



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 12, 2016

Divided council approves \$2.7 million for roadwork

The Herald Bulletin
Ken de la Bastide
5/11/16

After a lengthy debate Tuesday, a divided Madison County Council voted to use a portion of a special state distribution of local option income tax funds on road repairs. The Indiana General Assembly this year passed legislation returning a portion of the LOIT (local option income tax) funds to local units of government for road repair. A requirement by the state was 75 percent of the funds be used on roads and bridges with the remaining 25 percent to be used at council discretion. The council voted 4-3 to appropriate \$2,726,290 on the roads. Council President Fred Reese joined with Clayton Whitson, Lisa Hobbs and Robin Wagner in approving the appropriation. Madison County's share was \$3,636,954 and the county commissioners asked the council to appropriate the entire amount. Commissioner John Richwine said the intent was to use the \$2.7 million on the roads and keep \$1 million for a possible state grant if the county's request for \$14 million in federal funds for the replacement of the Eisenhower Bridge was denied. County Engineer Chuck Leser said the county needs to spend \$5.5 million annually to maintain its 900 miles of roads. At one point, the council was informed that 260 miles of county roads had not been touched in more than a decade. Leser said the county is spending \$5 million this year on road repairs, which includes \$1.3 million in wheel tax funds. "This was a road funding bill. That's why we requested the 100 percent," Leser said.

http://www.heraldbulletin.com/news/local_news/divided-council-approves-million-for-roadwork/article_a2504f04-171a-11e6-99e7-4f908d370b54.html

Spring Street work planned in New Albany

Courier-Journal
Sheldon S. Shafer
5/11/16

A contract has been awarded for improvements near the intersection of Spring and Silver streets in New Albany, the Indiana Department of Transportation has announced. MAC Construction & Excavating has a contract for the \$811,000 project that is expected to start around July 11. It calls for about two weeks of concrete repairs, followed by a week of asphalt patching and then a week of milling and paving operations between Vincennes Street and Beharrell Avenue. The traffic pattern will be reconfigured to accommodate opposing left turn lanes on Spring Street, a bike buffer space, bicycle lane and vehicular parking. In addition, changes will be made to the traffic signal. Work is to be done during daylight hours and is expected to be completed by the end of September. Highway officials discussed details of the plans recently with New Albany city engineer Larry Summers. The Federal Highway Administration is funding 90 percent of the project and the city of New Albany will cover the other 10 percent of the construction costs.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/indiana/2016/05/11/spring-street-work-planned-new-albany/84223284/>

Transit planners approved I-65 widening to Roselawn

NWI Times

Andrew Steele

5/11/16

Regional planners are taking the final steps this month to formalize the addition of lanes to Interstate 65 between U.S. 30 in Merrillville and State Road 10 in Roselawn. The project to add a third lane in each direction was announced late last year by Gov. Mike Pence, with a budget of \$70 million. The first sections of the project, from U.S. 30 to State Road 2 in Lowell, were approved during the planning process for the Illiana Expressway. Planning and public comment for the final portion, to State Road 10, were done this year. The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Policy Committee approved that final leg, of just over 10 miles, Tuesday. The full NIRPC board is scheduled to vote on it May 19. The Indiana Department of Transportation has identified four teams of construction companies and engineers qualified to bid on the project. They are: K-Five Construction Corp. with lead engineer Janssen and Spaans Engineering Inc.; The Lane Construction Corp. with lead engineer Lochmueller Group; Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Inc. with lead engineer AECOM; Walsh Construction Company II LLC with lead engineer Parsons Transportation Group Inc. INDOT expects to award a contract later this year. http://www.nwitimes.com/business/transportation/transit-planners-approved-i-widening-to-roselawn/article_de7c9fe6-c88e-5e5c-bb18-9c9cb44569ba.html

Indy council sends mass transit referendum to voters

WRTV The Indy Channel

Jordan Fischer and Katie Heinz

5/9/16

Voters will decide in November whether to approve a tax hike to expand mass transit in Marion County. The Indianapolis City-County Council voted 18-6 Monday night to approve Proposition 145, which authorizes a public referendum on funding for mass transit in Marion County. The federal government is already directing \$75 million to the construction of the Red Line Bus Rapid-Transit Program. While not all residents are happy – some who live along the proposed route worry it will increase congestion and eliminate already-scarce parking spots – the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce applauded the vote Monday. "This plan expands all-day bus service across Indianapolis to finally make transit a practical choice for getting to work and other daily errands for the average resident," the Chamber said in a statement Monday night. "It triples the population and doubles employment within a five-minute walk of high-frequency routes – by putting more jobs and options for education, food and healthcare within reach, transit delivers economic opportunity, independence and a better quality of life."

The decision will now go to voters to support – or not – in November.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/indy-council-sends-mass-transit-referendum-to-voters> Also, <http://wishtv.com/2016/05/09/council-votes-to-put-red-line-rapid-transit-funding-on-november-ballot/>

