



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Community Crossings road grant program back for second year

NWI Times

Andrew Steele

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The Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings grant program is back for a second year, with an application period opening next week for local governments to secure grants to pay portions of local road projects. County and municipal officials across the state are gathering at INDOT-sponsored sessions this month, including one at the LaPorte District headquarters Wednesday, to learn about the program's requirements and several changes from last year. Last year just under \$145 million was awarded, according to INDOT. In Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties, grants to 27 local governments ranged from \$35,141 for Beverly Shores to the \$1 million maximum for Crown Point, Gary, Hammond, Hobart, LaPorte, Lowell, Valparaiso and Lake and Porter counties. East Chicago, Michigan City and Portage all received grants of more than \$900,000. Every community that submitted an application that met program requirements received a grant, according to INDOT, but about \$47 million went unawarded that is rolling over into this year's program. State Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, urged local officials at the May meeting of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission to take advantage of the funding opportunity this year, noting not all had last year. "You need to get your applications in," Soliday said. "We cannot sit here and let money lay on the desk."

http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/community-crossings-road-grant-program-back-for-second-year/article_ebd5b423-9333-5147-a343-8092ae92cf97.html

Greenwood to close part of Smith Valley Road for new roundabout project

FOX 59

Zach Myers

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GREENWOOD, Ind. -- Drivers who normally use Smith Valley Road to travel across Greenwood should be prepared for a detour for the next couple months. City officials will close Smith Valley Road to through traffic between State Road 135 and Averitt Road starting Tuesday, May 30. The closure is expected to last two months, through the end of June, as construction crews build the city's newest roundabout at the intersection of Smith Valley and Yorktown Roads. "Smith Valley and Yorktown Road is a bad intersection where we have had numerous accidents, it's at the bottom of a hill on a very busy street," said Greenwood Mayor Mark Myers. Myers says the roundabout is needed as the city's population continues to grow, particularly in neighborhoods south of the intersection. "We're preparing for the future, for the future of I-69 coming off of Smith Valley Road," Myers said. "We believe that's going to be an exit so that will increase more traffic." Residents who drive through the intersection regularly say they're looking forward to the new roundabout, but they're not excited about a two-month detour around the street closure. "There's

just too much traffic here on the road, and trying to get out of these additions is next to impossible,” said Michael Beck. “It’s going to be a couple months of inconvenience and that’s going to be it,” said Carol Beck. “And then it’ll be perfect, I think.”

<http://fox59.com/2017/05/29/greenwood-to-close-part-of-smith-valley-road-for-new-roundabout-project/>

New Road Funding May Fill Potholes, Infrastructure Needs

Indiana Public Media

Brandon Smith

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Road construction season is underway, and after state lawmakers allocated more money for local roads, House Speaker Brian Bosma says communities should see a big season. “We want them to start smelling asphalt in July,” Bosma said after unveiling the road funding package in April. Indiana’s local communities will receive at least \$200 million for roads and bridges in the state’s new infrastructure funding package. But communities have a lot of road repairs, and the new money won’t cover all of them. So local leaders now have to make choices. Bicknell Mayor Thomas Estabrook is responsible for 30 miles of road in his city of around 3,000 people. And, like local leaders across the state, he’s making a list of priorities. He opens the spreadsheet on his laptop. “A lot of these are already existing asphalt or we have some roads that are chip sealed. But we also have some that are asphalt over existing concrete that was put in over 100 years ago,” Estabrook says. He says he hopes the new funding will allow him to do more. “I hate to say that it’s money, money, money but it is. It’s money, money, money,” Estabrook says.

<https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/road-funding-fill-potholes-infrastructure-120419/>

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