two roundabouts, one at Hal Baker Road and one at Hendricks Drive. The \$5.9 million project is being paid for by a 90 percent Indiana Department of Transportation grant, with the remaining 10 percent coming from the city's CCD fund. This first phase will be completed this year, weather permitting, said Tom Kouns, the city's grant administrator. "I'll be glad to see it all done," Kouns said. "It will be kind of cool when it starts taking shape, and people can get a bigger picture of what it will look like. I think they'll be happy." The project's second phase is scheduled to go to bid in 2018. This phase is from Hendricks Drive to Indiana 32 and includes road reconstruction, new storm sewers and new sidewalks. The sidewalks will be all connected, so people can walk to the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds. The \$5.6 million second phase is being funded at 80 percent by INDOT.

[Indianapolis Avenue project is underway - Reporter.net: Local News](#)

### **Indiana 44 construction begins Monday**

Palladium-Item

Pam Tharp

4/2/15

LIBERTY, Ind. – Indiana 44 between Connersville and Liberty will close Monday for a five-month project that includes repairs and resurfacing. The official detour will use Indiana 1 and Indiana 101, said Harry Maginity, spokesman for the Indiana Department of Transportation. INDOT will try to maintain access to residences and business during the project, Maginity said. CSX Railroad also will make repairs at its railroad crossing on Indiana 44 in Liberty during this project. That work will require the full closure of the crossing for up to 10 days, Maginity said. The rail crossing work is expected to begin on April 13. As part of the highway project, contractor Dave O'Mara will make numerous pavement repairs before the milling and resurfacing work begins, Maginity said. The repairs will begin about a mile east of Indiana 1 in Connersville and end at U.S. 27 in Liberty. Many of the repairs are full-depth concrete patches, which will need several days to "cure" before they can support traffic, Maginity said. The \$1.9 million project also includes the installation of corrugated rumble strips in Fayette and Union counties and curb ramp construction in Liberty. The project is scheduled to be completed on or before Sept. 4.

<http://www.pal-item.com/story/news/local/2015/04/02/indiana-construction-begins-monday/70834518/>