



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

May 19, 2015

House GOP plans extension of highway funding

Indiana Gazette

5/17/15

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans introduced a two-month extension of the federal highway and mass transit program Friday, barely two weeks before the government's authority to help finance projects around the country expires. Republicans from both chambers said they expected Congress to approve the legislation next week. Lawmakers are scheduled to leave the capital by next Friday for a weeklong Memorial Day recess. Without an extension, officials worry that federal cash infusions to projects around the country would slow or halt just as the summer construction season begins. Legislators have long wanted to craft a long-term extension of the program but have repeatedly gridlocked over how to pay for it. As a result, Congress has approved a series of short-term extensions — most recently, one enacted last summer that expires June 1. The bulk of federal road building money comes from the federal gasoline tax, which has been 18.4 cents per gallon since 1993. There is also a 24.4 cents per gallon diesel fuel tax, also unchanged in two decades. Fearing retribution from voters, lawmakers have been leery of raising that tax, even as vehicles become more fuel efficient and inflation rises. The trust fund has veered near insolvency several times since 2008, with Congress keeping it afloat with general Treasury funds. Two top House lawmakers — Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster, R-Pa., and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis. — said in a written statement that they want to extend the highway program through 2015. Financing it through July will provide legislators more time to find a way to do that, they said. President Barack Obama has proposed boosting transportation spending by nearly one-third with a six-year, \$478 billion program.

<https://www.indianagazette.com/news/reg-national-world/house-gop-plans-extension-of-highway-funding,22051847/>

Travel nightmare coming soon to I-65

Journal & Courier

Hannah Smith Kiefer

5/16/15

Big changes — and big construction headaches — are coming to a stretch of the interstate that passes through Lafayette. It all starts in a few weeks and will continue into fall 2017. Drivers should brace themselves for lane restrictions, ramp closures, narrower lanes, reduced speeds and longer travel times. Crews will widen I-65 from two lanes in each direction to three lanes in each direction. To do this, workers will place the two new lanes in the current median space and add a concrete barrier to replace the median. With this plan, the shoulder of the road won't have to be widened, although it will be reinforced during the first few weeks of the project so lanes can be temporarily shifted. The first phase of stage one will last two weeks to a month and involves

strengthening the road shoulders in order to shift the northbound and southbound lanes at the same time. The second phase is the construction of the two lanes, one on each side in the median. This phase will last three to four months, with work occurring concurrently in northbound and southbound lanes. The project will cost \$82.8 million. The money came from INDOT funds for its "Major Moves" projects.

<http://www.jconline.com/story/news/2015/05/16/travel-nightmare-coming-soon/27453447/>

Official: Salisbury Road will open June 14

Palladium-Item

Bill Engle

5/15/15

City director of public works and engineering Greg Stiens said this week the tentative completion day for this phase of the Salisbury Road project is June 14. "Things are moving along pretty quickly now," he said. "The utilities are out of the way, and they're out there now with the curb machine putting curbs in, which signals that they are getting near the end." Workers from Dave O'Mara Contractors of North Vernon, Ind., have about a month's worth of construction work to finish on the road. This phase calls for a complete road reconstruction from just south of the abandoned railroad bed south of the fairgrounds to Lick Creek, which is 300 feet south of West Main Street. It is part of a \$2.95 million project, which started in 2011, to rebuild and widen the road from near Interstate 70 south to U.S. 40. Federal funds through the Indiana Department of Transportation will pay for 90 percent of the cost with the city's share, \$295,795, coming from the Richmond Redevelopment Commission. The project was to be done in November 2014 but was delayed when Frontier Communications failed to move its phone lines in advance of the work, Stiens said. Frontier was supposed to have moved its lines by April 26, 2014, but didn't complete the work until Nov. 3. Stiens said the city plans to bill Frontier for any added cost to the project. "This is a major project and represents a major improvement to that infrastructure," Stiens said. "When we do projects like this, it's a good thing for the city. Not only are we rebuilding that road but the other utilities are, for the most part, putting in new lines and updating their infrastructure."

<http://www.pal-item.com/story/news/local/2015/05/15/official-salisbury-road-will-open-june/27374731/>

www.buildindianacouncil.org