



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Extra money for road repair is here

Vincennes Sun-Commercial
Jenny McNeece
5/2/16

Nearly \$3 million to improve Knox County infrastructure has arrived, and local elected officials hope to have it in hand to spend before the end of the month. Mayor Joe Yochum said he was notified by state officials that the money would be divvied out — some \$430 million statewide — to county auditors by April 22, and auditors, in turn, had until June 1 to distribute it locally. The city is expected to get just over \$1 million with the county receiving about \$1.4 million. Bicknell, too, is getting roughly \$109,000 as a part of the deal. Per the state legislation that released the tax dollars to local governments, about three-quarters must be spent on road repair. The rest, cities and counties can use however they please. What Vincennes doesn't spend of its \$1 million on infrastructure, Yochum said, will go right into the rainy day fund for later. "I talked to the clerk-treasurer (Sharon Duke), and she thinks (the county auditor) will do it right away," Yochum said of getting the money. "We've already got things in place for where we're going to put it and everything." The money is coming just in time for the city to apply for a matching grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation. The legislation that allowed for the distribution of money — passed on the last day of the last session — also gave cities and towns the opportunity to use those new dollars to leverage even more. City engineer John Sprague has been busy readying the city's application to Indiana Department of Transportation which will decide which communities get more money; Yochum said it is likely the application will be submitted later this month. http://www.suncommercial.com/news/article_39006512-10c0-11e6-9697-f3189a4a30c9.html

INDOT in line to resume study on Illiana project

Post-Tribune
Carrie Napoleon
4/29/16

Local officials and opponents of the Illiana toll road say they were surprised to learn the Indiana Department of Transportation plans to make court-ordered corrections to the first phase of an environmental impact study for the stalled project and foot the bill. In a court filing April 25, INDOT has agreed to fund the technical work needed to comply with the court's order in *Openlands Et al. v. U.S. Department of Transportation et al.*, which last year found the study was flawed despite Illinois' inability to move forward due to lack of funding. State Sen. Rick Niemyer, R-6th, said he has been reaching out to INDOT for the past several months in an effort to get an official statement on where Indiana stands on the highway project -- whether it go forward, wait until Illinois has funding or scrap the effort -- but has gotten no response. "We know Illinois is on hold. I don't understand why Indiana is not coming out with a statement on this for Indiana residents,"

Neimeyer said. "I'm frustrated I haven't got the answers back." The lack of communication has been an ongoing issue regarding the project, Niemeyer said, adding local residents are left to learn about the status from Illinois officials or in the media. News of the court motion was no different. "I was unaware," he said. Since the motion was filed, Niemeyer said he now has been in touch with INDOT officials who say too much money has been invested so far in the project to not at least try to address the issues raised in the lawsuit. The two states were directed by the court to either fix the problems with the study or to scrap the project.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-illiana-indot-study-st-0501-20160429-story.html>

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