



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

June 21, 2016

County to set aside \$1 million for possible matching grant

Greene County Daily World
Sabrina Westfall
6/21/16

If all goes as planned, Greene County may be able to double \$1 million set aside for prospective road work. Commissioner Nathan Abrams went before the Greene County Council Monday afternoon to request an additional appropriation to set aside a total of \$1 million as the Indiana Department of Transportation puts a call out for a 50/50 matching grant program, up to \$1 million. Abrams said he wants to try for the maximum amount as the grant deadline nears at the end of July. Earlier this year, 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 75 percent totaled \$802,441.04 to put up for the match. The remaining \$267,000 was deposited into the Rainy Day Fund. The county council voted to spend another \$50,000 of the money on a Road Plan, which was mandated by the state to have in place in order to be eligible for the matching funds. Abrams came before the council once again this month to ask for the remaining \$200,000 of the funds. But, the council members stressed concerns about other funding issues. Council President Jerry Frye said as of right now the county has more than spent its budget allotted for insurance premiums. Halfway through the year the county has paid out more than \$1.5 million in insurance coverage and already had to transfer another \$400,000 into the fund. <http://www.gcdailyworld.com/story/2315306.html>

Monroe City seeks help from county on road repairs

Vincennes Sun-Commercial
Jess Cohen
6/20/16

Monroe City town council member Bill Sampson came before the Knox County commissioners Monday evening seeking help to fix his town's torn-up streets. Last year, the Indiana Department of Transportation wrapped up a project to widen Indiana 61, the town's Main Street, which meant that large sections of the usually busy road were closed to traffic. As a result, semi-trucks shifted their routes onto side streets and while there were both a prescribed detour and "unofficial" detour that vehicles could have followed, neither route got much actual new traffic as the construction continued. The unofficial detour was signed off on with a memorandum of understanding between INDOT and the county, and as part of that document, INDOT agreed to repair streets damaged by the heavy traffic. However, because the document didn't encompass the streets that were actually affected by the rerouted traffic, it looked for awhile like Monroe City would be left with the bill to fix the streets. Last fall, Monroe City and INDOT finally agreed on a solution: The state agency agreed to pay \$125,000 (and not a penny more) toward the street repair work. Town officials decided to concentrate that money on Buchanan Street, which sustained the most damage during the construction project, and use some of their own money on repairs to

Cleveland Street. http://www.suncommercial.com/news/article_a5da3f30-3746-11e6-a3c8-ab53109ced1a.html

Bristol to apply for state grant to help fund alternate business route

The Elkhart Truth

Miriam Nowak

6/17/16

A new state grant program through the Indiana Department of Transportation may help Bristol fund an alternate business route to relieve traffic in its downtown area. The Town Council Thursday approved applying for a Community Crossings matching grant, which provides state funds to cities, towns and counties for improvements to roads and bridges. Grants are available for up to \$1 million, and they are awarded based on local support, connectivity to existing plans, benefit, need and quality of projects, and regional economic significance. Bristol would also put \$1 million toward the project to receive the grant. The alternate business route is expected to cost about \$2.2 million. The town plans to use \$250,000 it received from its Local Option Income Tax special distribution for part of its match, and may enter into an agreement with Elkhart County to borrow the remaining \$750,000 for the match. In 2013, Elkhart County Council loaned Bristol \$1.5 million to build Industrial Drive, a road connecting Earthway Industrial Park and Utilimaster to S.R. 15. <http://www.elkharttruth.com/hometown/bristol/2016/06/17/Bristol-to-apply-for-state-grant-to-help-fund-alternate-business-route.html>

Meeting addresses use of proposed Wheel Tax funds

Herald Argus

Jessica Campbell

6/16/16

La Porte City Engineer, Nick Minich, rates the quality of the city's streets as 4.6 on a 10 point scale within the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating system. The goal, he said, is to get that number to a 5.5 within the next year and a seven by 2018. On Wednesday night, city employees and residents, as well as La Porte Mayor Blair Milo attended a town hall meeting on the paving management plan, presented by Minich. In a detailed PowerPoint, which will be posted along with maps and other charts and graphs on the City of La Porte Engineering Department's website, Minich presented the previous initiatives for street maintenance and how the city would use the proposed wheel tax and funds to address the roads problems. In 2015 the city conducted general paving on 10 percent of local roads. Overall, the roads need about \$18 million to get to a maintainable level, plus an additional \$800,000 to \$1.2 million to keep those roads at that level over the next few years. The PASER system, used by the Indiana Department of Transportation, rates the city as having fair roads, Minich said. "Looking at our roads, we know we are not doing as well as we need to," Minich said. "We needed to develop a new method in how we pave our streets." Minich and the city have the next five years planned out for the reconstruction of roads, led with the "keeping our good roads good first" mentality. The funds for the project will come from local departments, as well as the proposed wheel tax, which will tax an amount between \$25 and \$40 per vehicle for city residents. The funds collected will then be matched by the state and the Community Crossings program, sponsored by INDOT.

http://www.heraldargus.com/news/meeting-addresses-use-of-proposed-wheel-tax-funds/article_b0d9398e-b5a5-5eee-ac04-d00b978cbd5b.html

Pence Makes FIRSST Task Force Appointments

Inside INdiana Business

Alex Brown

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Governor Mike Pence has announced appointments to the Funding Indiana's Roads for a Stronger, Safer Tomorrow task force. The group, created during the most recent legislative session, will seek a long-term plan to fix the state's roads and bridges. The governor's office says the FIRSST task force will meet over the summer and fall months, then submit recommendations to Pence and the Indiana General Assembly by January 1, 2017. The task force was part of the bill that provided more than \$1 billion in funding for roads and bridges.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/32241584/pence-makes-firsst-task-force-appointments>

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