



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 19, 2016

County appropriates funds for possible Road Plan

Greene County Daily World
Sabrina Westfall
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The Greene County Council approved a step which could make the county eligible for a matching grant through the state. Commissioner President Nathan Abrams asked the council to approve the advertisement of \$50,000 from the Rainy Day Fund for a prospective Road Plan. The county received just over \$1 million from the state per recent legislation, and of that money 75 percent has to be dedicated to upgrading roads. The council approved Abrams request of funds in the amount of \$802,441.04 -- the aforementioned 75 percent -- which will be divided among the three commissioners' districts. The council voted last month to place the remaining \$267,000 in the county's Rainy Day Fund. Abrams requested the council allow the commissioners to use \$50,000 of the remaining funds to prepare a Road Plan. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has recently discussed putting a call out for a 50/50 matching grant, through the Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant, but the county may be required to have a Road Plan in place, which will consist of an engineer rating the paved roads in the county. Abrams said while the Road Plan is not a definite, the advertisement needs to be completed to use the funding if needed. Although, Abrams said if the project allows the county to train its employees to complete the plan, they would not spend the money. Abrams stressed the county is not allowed to use any of the \$800,000 for the Road Plan, or anything other than materials for the road projects. The commissioner also noted he would like to eventually use the remainder of the funds from the state on roads. Through the matching grant, Abrams said the county could double that money which is about 2/3 of the normal annual road budget. Council member Joe Huntington noted concerns about the current state of the Rainy Day Fund, especially with higher insurance claims than normal. Council President Jerry Frye echoed those concerns. "I'm all for doubling our money, but we have got to pay for our other stuff first," Frye noted. <http://www.gcdailyworld.com/story/2305300.html>

Transportation department still working on rules for spending earmarked funds

The Republic
Mark Webber
5/15/16

About \$6.7 million in state funds earmarked for Bartholomew County, raised through three different income taxes, has been distributed to 25 taxing entities such as cities, incorporated towns, school corporations and libraries as well as county government. It was all part of a deal forged on the final session day of the Indiana General Assembly to put about \$580 million throughout the 92-county Hoosier state to fix local streets and county roads. However, what both Columbus Mayor Jim Lienhoop and Dave Hayward, the city's executive director of public works/city engineer, emphasized is that local units of government were going to receive about 74 percent of that

money. The resulting \$430 million in income tax revenue held in reserve by the state was scheduled to be released to local units of government within a few years, Lienhoop said. But under the provisions of legislation signed into law March 23 by Gov. Mike Pence, the one-time payment came with strings. Most of them were added by Senate negotiators while different versions of the bill passed in each chamber were being hammered out, said Rep. Milo Smith, R- Columbus, an original House bill co-sponsor. The stipulation that income tax money held in reserve be spent on roads, streets, related infrastructure or airports hasn't caused much of a local stir. What's left over for discretionary spending comes to \$847,510 for the city of Columbus and \$621,372 for Bartholomew County government. The \$150 million in new state money has been tied to a matching grant program intended to persuade local officials to raise or create local wheel taxes to pay for road and street repairs.

http://www.therepublic.com/2016/05/16/millions_in_money_for_roads_coming_in_but_with_strings-2/

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