



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Township officials expected to decide mass transit referendum ballot proposal on June 28

Current in Carmel
Adam Aasen
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Westfield Washington Township and Carmel Clay Townships are expected to decide on June 28 on whether to add a referendum to the ballot in November. This referendum would allow voters to decide whether to support a tax increase for a mass transit in Central Indiana. The Washington Township meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. at Township Office Upper Room at 1549 E Greyhound Pass. The Clay Township meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Clay Township offices at 10701 N. College Ave. The meetings are open to the public. It's possible that a vote doesn't occur at the June 28 meeting but Cindy Benedict, project manager for Indy Connect, said a vote is probable. The referendum would fund a Red Line, a rapid-transit bus route that would extend from Greenwood and Indianapolis through Carmel and all the way to Westfield. Indianapolis has already voted to include the referendum on its Nov. 8 ballot. The \$198 million Red Line project is part of a \$1.2 billion regional transit plan known as Indy Connect. If approved, the mass transit tax would generate about \$4.14 million from Clay Township and \$1.7 million from Washington Township. Benedict said the cost would be minimal. For someone earning the median income in Hamilton County of about \$86,000, the tax increase would mean \$18 per month. "For the median income, we are talking about a tall latte a week," she told Current in Carmel. The Clay Township board is made up of three members: Paul Bolin, Matthew Snyder and Mary Eckard. Eckard told Current in Carmel that she had not decided yet how she feels about the mass transit referendum. <http://currentincarmel.com/township-officials-expected-to-decide-mass-transit-referendum-ballot-proposal-on-june-28>

Valpo approves wheel tax

NWI Times
Rob Earnshaw
6/14/16

In a 4-3 vote, the City Council on Monday adopted a wheel tax ordinance. Valparaiso joins Portage and Crown Point in enacting the tax to help pay for road improvement projects. The Indiana Legislature granted cities with a population more than 10,000 the ability to enact an annual fee on vehicles for the purpose of road repair, construction and maintenance. The wheel tax is an on-going annual fee that is raised through payments of vehicle registrations. The wheel tax will go into effect Jan. 1 and will collect \$25 per passenger vehicle and \$40 per commercial vehicle registered within the city. The tax would be \$12.50 for motorcycles, recreational vehicles and personal trailers. "It is one of the few tools we have to put money into the local roads," Mayor Jon Costas said. "It's more of an investment than anything." The three Democrats on the council – Diana Reed, Deb Porter and Robert Cotton – voted against the tax.

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/porter/valpo-approves-wheel-tax/article_cb48ebd5-d5f1-5cb0-8991-120e46602313.html

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