



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Gas tax hike funding massive highway construction program

Daily News
Taylor Brown
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INDIANAPOLIS – Hoosiers will be seeing more highway construction and better roads in the coming years, but they'll also be seeing the price at the pump rise. Gov. Eric Holcomb signed House Enrolled Act 1002 into law in late April that will increase the gas tax and will seek federal approval to turn interstate highways into toll roads. Tolling the state's highways is a way to collect funds from out-of-state drivers passing through without paying anything to Indiana unless they stop and make a purchase. The construction will start as soon as this summer to improve the infrastructure of the "Crossroads of America." "I can assure you and all of you that come July you are going to smell asphalt morning, noon and night," Holcomb said when he signed the bill into law. Under the law, Hoosiers will pay an additional 10 cents per gallon of gas in taxes. Currently, the gas tax in Indiana is 18 cents and beginning July 1 the rate will be 28 cents. The per gallon tax will be pegged to the rate of inflation after the first year, but cannot be raised more than a penny each year. The legislation will create \$1.2 billion in additional revenue by 2024 through new taxes and fees, with \$350 million of the revenue going to fund local roads and \$850 million funding state roads and bridges. Holcomb said this will be the largest non-stop, sustained building program the state has ever seen and one of the largest in the nation.

http://www.greensburgdailynews.com/news/gas-tax-hike-funding-massive-highway-construction-program/article_c872a659-17e9-5f60-bb47-c2e6b09e9643.html

EDITORIAL: You get what you pay for in taxes, fees

The Times Editorial Board
NWI Times
6/25/17

You get what you pay for, and there's a significant difference between frugality and allowing our best assets to deteriorate to a state of functional ruin. Both of those observations justify the most important tax and fee increases enacted by the Indiana General Assembly in 2017. No one wants to see shrinking finances, and it's entirely appropriate for everyone to watch proposed government tax increases with a questioning eye. For years, the Indiana Legislature has been a skeptical steward, resisting tax increases as fixes to state needs, and that's admirable. It's much like a family trying to get as many years out of a home's roof as possible before replacing it. Eventually, though, leaks spring, the roof begins to fail, and putting off the expense is no longer an option if the family wants to keep their heads and important home assets dry. The same can be said for the bulk of some 45 new tax or fee increases Hoosiers soon will pay following the 2017 legislative session. Most important are new taxes we'll pay — along with anyone else who buys fuel while traveling Hoosier roads. We've heard some critics balk at the 10-cent-per-gallon

fuel tax taking effect July 1. Clearly, no one cheers for having to pay more at the pump. However, it's worth noting improving technologies in fuel efficiency have reduced the cost of driving. We've put off long-term funding fixes for road improvement and maintenance for too long, and it shows in potholes, bumps and cracks on some of Indiana's most traveled and economically important roadways and bridges. The tax will begin restoring one of the state's most important infrastructure assets. http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/editorial-you-get-what-you-pay-for-in-taxes-fees/article_cf449698-af21-51ba-8845-5fe1e0978d97.html

City to take street paving bids in July

The Star Press

Keith Roysdon

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MUNCIE, Ind. — The city's pothole-riddled streets should start seeing new pavement in a few weeks, Muncie officials say. To pay for that paving, the city is looking forward to money from a new statewide gas tax increase and also hoping to win state Community Crossings funding, a pool of money for which the city didn't qualify last year, when Delaware County government got \$1 million for road repairs. The city is currently scheduled to take bids for its 2017 and 2018 paving work on July 19, when bids will be opened in that day's meeting of the Board of Works and Public Safety. That date is according to legal advertising submitted by the city to The Star Press. Duke Campbell, city street superintendent, told The Star Press this week that the city would like to spend up to \$4 million to pave a still-to-be-determined number of lane miles. In response to weekly inquiries from The Star Press this spring, Campbell said the city and Mayor Dennis Tyler were working on a two-year paving plan and trying to put funding in place. The amount of state funding, which will determine how much work the city can accomplish, has been uncertain. Part of that uncertainty is how much the city will receive from a 10-cent gasoline tax increase that goes into effect on July 1, Campbell said. Those include White River Boulevard between downtown and Nichols Avenue; Riverside Avenue between Jackson Street and Wheeling Avenue; and stretches of Memorial Drive that were not paved in recent years. <http://www.thestarpress.com/story/news/local/2017/06/23/city-take-street-paving-bids-july/422823001/>

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