



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

June 23, 2016

City OKs road repaving project

The Republic
Olivia Covington
6/22/16

A return of local option income tax funds to Columbus from the state is enabling the city to spend approximately \$2.6 million on improvements to local roads. In an effort to provide more money for statewide infrastructure projects, the state legislature passed a bill during the 2016 legislative session that called for a surplus of LOIT funds to be returned to local governments, with 75 percent of the returned funds required to be earmarked for road work. For Columbus, that means about \$3.3 million was returned to the city, with \$2.5 million required to go toward infrastructure improvements. However, the city plans to use a little more than the required 75 percent of the returned money for road work, bringing the total portion of the LOIT funds designated for roads to about \$2.6 million. Columbus City Council members gave initial approval for the appropriation of those funds at their meeting Tuesday. Dave Hayward, executive director of public works/city engineer, said the city's current budget allocates a little less than \$1 million for road repaving this year, an amount he said would not go very far. However, the additional \$2.6 million from the state will enable the city to complete more repaving and other infrastructure improvements projects than the budget would have otherwise allowed, he said.

http://www.therepublic.com/2016/06/23/city_oks_road_repaving_project/

Munster OKs vehicle tax 'with regret'

Post-Tribune
Jim Masters
6/22/16

It just got a little more expensive to own a vehicle in Munster. The Munster Town Council on Monday passed an ordinance adding a local tax to cars, trucks, tractors, trailers and motorcycles — anything with an Indiana license plate. At the time a Munster resident renews a license plate through the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a \$25 surtax will be applied to passenger vehicles and trucks under a gross weight of 11,000 pounds. Motorcycles will be taxed at \$12.50. Correspondingly, a new \$40 "wheel tax" applies to buses, recreational vehicles, farm tractors, semitrailers and trucks over 11,000 pounds (wheels themselves are not taxed), following Northwest Indiana communities Crown Point, Portage and others in enacting similar measures. Council members expressed that they had little choice but to pass the tax if they wanted to maintain the quality of roads throughout town, rather than see them fall into disrepair and incur greater costs rebuilding them eventually. "I'm not pleased, but we have to maintain our roads," said Councilman David Nellans, R-4th, who made the motion — "with regret" — on second and final reading to unanimously approve the tax. Council President John Reed added, "The last thing I want to do is pass a tax," explaining the tax does not create a new bureaucracy, but will be

administered on the state level through the BMV. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-munster-wheel-tax-st-0623-20160622-story.html>

Letter: Residents deserve the right to choose on mass transit

Current in Carmel

Editorial

6/22/16

So, while we recognize the challenges of opening a dialogue on the transit issue with those who've already made a decision (Referendum on Transit is Coming, June 14th From the Backshop), we'd like to clarify some misinformation included in the editorial. •The referendum is not before Hamilton County as you stated and is not on anybody's ballot until and unless the Clay and Washington Township Boards vote to do so on June 28. If they do, then only residents of Clay and Westfield townships will be voting on Nov. 8. You dismiss IndyGo and Amtrak as "disasters" because they don't turn a profit. It's true, they don't. Neither does any mass transit system most anywhere in the world. But neither do roads. When's the last time 465 made money? How about the road in front of your office? So, should we stop investing tax dollars in infrastructure and road maintenance? Hardly. Investment in infrastructure – and transit – is an investment in the future of our economic strength, and our ability to not only attract the best and brightest to our communities, but retain them. Our economic development competition – those regions nationwide attracting business investment – are also developing or enhancing their mass transit opportunities. Our region ranks 33rd in population of the top 100 regions in the country. But we're 86th in transit investment. This change would only move us to 65th.

<http://currentincarmel.com/letter-residents-deserve-the-right-to-choose-on-mass-transit>

\$90M Major Moves Project to Begin

Inside INdiana Business

Andy Ober

6/21/16

FISHERS - Governor Mike Pence and other state leaders will help officially kick off construction Wednesday afternoon on a \$92 million project. The widening of 15 miles of Interstate 69 is part of the Major Moves 2020 initiative. The 15-mile stretch is in Madison and Hamilton counties. The project, being led by Milestone Contractors, involves widening the interstate and building new ramps for a double-crossover diamond interchange at Exit 210 at Campus/Southeaster Parkway. It also includes upgrades to existing bridges, pavement and drainage structures. Wednesday's event is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on the Olio Road Bridge over I-69. Pence will join Indiana Department of Transportation leaders at the kickoff event. INDOT says work "will hit full gear in the coming weeks."

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/32275152/90m-major-moves-project-to-begin>

Also, http://www.tribstar.com/news/indiana_news/gov-pence-joins-indot-and-state-local-officials-to-kick/article_de3950a6-38b7-11e6-a93a-3fef73274ac0.html

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