



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

**April 21, 2015**

### **Funding needed for roads and bridges**

The Herald-Tribune  
Maureen Hayden  
4/17/15

INDIANAPOLIS – County officials from around Indiana arrived at the Statehouse March 17 with a tough request: Give us billions of dollars to fix our roads and bridges. They didn't have much problem making the case that their infrastructure is crumbling, given a decade's decline in funds for local governments to maintain 85,000 miles of roads and 12,000 bridges. Harder was the argument that legislators may have to impose new taxes to raise that revenue. "There's no pain-free way to solve this," said Stephanie Yager, who heads the Indiana Association of County Commissioners. "But it's not pain-free to ride down a road that's full of potholes. Yager, a former county commissioner from the tourist haven of scenic Brown County, has watched paved roads turn back to gravel as gas tax revenues used for local repairs dwindled over the past decade. A local "wheel tax" – imposed on every motorist residing in Brown County – hasn't raised enough dollars to close the gap. "We welcome the tourists. They're a big part of our economy," she said. "But our roads take a beating." Jason Heile, a Davies County highway engineer and Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors president, made a similar case at the Statehouse. With a stretch of the new Interstate 69 running through his county, Heile says there's not enough money to build side roads for the development that will come with the highway. [http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/news/funding-needed-for-roads-and-bridges/article\\_e0b15bd6-7e19-50d3-9d84-130d7f00b813.html](http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/news/funding-needed-for-roads-and-bridges/article_e0b15bd6-7e19-50d3-9d84-130d7f00b813.html)

### **Community Conversations to Kick Off**

Inside INdiana Business  
4/17/15

The first of this year's Community Conversations from Indiana Humanities is set for Thursday in Johnson County. Events in Knox, Madison and Noble counties will be scheduled later this year. The program focuses on long-term community planning. How should communities like Johnson County manage growth? What are the priorities for infrastructure and land use planning? The event, "Preparing for Growth," will feature three presentations on ways to maximize the benefits of progress, yet minimize impact on infrastructure. Hosted by Aspire Johnson County, attendees will be able to submit questions via their smart phone, tablet or in writing during the meeting. Aspire Johnson County will answer all questions on its website following the event. After the presentations, residents will have an opportunity to view current land use planning maps for the area and interact with local elected officials. The speakers will be Sarah Rubin, Indiana Department of Transportation project manager; Greg Goodnight, Mayor of Kokomo; and Larry DeBoer, Purdue University professor. Rubin will talk about how communities can prepare for corridor growth- such as the proposed Interstate 69 project.

**U.S. Transportation Secretary announces \$162M loan for Ohio River Bridges East End Crossing**

WDRB

4/16/15

WASHINGTON (WDRB) - U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has announced a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan for \$162 million from the Department's Federal Highway Administration to finance the East End Crossing section of the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project. That's according to a news release from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation. "This project will relieve congestion and stimulate the economy of the entire Louisville-Southern Indiana region both today and for years to come," Secretary Foxx said. "Projects like this reinforce the need for the Administration's GROW AMERICA Act, a \$478 billion bill that provides funding over six years, so states and communities will have stable funding long enough to make big infrastructure projects a reality." The GROW AMERICA Act – the long-term transportation bill the Department sent to Congress – provides funding growth and certainty so that state and local governments can continue to improve our infrastructure. It invests \$317 billion over six years for federal highway programs, which represents nearly \$12 billion more per year than under current law. The GROW AMERICA Act would also expand financing options under the TIFIA program. At a total cost of \$1.27 billion, the East End Crossing includes the East End Bridge and its connecting roadways. The bridge spans the Ohio River eight miles to the north connecting the east end of Louisville, near Prospect, to southern Indiana, near Utica. The project is successfully being delivered as a public private partnership (PPP), and benefited from a U.S. Department of Transportation private activity bond allocation in 2013. As part of the Administration's Build America Investment Initiative, USDOT is working to expand opportunities for partnership between the public and private sectors, including through the establishment of a new Build America Transportation Investment Center as a one-stop shop to support potential PPP projects.

[U.S. Transportation Secretary announces \\$162M loan for Ohio Rive - WDRB 41 Louisville News](#)